Deputy Opposition Leader Gerry McCarthy today revealed the impact the CLP’s savage education cuts are having on bush schools and has called on bush MLAs to stand up and protect students.

“Concerned parents and teachers have contacted me about the loss of Indigenous Language and Culture support positions in Barkly schools,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The Indigenous Language and Culture (ILC) positions include Indigenous Language Officers, Language Resource Officers and other positions that are vital to support students and teachers.

“The ILC programs are important cultural maintenance programs that are valued and respected by families and elders and help address poor school attendance and enrolment.

“These cuts will not only hit teachers and students, they will lead to job losses in communities and decimate the Indigenous knowledge worker pool in bush schools that takes in respected elders, first language teachers, school support staff and linguists.

“This Government should be supporting programs that encourage students to learn and teachers to teach.

“I call on the CLP’s bush members to educate the Education Minister about the importance of these language support roles.

“I assume Alison Anderson, Bess Price, Francis Xavier and Larissa Lee support the strengthening and maintenance of Indigenous language and culture in our schools.

“They are all strong language speakers themselves who take pride in their connection to culture and language.

“I’d be very surprised to hear they support these latest cuts.

“Or are they happy to stand by and be silent about yet more broken promises to the bush?”

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