25 January 2011

More Opportunities in Education and Training for all Territory Students

Thousand of students from across the Territory headed back for the start of the 2011 school year today.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said it will be a busy year and outlined his government’s education and training priorities.

“Education and training is a top priority for this Government and we are determined to see more Territory students achieve strong results at school so they can get jobs when they leave the classroom,” Mr Henderson said.

“We are focused on providing both academic and training opportunities for all Territory students.

“We want want more students finishing school and joining the Territory workforce and we’re continuing work with key industries to ensure students are prepared for the jobs of the future.

“We have a strong focus on remote schools and plans in place to boost attendance.

“This year the Every Child, Every Day strategy will be in place with a range of new initiatives and incentives to increase attendance. There will also be fines introduced for families that fail to send their children to school.

“Improving literacy and numeracy, especially in bush schools, will be another priority with the Literacy and Numeracy Taskforce and Professor Geoff Masters of the Australian Council of Education Research Council working with schools to do this.

“Our first Centres of Excellence will open this year at Casuarina Senior College and Darwin High School, both offering senior students specialist teaching in sciences.

“Work on building better schools will continue in 2011 with more schools receiving their $300,000 upgrade as part of our election commitment for all government schools.

“It is great to see the new Rosebery Primary and Middle Schools open their doors today too.

“The Territory Government is focused on delivering better education and training outcomes for all Territory students in 2011, no matter where they live,” Mr Henderson said.

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