HALVING THE DOUBLE DROP

The Country Liberals would build 5 early learning centres in primary schools creating an additional 250 desperately needed childcare places in the Territory.

“These new early learning centres will ease the chronic shortage of childcare places and reduce the amount of run around parents with kids in both school and childcare often face,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Country Liberals.

“These early learning centres will tackle the double drop syndrome which is the bane of so many working families.

“As the name indicates the emphasis in the centres will be on learning, rather than child minding.

“Each centre will have about 50 places, and the Territory Government will provide the capital costs and contract with either school councils or the private sector to operate them.

“The centres will be constructed on or adjacent to primary schools, and siblings of children at each primary school will have priority for childcare places.

“The Country Liberals also want as many of our children playing organised sport as soon as possible. To encourage greater participation in organised sport the Country Liberals will introduce a $75 sports voucher to ease the costs of registration for playing football, cricket or netball.

“The Country Liberals are also committed to improving the health of our children by ensuring they eat better food when in care or school.

“To improve the quality of food served in childcare centres the Country Liberals will employ a nutritionist to visit the Territory’s childcare centres to provide guidance on nutritional standards and procedures.

“The Country Liberals would also introduce a traffic light classification system for school canteens.”

Green foods are every day foods such as fruit, vegetables, lean meats and grains.
Amber foods provide some nutrients, but can be high in energy, and include sweetened drinks, deep fried foods, and savoury snack foods. Red foods include food and drinks that are high in fat, sugar and salt.

Based on NH&MRC guidelines, the program will establish mandatory guidelines for government school canteens, setting out what foods fall in the red, yellow and green categories, and to what extent they are made available in schools.