DEVIL IN THE DETAIL OF NEW EDUCATION FUNDING MODEL

September 4th, 2012

Education Minister Robyn Lambley says the Prime Minister must put flesh to the bones of yesterday’s revised schools funding announcement.

“The Prime Minister raised more questions than she answered during yesterday’s announcement and I look forward to her comments being backed up with detail,” Ms Lambley said.

“I broadly support a revised funding model for education in the Territory and want improved education outcomes for all Territorians, but who pays for the changes is a key issue the Commonwealth has so far failed to address.

“Key issues that require clarification include:

- How the funding will be made available to jurisdictions and what flexibility jurisdictions will have in allocating those funds
- What the expected State/Territory share of the additional funding might be
- How the funding will be treated by Grants Commission processes

“I am concerned the Prime Minister is dangling the carrot of improved education outcomes in front of Territorians without showing the stick.

“The cost of the roll-out and the contribution required by the Territory Government will be key issues.

“Modelling published recently showed many Territory schools would lose out under the Gonski funding plan, and clearly that would be unacceptable to the Government.

“I look forward to holding discussions with Federal Education Minister Peter Garrett to get more clarity around the Prime Minister’s announcement.”

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