Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition  

Media Release  

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AN HONEST EDUCATION  

The Territory Opposition is demanding the Minister for Education, Marion Scrymgour, table all Education Departmental reports into bilingual education outcomes when Parliament resumes this week.  

“Again the honesty and integrity of the Minister for Education, Marion Scrymgour, has been put under a cloud, this time by an article in Saturday’s NT News,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.  

“The Minister must release all the research she used to inform her decision to change bilingual education in bush schools.  

“As a linguist and former school principal I believe bilingual education is a better approach to teaching children who have very limited English language skills when they first attend school.  

“I would need to see persuasive research to convince me otherwise.  

“It must be remembered that the announcement to make English the sole teaching language in the first 4 hours of the school day was made when Marion Scrymgour was under immense pressure over her sacking of Margaret Banks.  

“Many people believed the Minister made the announcement on the run to deflect attention from her appalling handling of the dismissal of Margaret Banks.  

“The fact reports from the Minister’s own Department undermine her stated reasons adds weight to those suspicions.  

“Further the Minister must detail exactly what consultation she undertook with the communities and school affected by her decision to axe bilingual education.  

“Consultation takes place before decisions are made, not after they are announced.  

“The Minister will have a great deal of explaining to do when Parliament resumes on Tuesday.”  

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 04000 14059