Investing in Education, Investing in our Future

The Northern Territory invests more in students and teachers than any other Australian jurisdiction, according to the 2012 Australian Government Report on Government Services (ROGS) report.

Education and Training Minister Chris Burns said the Territory Government’s expenditure per student was $18,455 compared with next-highest Western Australia at $14,405.

The report also shows Government schools in the Northern Territory have the lowest student to teaching staff ratio compared to other jurisdictions (11.7 students per teaching staff in the NT, compared to the Australian average of 14).

Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns says the student teacher ratio is one of the fundamentals to ensure the best possible education outcomes for students, and it is important to get it right.

“We know that if a child goes to school every day in the Territory they get a great education,” Dr Burns said.

“The cost of delivering quality education to all students in the Territory is greater than other jurisdictions given the remote and very remote locations of some of our schools, but this government believes in a quality education for all Territorians.

“More indigenous children now have access to preschool and Year 12 because of the investment made by this government into education.

“We have a long journey ahead of us, but we are seeing results in the right direction.

“Retention for Indigenous students in Government schools from Year 10 to Year 12 has increased by 3.2 per cent and it is important to note that retention for non-Indigenous students at Government schools has exceeded the Australian average.

“Since the data in this report was collated, the Territory Government has introduced the Every Child Every Day Policy which has re-engaged almost 100 students since June 2011.”

Contact: Lesley Major 0419 288 284