Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling today released the outcomes of the report into secondary education in the Territory.

Describing the report – *Priority Education: Better Choices, Brighter Futures* – as “a comprehensive, positive and thorough report which will make a significant contribution to improving educational outcomes in the Territory”, Mr Stirling said the recommendations would now form the basis for community discussions, public forums and consultation across the Territory.

“The report is categorical. More must be done in secondary education to shift the Territory from being slightly behind the rest of the country to leading Australia in the education of our young people,” Mr Stirling said.

“There are 52 recommendations in this 340 page report covering seven major areas:

- Meeting the needs and aspirations of young people;
- Better teaching and learning;
- Improved access to secondary education;
- Strong education workforce;
- Stages of Schooling;
- Learning Precincts; and
- Quality and accountability.

“Some of the recommendations that go with each of these areas will be challenging to the community and to some education stakeholders.

“The Government is determined to hear the public discussion on these matters before making any final decisions.”

Recommendations include;

- Changes to the stages of schooling through a proposal to develop a middle years teaching approach for years 7-9 and a senior years teaching approach for years 10-12.

- The reorganisation of educational services into Learning Precincts.

- The roll-out of on-site delivery and changed approaches to distance learning in remote communities. This would lead to the evolution of and change in approach to distance education services.
The Government will be engaging in a comprehensive Territory-wide consultation process with parents, teachers, businesses, unions and the school community.

“This will run through to the end of July before any decisions are taken or any recommendations adopted.

“We have already briefed in excess of 500 people across the Territory on this report and parents will be receiving summaries of the information as early as next week for their consideration.

“There could be very few other public discussions which would have the same impact on the future of our Territory.

I urge all Territorians to participate in this important community discussion so together we can improve the educational outcomes of our young people and provide them with Better Choices and Brighter Futures.”

A comprehensive web site is now being launched, which can be accessed at: www.priority.education.nt.gov.au. The Priority Education Hotline can be contacted on 1800 722 030.

Written responses can be posted to:

Priority Education
GPO Box 4821
DARWIN NT 0801

or

Faxed to (08) 8999 5730

Gregor Ramsey, who led the team responsible for putting the report together, is available for comment on 0419 447 265.

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