MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

TEACHERS’ UNION: WE WERE WRONG

12 December 2013

After months of vitriolic debate, fuelled by misinformation and scare-mongering, the Australian Education Union NT have finally admitted they have been misleading the public about the impact from the Government’s Education reforms.

Union General Secretary, Peter Clisby, made the admission on ABC radio today:

“People have been told to report back to their schools in remote settings, we haven’t actually had a further wave of cuts.”

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, welcomed the union’s backflip but said much damage has been done through their industrial action and media campaign that have now been proved to be based on untruths.

“The Government has been upfront from the outset on what our education reform’s mean for Territory schools, in fact we publically released school by school in-model teacher allocations, a first for any Territory Government,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Education Union and the Labor Opposition now have to take responsibility for their reckless actions and firstly apologise to teachers and then sign up to the current pay deal so teachers can get their well-deserved pay rise before Christmas.

“I’m committed to improving education outcomes in the Territory and I hope now the Teachers’ Union can get on board so we can work together.

“We have three reviews in to education currently underway, with the first set of recommendations due later this month, it is timely for the Union to bury the hatchet and play a constructive role in building a better education system.”

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