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**Encouraging more Territory students to study science**

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today announced new awards to encourage more Territory students to pursue careers in science.

During a visit to Dripstone Middle School’s new $3 million science labs, Mr Henderson said Year 9 students will be recognised for their academic achievement in the sciences.

“We know the Territory is fast becoming a hub for gas and mineral development and we need more people to enter scientific professions and work as environmental scientists to ensure environmentally sustainable development,” Mr Henderson said.

“It’s important that top science students in Year 9 receive recognition and an award which will encourage them to continue to study science in their senior years.

“The Territory Government is also working with schools, industry and Charles Darwin University to develop our future scientists.

“From next year the Territory Government will introduce scholarships for students attending two of the new Centres of Excellence to help them with their studies.

“The first two new Centres of Excellence will be established in science and health science fields at Darwin High School and Casuarina Senior College.

“We are also working towards introducing scholarships for future Centres of Excellence science graduates to encourage them to undertake tertiary study in the Territory and then stay on to work in the Territory.
“Training our own Territorians is the best way to fill the job vacancies of the future and jobs requiring science qualifications and training will in high demand here.”

Minister for Education, Dr Chris Burns said the Northern Territory Government has continued investing in science facilities in Territory schools.

“Dripstone is the latest school to receive a new state-of-the-art science lab with Darwin High School’s labs also upgraded thanks to Territory Government investment,” Dr Burns said.

“Casuarina Senior College has also received $5 million in this budget for new facilities and including upgrade to their science labs.

“Ensuring students have the right tools at school is vital to ensuring they are well prepared for their future in the workplace.”

Media Contact: Henderson: Campbel Giles 0407 972 900
Burns: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279

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