MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

BROKEN PROMISES ON SCHOOL BOARDING FACILITIES

7 May, 2013

Federal member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, has failed to deliver much in more than 25 years representing the Territory, Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said today.

“In his fading moments as a representative for the Territory he has a chance to make a difference by delivering on the Federal commitments made to people of his electorate.

“Warren Snowdon needs to call his Federal Labor colleagues to account on failing to build the three school boarding facilities promised for the Territory.

“In 2008 the Commonwealth promised $28.9 million to build three school boarding facilities in the Territory, five years later we only have one built at Wadeye and the Commonwealth is ignoring us.

“The boarding facilities are a failed promise. There was fanfare when it was announced but it was poorly planned and appears to have been cast aside. Planning was so poor that one of the boarding sites isn’t even near a school.

“The Commonwealth has not dealt with this mess, it needs to resurrect the project, and co-operate with the Territory Government and locals to bring it to fruition.

“But from past experience we do not hold out much hope. The Commonwealth has yet to reply to a letter the Chief Minister sent in early January on the boarding facilities.

“Warren Snowdon appears to be shifting the blame away from his own Government when he should have been working for the Territory and helping drive the building forward.

“Why didn’t he make sure the Commonwealth was co-operating with the locals, sorting out the suitable sites and fulfilling their promises?”

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