New Teacher Housing Closing the Gap

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced that the construction of an extra 22 houses for teachers in remote communities was on track to be finished by the end of the dry season.

Ms Scrymgour said increased accommodation for teachers was a key education commitment under the Northern Territory Government’s Closing the Gap package to address Indigenous disadvantage.

“Houses are either complete or very close to complete at Canteen Creek, Engalawa (two), Epenarra, Laramba, and Ngukurr (two),” Ms Scrymgour said.

As well as those houses that are largely complete, others to be complete by the end of the dry season will be at Minyerri, Gunbalanya (two), Minjilang, Warruwi, Woolianna, Yilpara (two), Alyangula (two), Galiwinku (two) and Ramingining (two).

“Under Closing the Gap there will be additional teachers and classrooms put in place – we also need extra accommodation for the teachers.” Ms Scrymgour said.

“We are focussed on increasing attendance at remote schools – to improve English reading and writing and numeracy.

“When the kids come to school there will be facilities and teachers in place so they will achieve better outcomes in these areas.”

Ms Scrymgour said in addition to the NT Government’s extra resources and teachers – the Government was working with the Rudd Government to recruit, this year, the first 50 of an extra 200 Commonwealth funded teachers for remote schools.

“Under our Transforming Indigenous Education package we are also focussed on “Growing Our Own” – developing Indigenous teachers and developing the skills of Indigenous teacher assistants,” she said.

“We are also signing partnership agreements with communities to improve attendance, employing school counsellors, launching an attendance campaign and teaching accelerated literacy programs.”

Media contact Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256