FEDS JOIN ATTACK ON TERRITORY EDUCATION

Shadow Minister for Transport Kon Vatskalis has called on the CLP Government to stand up for the Territory and lobby their Canberra colleagues to reinstate funding for a vital school attendance and enrolment program.

Mr Vatskalis said five Alice Springs schools received funding under Closing the Gap National Partnerships Funding to do their own bus runs to town camps that, according to information from schools, have now been defunded.

“If they are serious about school attendance and improving literacy and numeracy, these are just the sort of programs the Government should be getting behind.

“The CLP Government’s man in Canberra Nigel Scullion should be fighting to ensure this school bus program continues to be funded.

“Instead he’s standing by while a program that has played a huge role in improving attendance among urban Indigenous students is defunded.

“This funding is directed at making sure some of the most disadvantaged kids get to school so they can get a good education.”

Mr Vatskalis said there were question marks over the future of other programs focused on improving and supporting enrolment and attendance funded under the Engaging Urban Students initiative.

“We have information from Alice schools about the cuts to town camp bus runs but it is not clear what the impact will be on other schools across the Territory.

“While the Territory Government is making a direct attack on schools by cutting teachers and support staff, their Canberra mates are joining in and pulling the funding from vital attendance and support programs.”

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