Monday 2 February, 2009

Focus on Better Literacy and Numeracy Across the Territory

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Chief Minister Paul Henderson today joined with Education Minister Marion Scrymgour at Woodroffe Primary school to outline a renewed focus on numeracy and literacy in all Territory schools.

“Education is crucial to the future of every Territory child and we need to improve the education outcomes of all Territory students,” said Mr Henderson.

“In 2009 there will be a renewed focus on accountability processes within schools – principals and teachers will be accountable for improving the performance of every child in their classrooms.

“We must all raise our expectations and work towards better numeracy and literacy outcomes for all Territory students.

“While results in schools in our urban centres are comparable to similar schools in other parts of Australia – we aim to lift numeracy and literacy standards in these schools – and in schools across the Territory.”

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour said she had written to all Territory teachers to outline her expectations for the year ahead.

“We can not be satisfied with our current numeracy and literacy results across the Territory, we need to raise the bar and expect better outcomes from our students.”

New measures at all Territory Schools will include;

- Whole of school approaches to numeracy and literacy will be adopted so students undergo consistent learning programs across their school life;
- Performance management processes for teachers have been improved and strengthened to develop and support quality teaching; and
- All schools will aim for at least 90% attendance rates by implementing robust attendance plans.

“These are further steps following the Government’s decision last year to require literacy and numeracy testing in our schools to be published on the internet,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“We have a strong teaching workforce in the Territory. It’s time for parents, communities and teachers to pull together to improve the education outcomes of Territory children.
“We know that improving school infrastructure provides a better learning environment which helps children to perform to the best of their ability,” said Mr Henderson.

“That is why the Territory Government will continue to improve school infrastructure with a record investment of $246 million for Territory schools over this term of Government.

“Education is the key to opportunity and the Territory Government is committed to providing the best possible education for every Territory student.”

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Fresh Ideas, Real Results
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