INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENROLMENTS CONTINUE TO RISE

There are now close to 1500 more Indigenous students enrolled in Territory schools compared to 2001, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling told Parliament today.

Mr Stirling said at the most recent collection date in June, 16,343 Indigenous students were enrolled in schools.

“In 2001, there were 14,866 Indigenous students enrolled – so this is an increase of 1477 students since that time or close to 10%,” he said.

“It is a steady increase that can’t be explained by population increase alone.

“It suggests that Government strategies to get more Indigenous children into schools are working.

“Our young people have no hope of learning how to read and write, let alone receiving a comprehensive education, if they are not attending school.

“This Government is committed to ensuring every Territory student has equal access to a quality education.

“It is fantastic to see these early results. Congratulations to the Territory’s teachers and schools whose enhanced focus on getting children to school and keep them there is obviously starting to pay dividends.

“Indigenous students now account for more than 39% of total school enrolments – a situation unique to the Territory.

“The high number of young Indigenous people in the Territory means it is crucial that we ensure each of them receives a quality education so they can take part in the ongoing social and economic development of the Territory.”

Contact: Mary Fall  0401 119 770