Kids welcomed back by record investment into Territory education

Kids starting school today will return to the best resourced schools in the Territory’s history, thanks to a record $930 million investment into education across the Territory.

Around 44 000 students head back to school across the Territory today, along with 160 new Territory teachers.

“Education is our number one priority and we are determined to deliver on our Territory 2030 plan to develop a world class education system,” Chief Minister Henderson said.

“Kids who turn up to school today will return to the best resourced schools the Territory has ever had.

“Today we welcome 160 new, energetic teachers to the ranks of our excellent teaching body.

“We have invested heavily in building better schools – every single government primary school and group school across the Territory has already or will undergo a $300 000 upgrade funded by the Territory Government.

“This is on top of the Australian Government’s Building the Education Revolution (BER) which has seen every school in the Territory receive new or upgraded infrastructure.

“We saw wonderful results and outcomes for graduating Territory students in 2011 with a 10 per cent increase in student graduating with NTEC, and I’m confident we can see this figure grow.

“Whether it’s your first year of Pre-School or your final year in Year 12, whether you’re in Wagaman, Yulara or Bees Creek, I wish you a great year,” the Chief Minister said.

Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns said improving literacy and numeracy would remain the focus for educators in 2012.

“We know that if a child goes to school every day in the Territory, they get a great education, and we are focussed on our Every Child Every Day attendance strategy.

“We are focussed on improving school attendance in the bush with initiatives and incentives to get kids attending school every day, along with tough measures including fines for parents who don’t give their kids the opportunity of education.

“Truancy and Attendance officers will visit remote schools from Week 2 of term one, and an additional eight Attendance Officers will undertake training in February.

*Media Contact: Claire March 0403 937 849*