Northern Territory students in 184 schools are benefiting from a $267 million Australian Government funding injection that is also protecting jobs and improving education.

Visiting Ludmilla Primary School with Member for Solomon Damian Hale, Education Minister Paul Henderson said funding had been distributed to 105 Northern Territory Government schools under the National School Pride program.

“The School Pride Program provides funding of up to $200,000 for repairs and minor works – such as the safety, wheelchair access and concreting works here at Ludmilla,” Mr Henderson said.

“Under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program, 32 projects are underway at Territory Government schools.

“The Primary Schools for the 21st Century program provides funding of up to $3 million per school to build or upgrade libraries, classrooms, multi-purpose schools and other facilities.

“Under the third part of the Australian Government’s BER – Science and Language Centres – 8 projects are in the design stage in Government secondary schools across the Territory.”

Of the $267 million, more than $87 million has been allocated for upgrading and improving remote schools.

Ludmilla Primary School has received $925,000 for general upgrades and a new digital learning wing under the Building the Education Revolution program.

Mr Henderson said the Territory Government was focused on delivering a Smart Territory.

“A better learning environment and more facilities helps boost learning outcomes and the building projects are sustaining the economy – supporting an estimated 500 jobs,” he said.

Mr Hale said the Rudd Government’s Economic Stimulus Plan is having a major impact across the country by supporting jobs and combating the global recession.

“We’re eight months into this plan and more than 700 projects are complete across the country under the Building the Education Revolution program.

“The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has identified our Economic Stimulus Plan as being one of the most effective in the world in supporting jobs.

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“Work opportunities continue to become available to sub-contractors and suppliers, and the Plan will continue to support Territory businesses.”

Mr Henderson said *Building the Education Revolution* builds on other Territory Government initiatives to improve education including $246 million to build new schools and improve existing facilities over this term of office; the *Smart Territory* strategic plan and 150 extra teachers in our schools since 2001 and

*Building the Education Revolution* is a key element of the Federal Government’s $42 billion *Nation Building and Jobs Plan* to support up to 90,000 Australian jobs over the next two years.

The Territory will also benefit from the other measures in the plan including road maintenance, energy efficiency for houses, public and defence housing and one-off bonus payments for Territorians.

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