Carney and Mills To Launch CLP’s Middle Schooling Policy Today

CLP Leader, Jodeen Carney and Shadow Education Minister Terry Mills, will today launch part of the CLP’s education policy particularly the part pertaining to Middle Schooling policy.

“Once again we have found ourselves in the position of having to take the unusual step of launching a policy more than three years out from an election.” Ms Carney said.

“It is important however, for parents, students and teachers to know that there is a clear difference between the Country Liberal Party and the Territory Branch of the ALP and those differences have to be clearly enunciated.”

“The fundamental tenet of the middle schooling approach is supported by the CLP. What is different between us and the Government is that we understand that for this to work there needs to be support from parents, teachers and students. Currently, none of these groups support the rushed approach taken by Government.” Mr Mills said.

“Middle Schooling as a concept is different from Middle Schools. Middle Schooling is about providing a particular type of support to students through the professional training of teachers and by adjusting the curriculum. There is no requirement to throw the school system into turmoil.

“The CLP’s approach will be to make Middle Schooling a policy supported by all parties through a process of understanding and co-operation.”

Expressed briefly the CLP’s policy is:

- Halt the plan to create ‘Middle Schools’ across the Territory in 2007.
- Invest in curriculum development to support teachers and school communities to engage Middle Schooling approaches.
- Strengthen pre-service and in-service training for teachers with a passion for teaching 11 to 14 year olds. Support and strengthen the teaching profession.
- Retain senior secondary as Year 11 and 12 and build a regional senior secondary facility in Palmerston and another, in time, in Darwin city, and further support Alice Springs.

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Over the next 4 years, develop the infrastructure and professional support to move year 7 into junior (middle) high school in the Top End.

Establish a mechanism to monitor all aspects of quality in education to its clients; the families of the Territory. This body would report to the Minister.

“The Country Liberal Party is committed to building the necessary schools and improving educational outcomes for all Territorians. Under the CLP in the past a school was built and staffed every year during our administration. The ALP have managed to stop the building program and throw our schools into chaos.” Ms Carney said.

The Media Launch will be held in the Elsey Room (Third Floor Parliament House) at 11:30 am today.