ROBYN LAMBLEY  
EDUCATION MINISTER  

ESTABLISHING A QUALITY, EFFICIENT EDUCATION MODEL  

December 4th, 2012  

The Department of Education and Children’s Services has used the Mini Budget process to identify savings and efficiencies that will reduce waste while maintaining frontline school services and addressing student outcomes.

Education Minister, Robyn Lambley, said the Government and Department will undertake extensive consultation with management and employees about proposed changes that are expected to commence from the beginning of the next school year.

The reforms include a review of the Education Act, a restructure of the Corporate Support and School Support networks, a re-assessment of grant allocations and provision for executive staff to return to frontline duties.

The Department has identified savings within its budget of about 10 per cent over the forward estimates period.

“This will be achieved through a process of redeployments, natural attrition, restructures and without any forced redundancies or disruption to frontline services,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The aim is to make the Department leaner and more targeted on improving education outcomes for students right across the Northern Territory.”

The Mini Budget honours the Country Liberals election commitments to deliver:

- $3.3 million ongoing from the start of the next school year to increase the Back-To-School bonus from $75 to $150 per student
- A pathway forward through the Teacher and Educators Enterprise Agreement payment of remote retention bonuses to teachers serving in remote schools and establishing a HECS repayment scheme for teaching staff

“This is in addition to the commencement, within weeks of winning Government, of the process that will see potentially hundreds of teachers transferred from temporary to permanent contracts across the Territory,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Doubling the Back-to-School bonus will assist families with education costs and is directed through all schools for parents to access a range of school supplies or services.”

A range of programs deemed to be inefficient or not achieving required outcomes have been reviewed as part of the Mini Budget process.
Over the next three years, approximately 60 back office staff will be redeployed within the Northern Territory Public Service and some executive contract officers have been offered positions back in schools. Internal restructuring within the Department will result in savings of approximately $52 million by 2015-16.

The Government will consider a process to transition some schools from the Government to non-Government sectors as part of our election commitment to offer more choice in Indigenous communities.

Rolling back the Centre for School Leadership ($1.25 million), and CSIRO teacher program ($456,000) will generate savings across the forward estimates period.

“The Department is committed to implementing a cohesive and rigorous school improvement program and providing quality education for all students and ensuring that schools have less complexities in their day to day operations.” Mrs Lambley said.

“The efficiencies announced in the Mini Budget will have the joint effect of reducing bureaucracy while returning educators back to the classroom.”

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