Clontarf Expanded Into Arnhem Land

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today announced the expansion of the successful Clontarf program into Arnhem Land.

Speaking at Sanderson Middle School which also hosts the Clontarf program, Mr Henderson said Clontarf would be up and running in term 1 next year at Gunbalanya and Jabiru schools.

“Improving attendance, literacy and numeracy across the Territory – including in remote communities – is a key priority for this Government,” Mr Henderson said.

“Clontarf has proven that it can achieve this by getting kids attending school and interested in education.

“Under the Clontarf program, students are able to train for and play Australian Rules footy as part of their schooling. In return students must attend school regularly, apply themselves to study and embrace Clontarf requirements for behaviour and self discipline.”

Mr Henderson said the program was achieving concrete results.

“Last year the program delivered an overall attendance rate of more than 80 per cent. Also last year at the Centralian Senior Secondary College, the number of students in Year 9 who went on to Year 10 was 100 per cent.

“Clontarf is funded by the Federal and Territory Governments and the private sector – and includes assistance for participants looking for work after school.”

With today’s announcement the program will expand to 12 schools across the Territory from next year – including two non-government schools Tiwi and Yirara College.

The Northern Territory Government supports Clontarf with funding of $2 million per year.

Mr Henderson said from next year the aim was for some 750 students to be part of Clontarf in the 10 Government schools participating in the program.

Participating schools next year include Centralian Middle School, Centralian Senior Secondary College, Casuarina Senior College, Palmerston High School, Sanderson Middle School, Katherine High School, Dripstone Middle School, Tennant Creek High School, Tiwi College and Yirara College. And Jabiru and Gunbalanya schools.

Media contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256