The Territory Government continues to invest in quality education and improved staffing and resources for schools across the Territory.

Education Minister Chris Burns said today $1.2 million from the 2012-13 budget will go towards expanding counselling and support services in Territory schools, providing a total of $4.4 million for these essential student services.

“Budget 2012 will again deliver record education funding to support Territory families with quality education services,” Dr Burns said.

“This Government is committed to providing a safe and supportive school environment for students, teachers and school staff and these additional resources will help to ensure young people have the support they need to reach their potential.

“We want our school communities to be safe and supportive learning environments for teachers and students and this funding will go towards additional behaviour advisors and school counsellors.

“In particular, these services will provide support to at-risk students in our very remote schools. This is a necessary and important service, and will contribute broadly to the health and well-being of our school communities.”

Dr Burns said the Henderson Government is delivering on building quality schools with excellent teachers and support staff for students.

“Last year we announced $1.2 million for additional teacher aides for transition classrooms and I am pleased to announce this funding will continue to grow to support our teachers, students and families,” he said.

“Since the beginning of Term 1 this year, 65 additional teacher aides have been employed in 46 schools across the Territory.

“The extra help in the classroom provided by teacher aides enables students who need extra help with literacy and numeracy to get it right from the get-go, meaning they have every chance of success for the future.

“Not only does this initiative provide additional resources for teachers, it also provides an excellent employment opportunity for people wishing to get into the education sector.”
“To meet our 2030 target of Territorians meeting or exceeding the national standards for education, we must ensure that children who start school have the skills for life and learning and this teacher aide initiative provides a great platform for success.

“Our commitment, along with the Australian Government, to employ 170 extra teachers in Northern Territory Government schools over four years means that our students are receiving targeted support to close the gap faster.

“This is evidenced by the 2011 NAPLAN cohort gains where the NT outstripped the nation in 11 of 12 comparable areas. These gains show the NT has top quality education, equal to that of any school in Australia.

“We know that going to school every day in the Territory will give kids a great start in life, and with more teachers and schools than ever before and new and upgraded facilities in all schools across the Territory, our investment and commitment to quality education is clear,” Dr Burns said.

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