CHANGING THE FOCUS OF EDUCATION

Top End householders have been asked to respond to a Country Liberals questionnaire targeting improved student outcomes in Northern Territory schools.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills has been backing up the survey with visits to a number of schools around Darwin and Palmerston over the past week to speak with principals about the direction they believe education policy should take into the future.

The survey consists of 10 questions and seeks a community-wide response to how student results can be improved.

It looks at issues such as classroom support, school resources, dealing with students with behavioural problems or disabilities and what to do with students who repeatedly disrupt other children and generally flout the rules.

“Principals and teachers in Territory schools work incredibly hard to get the best outcomes for our students,” Mr Mills said.

“My meetings have confirmed a finding in the recent Ladwig and Sarra Report that organisational structures can’t improve their culture without clear leadership and strong processes being established within those structures.

“Further the feedback we’re getting from our surveys indicates issues such as lack of resourcing and disruptive student behaviour are contributing to the poor results of many Territory students.

“The surveys have given us an opportunity to hear the views of the parents of children in Territory schools about how student results can be improved.”
Mr Mills said that with NAPLAN results being released today, it's important future generations of Territory students have a chance at achieving the same results as students interstate.

“The Country Liberals believe that improving student outcomes and student behaviour can result in significant flow-ons in general society, such as reduced crime and anti-social behaviour.

“We'll assess the survey responses and the feedback from school principals and release policies that address the findings before the end of the year.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594