In parliamentary question time today the Minister for Education was caught out not having read the Department of Employment, Education and Training’s annual report.

The Minister claimed in Parliament that a statistic concerning 2000 students not enrolled in remote schools was a fabrication.

In fact the statistic is taken from page 11 of his own Department’s report.

“The failure of the Education Minister Chris Burns to read the annual report of the Department of Employment, Education and Training shows he’s not fit to be a Minister,” says Peter Chandler, Shadow Minister for Education.

“For the Education Minister to have no idea that at least 2000 students of school age are not enrolled in Territory schools is disgraceful.

“The Territory’s education system is in crisis and the failure of students to attend school is at the heart of that crisis.

“Despite having Australia’s worst attendance records and worst NAPLAN results the Minister for Education is totally ignorant of the fact thousands of kids aren’t enrolled in Territory schools.

“Nor was the Minister ambushed on this issue.

“The Education Minister had 24 hours notice about the question after I asked him the same question in Parliament yesterday.

“He avoided the question, then today he claimed it was based on a fabrication.

“Clearly he was too lazy to bother reading his own Department’s annual report.

“There can be no excuse for a Minister not reading his own report – Bungles Burns has to go.”

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493