$1 MILLION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR REMOTE SKILLS AND JOBS

Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns and MRM Community Benefits Trust Chair and Xstrata Zinc Chief Operating Officer Brian Hearne today signed a landmark three year $1 million partnership agreement to boost education and training in the Borroloola region.

The Strong Start Bright Future Borroloola Employment Pathways agreement will provide a trainer for the Borroloola School and accredited training for students, computers and resourcing for a Frequent Attender Rewards Program.

“This is the Territory Government and a major mining company and local employer working together to give students a career pathway through school to a job,” Dr Burns said.

“We know that students get a great education in the Territory, if they go to school every day and this program is focused on the key outcomes of attendance, retention, and local jobs.”

“Students at Borroloola School will be exposed to the employment opportunities at the mine from its actual operations through to the vast support network that supports its operations.

“They will be given the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to get them jobs. It will provide them with a clear line of sight through school to a job, instilling a desire to learn and get ready for their future,” Dr Burns said.

The Trust has also become a partner in the Government’s Frequent Attender Program contributing $75 000 per year under the partnership agreement to reward students who attend 80% or more of their schooling, including sport, recreation and computing rewards.

MRM Community Benefits Trust Chair and Xstrata Zinc Chief Operating Officer Brian Hearne also welcomed the partnership agreement.

“Our Trust has a long-term vision to create a vibrant, thriving and healthy region.

“We want the current and future generations of our communities to have the advantages and opportunities equal to people in other parts of Australia and the Strong Start, Bright Future program is a sensible approach to achieving great life-long outcomes for these students,” Mr Hearne said.

The Partnership Agreement came into effect at the start of Semester 2.

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