21st April 2003
Laptops for Teachers program underway

Territory teachers will be given greater access to new technology under the new Laptops for Teachers program, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said Government committed to the program as part of recent Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations with teachers.

"This program is designed to build on the significant work that has been undertaken in Territory schools to increase the use of information and communications technology, particularly through the Learning and Technology in Schools (LATIS) project," Mr Stirling said.

Under the program, teachers will be able to:

- access a leased laptop and software that can be used at school or at home;
- make fortnightly contributions to the leased laptop from their pre-tax salary with a contribution from the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET);
- use DEET's preferential purchasing position to receive the best value for money; and
- take up an offer of support and other services, in conjunction with the supply of hardware.

"Tenders are expected to be called over the next month," Mr Stirling said.

"DEET is currently putting together a reference group made up of teachers and principals as part of a consultation process to ensure that the tender document suits the needs of teaching staff."

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