NEW FACILITY TO BOOST REMOTE SECONDARY SCHOOLING

One of Australia’s leading remote schools, Kalkaringi CEC, celebrated the opening of its new $1.13 million secondary facility today.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling officially opened the facilities, celebrating a new era in schooling for the community.

“The new facilities include four classrooms, a multi-purpose home economics/science room, two offices, two storerooms and ablution facilities,” Mr Stirling said. “Since their construction, secondary student enrolments at the school have increased significantly.

The NT Government provided $840,000 for the project, with $290,000 from the Federal Government.

“The Territory Government is committed to providing the best education possible for students throughout the Territory, no matter where they live. Introducing secondary education provision is one of the ways we are doing this. Our $42 million commitment to improve secondary education over the next four years will also significantly boost remote students’ access to a quality education.”

Mr Stirling said Kalkaringi CEC has been a leader in many fields of Indigenous and remote schooling, particularly in secondary education.

“Over the years, Kalkaringi has evolved into a school of high significance – not just locally, but also on a national level,” he said.

“Under the current school leadership of George and Robyn Hewitson and with a great level of community support, Kalkaringi become the Territory’s inaugural Remote Secondary Provision project school.

“In 2003, it became the first community school to have students graduate from Year 12. All four of the pioneering students gained a TER score and entered university courses throughout Australia in 2004.

“Now in their second year of tertiary studies, the students have returned to the school for the opening celebrations.”

Kalkaringi has also received numerous national awards, including two National Awards for Quality Schools in 2003; a top ten placement in The Australian newspaper’s Best Schools 2003 Award; and a High Commendation in the 2004 Dare to Lead Awards for quality Indigenous education.

“What makes Kalkaringi such a success is the commitment of the school’s teachers, as well as strong community support. At Open Days recently held at the school, 90 percent of students had family members visit the school’s classrooms and teachers,” Mr Stirling said.

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