PUTTING THE FOCUS BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

28 October 2013

During the last Territory Election the Country Liberals campaigned that the focus needs to be shifted out of the Education Department’s head office and back into the classroom.

That process started last year and continues today with a draft organisational chart being circulated to affected areas of the Education Department for consultation and feedback from staff.

Over the last five years under Labor, staffing levels in the Department of Education grew by 790, the budget by 46% but student enrolments increased by only 173 with educational outcomes going backwards in some areas.

The proposed new organisational structure will mean 85 positions will be regionalised - moved from the central organisational chart to their respective regional organisational charts.

A number of areas have been consolidated which results in a reduction of 71 positions across the department, 19 of those positions are vacant.

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said we need to target our resources towards getting better outcomes, that process has begun with a further 66 teacher positions allocated in the early years for the 2014 school year.

“The savings made through this restructure will provide valuable resources to implement the recommendations that come out of the three reviews currently underway,” Mr Chandler said.

“The 85 regionalised positions are already out in their respective regions, however by placing them on regional organisational charts and changing the reporting structure we can ensure that local decisions are made locally.

“It is important that we do not lose focus on the classroom in favour of a top-heavy bureaucracy, the more decisions made by people on the ground, the better.

“Under these changes there will be no forced redundancies, anyone with a permanent position will be assisted to find alternative employment and all existing contracts will be honoured.”

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