Delivering Better Schools Now for Territory Families

The Henderson Government will continue to build better schools, deliver more teachers and ensure that Territory students have access to the best quality education.

Minister for Education and Training, Chris Burns, said Budget 2010 provides a record $886 million for education and training.

“Ensuring that every Territory student has access to better facilities that will help them receive the best possible education is a top priority of the Henderson Government,” Dr Burns said.

“The Henderson Government is continuing to invest in education and has delivered an extra 330 teachers since 2002.

“The record investment in Budget 2010 includes $213 million to build better schools and $12 million for an extra 105 teachers and 42 support staff.

“Budget 2010 is also investing in the Territory’s future, delivering more modern school facilities, ensuring that the students of today are well-placed to fill the jobs of the future.”

BETTER SCHOOLS

Budget 2010 provides $213 million to build better schools, continuing the Henderson Government’s commitment to upgrade every government primary and group school over four years.

Schools receiving funding in Budget 2010 include:

- $6.8 million to upgrade the Acacia, Henbury and Nemarluk special schools
- $6.4 million to upgrade Centralian Middle School in Gillen and establish a Youth Hub at Anzac Hill
- $5 million for new student facilities at Casuarina Senior College
- $1 million to upgrade Sanderson Middle School
- 21 schools to receive $300,000 each for important upgrades and to improve facilities for students and staff.

Work is continuing on the $54.5 million Rosebery Primary and Middle Schools, which will cater for 1,450 students when it opens in 2011.
The Henderson Government is also establishing five Centres of Excellence in Territory senior schools to deliver specialist academic courses for high-achieving students.

“This will bring schooling into line with higher education and training, and help students access university courses and employment in sectors with demand for skilled workers,” Dr Burns said.

MORE TEACHERS

Budget 2010 delivers $12 million for an extra 105 teachers and 42 support staff.

The Territory Government is providing $2.8 million to establish a new Institute for School Leadership, Learning and Development, in partnership with Charles Darwin University (CDU).

“Teachers and principals play a vital role in our education system and we’re committed to providing them with professional development opportunities and support,” Dr Burns said.

“The new institute will open at CDU in July and will provide professional development for current and aspiring school leaders including principals, curriculum staff and teachers.”

SUPPORTING TERRITORY YOUTH

The Henderson Government is providing $1 million in Budget 2010 for three youth camps across the Territory.

Budget 2010 will deliver a new Palmerston Youth Action Plan that includes establishing Positive Learning Centres at Palmerston High and Gray Primary schools to re-engage at-risk youth.

The plan includes $1.3 million for more family support services and crisis accommodation, as well as targeting police operations to focus on youth crime, school-based constables and encourage greater school attendance.

Budget 2010 provides $3.47 million for Stage 2 of the Alice Springs Youth Action plan, which encourages youth with complex needs back to school.
Stage 2 of the Alice Springs Action plan includes:

- $1.5 million to operate two supported group homes for children and young people
- $700,000 for an alternative education program for at-risk youth
- $620,000 for an after hours response for homeless youth
- $400,000 to support the operation of a new Youth Hub at Anzac Hill
- $250,000 for school-based programs to tackle disengaged youth.

**WORKING FUTURE**

Budget 2010 delivers school upgrades as part of the Henderson Government’s *Working Future* and boosts facilities for Indigenous students, including:

- $17.6 million to build children and family centres at Yuendumu, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Ngukurr
- $5 million to upgrade remote schools including $2 million for Yirrkala, $1.3 million for Maningrida, $1.3 million for Ntaria and $500,000 for Elliot
- $2 million to upgrade Homeland Learning Centres at Maningrida-Ji-Marda and Wudjeda, Shepherdson (Galiwin’ku) Mirranjita, Gunbalanya-Mumeka, Yirrkala-Rurrangala and Biranybirany, and Utopia – Mulga Bore.

Other initiatives by the Australian and Territory governments to improve the educational outcomes for Indigenous students funded in Budget 2010 include:

- $5.3m to boost education and training programs in Territory Growth Towns
- $3.6 million for 20 ‘virtual’ early childhood integrated service hubs and associated Families as First Teachers programs
- $2.5 million for mobile preschools for remote communities.

The Territory Government will continue to support young peoples’ engagement in school through a range of programs, including $2.3 million for student engagement programs such as Clontarf Football Academy at 11 sites and Sporting Chance at six sites.

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