24 February 2012

Driving Improvements in Education

Education and Training Minister Chris Burns said today he strongly supports the work of Education and Training Chief Executive Gary Barnes.

Dr Burns said it appears the comments were taken out of context in an off-the-record briefing to journalists.

“The Chief Executive was pointing out that making comparisons between the unique circumstances of Territory schools and schools in other, more affluent and populous areas would always see the Territory schools ranked lower.

“Mr Barnes has the highest regard for our principals, teachers, students and education sector employees and I have the utmost confidence in him.

“It is very disturbing to see how aggressive the CLP are towards hard-working public servants who are making such a big difference to the lives of so many Territorians.

“The fact is, we are closing the gap, and we are seeing incremental improvements in attendance and literacy and numeracy.

“We know we have a long road ahead of us but we are committed to getting results, unlike the CLP who don’t even mention remote students in their so-called Territory education policy.

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