National Agreement to Improve Territory Schools

Parents in the Northern Territory will have access to more information about their children’s schooling under a national agreement reached by the States, Territories and the Commonwealth in Adelaide today.

Speaking at an Education Ministers’ meeting in Adelaide, the Education Minister Paul Henderson said under the new agreement, parents would be able to access information about their children’s schools’ performance later this year.

“This is about identifying our successes, replicating them and addressing areas where there may be problems,” Mr Henderson said.

“It’s about lifting the standards across our school system so we improve the performance of all our schools and the educational opportunities for our children.

“Parents will be able to compare literacy and numeracy results with similar schools in the Territory and across Australia.

“The Northern Territory Government has led the way in providing information about individual students’ results through the electronic student profiles which we are currently rolling out our schools – allowing parents to get information about their children’s performance.

“Today’s agreement complements our measures to increase transparency – providing information about how schools are performing so parents will be able to find out both how their child is performing at their school and how their school compares to other like schools.”

The Education Ministers agreed that under the national reporting framework, parents, teachers and communities will have access to nationally consistent information that details a school’s results, its workforce, its financial resources and the student population it serves.

It will also support accountability, school evaluation, collaborative policy development and resource allocation.

These same transparency and accountability requirements will apply to both government and non-government schools.

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