Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today called on the Territory’s Education Minister to end the stand-off over Gonski and sign up immediately to finally put Territory students first.

“It’s time for the CLP to put partisan politics aside and sign the Territory up for the extra funding being offered as part of the Gonski reform plan. It’s the best deal on offer in Australia,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Education Minister Peter Chandler is meeting with his federal counterpart tomorrow in Darwin and it’s the perfect opportunity for him to tell Peter Garrett the Territory is finally on board.

“We know the CLP Government plans to cut teachers by removing student teacher ratios and they’ve already slashed the education budget by 10% – ripping away resources.

“How does the CLP justify cutting teachers, removing resources and turning their back on $300 million in extra funding under Gonski when we are facing serious incidents in our schools?

“The CLP have been a disaster for education – it’s time for Minister Chandler to redeem himself and get this deal done tomorrow with Minister Garrett as an important first step.

“You simply can’t tackle school violence with less teachers. It’s a sick and dangerous joke. Schools can’t improve discipline and standards when they are having teacher numbers cut and resources removed.”

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