Two new initiatives unveiled today by the Education Minister will provide additional support to students, parents and teachers across the Northern Territory.

Minister Robyn Lambley said the Government has honoured its long-standing commitment to establish a Literacy and Numeracy Board to oversee a renewed focus on teaching and assessing the core competencies of reading, writing and arithmetic, including a review of current practices.

“The panel will develop explicit guidelines for literacy and numeracy teaching,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The panel will provide strategic direction for educators, develop a framework for future planning and advise on the effective implementation of literacy and numeracy leadership and learning.

“As well, it will oversee the ongoing implementation of the literacy and numeracy improvement policy and provide advice on professional learning to assist teachers develop quality literacy and numeracy teaching in all learning areas.”

The panel will include members from the Australian Association of English Teachers NT and the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers NT.

In addition, Mrs Lambley today also announced the Northern Territory Board of Studies has decided to adopt the South Australian Certificate of Education rating model which will allow parents to compare the academic and other performance of schools.

“The ratings system will include aggregated student achievements and learning areas as well as highlight overall school achievements in many areas,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The Mills Government is committed to providing Territory parents with information they need to make an informed decision on the selection of a school for their Year 12 children.”

Today’s positive measures are in stark contrast to the performance of the Labor Party, which today made a grossly inaccurate attempt to link a reduction in staff at Casuarina Senior College to the Mini Budget process.

“Contrary to the assertion by the Labor Party, the six teachers leaving Casuarina school are doing so because of declining student numbers, which are expected to drop by approximately 100 next year.

“The Labor Party is clutching at straws to attack the Government – resorting to making up stories rather than dealing with facts.

“This behaviour is grossly irresponsible and shows the depths the Labor Party will stoop to score cheap political points.”

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