New Teachers Complement Closing the Gap

The Northern Territory Government is this weekend advertising for an extra 50 teachers to work in remote schools to address Indigenous disadvantage in education.

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour said the additional teachers were part of the extra 200 committed by the Rudd Government before the last Federal election and complemented measures introduced under the Territory Government’s Closing the Gap package.

Ms Scrymgour said under Closing the Gap there will be additional teachers, classrooms and teacher accommodation put in place.

“We are working with the Commonwealth to improve education outcomes in our remote communities,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“We already have six mobile teachers in place to respond to any increases in attendance.

“Increasing attendance and providing additional teachers and facilities are key planks of Closing the Gap and the Commonwealth’s initiatives.

“The Northern Territory Government is also putting in place remote learning partnerships with communities to get kids to enroll at school and then attend regularly.”

The Northern Territory Government’s Closing the Gap plan to reduce Indigenous disadvantage includes an additional 26 teachers in remote schools. It also includes:

- Infrastructure including upgrading 15 community education centres ($20 million), upgrading two homeland learning centres ($10 million), construction of 15 additional classrooms ($6 million) and constructing 22 additional houses ($10.73 million).

This weekend’s job advertisements, in the NT News and the Weekend Australian, are underpinned by a Territory Government run teacher recruitment campaign that includes a presence at University career fairs, incentives for potential teachers and a targeted website.

Media contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256 – copies of the teacher ad are available.