TERRY MILLS
OPPOSITION LEADER
MEDIA RELEASE

July 22nd, 2009

ANOTHER DAY,
ANOTHER PLAN

Eight years into Government, many of those spent defending its education record, it’s noteworthy that Labor has released another strategic plan to improve education in the Territory.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said ‘A Smart Territory’ contains many of the traditional motherhood statements so loved by the Labor Party, as well as a few good ideas previously put forward by the Country Liberals.

“The idea for Positive Learning Centres for disruptive students sounds remarkably similar to the plan I announced last month for a School of Last Resort for disruptive students,” Mr Mills said.

“I note the Government criticised the plan at the time, so I’m pleased it’s made the quantum leap into accepting its merit.

“I’m also pleased the Chief Minister has finally accepted that the curriculum in Territory schools needs to be stream-lined. At present it’s a mile wide and an inch deep, and Labor’s plan to de-clutter the curriculum is long overdue.

“Otherwise, there’s not much in the Government’s latest strategy that suggests the education system is headed for a period of transformation or that student outcomes will improve.

“It continues to set Indigenous education benchmarks at low level and gives scant detail on how it will improve school attendances.

“After the drawn-out debacle that was the teachers pay dispute, the Government should also be focussing more attention on improving the morale and developing its relationship with teachers, principals and education support staff.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594