New Teachers Prepare for the Start of School

About 160 new teachers that have been recruited to teach at Territory schools this year began their orientation program in Darwin today.

Acting Education Minister Delia Lawrie said the 2010 school year would have the largest number of teachers in the Territory’s history, with 2670 working in local Government schools.

“Recruiting quality teachers is a key priority under the Smart Territory strategy for the Territory Government,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This year we have recruited 160 new teachers, with 100 to take up positions at our remote schools and 60 going to urban locations.

“It is great to see 32 of the new teachers are home-grown Territorians, and we are working to encourage more locals to choose careers in education.

“Most of the teaching recruits are from Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales, and two are from overseas.

“These teachers will become part of our 3,700 teaching and support staff that take care of our 33,000 students across the 152 government schools in the Territory.

“The orientation program is an important process that familiarises teachers with the Territory education system and helps them start establish their professional networks.

“Cross-cultural awareness is an important part of the orientation program and teachers going to work in remote schools also undertake and a four-wheel-drive training course.

“It’s great to see more people choosing teaching careers in Territory schools and this year we have a diverse range of new recruits bringing their skills into the classroom.

“The Territory Government is committed to delivering better education outcomes and is investing $808 million in education and training this financial year,” Ms Lawrie said.

The orientation program starts in Darwin today and runs until Wednesday. The program will also take place in the regions later this week.

The new school year starts on Wednesday 27 January and for more information visit www.det.nt.gov.au or call your school.

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