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SCHOOL BUS SERVICE LATEST IN CLP CUTS

Shadow Education Minister, Natasha Fyles, has called on the CLP Government to show they are serious about improving Indigenous education and re-instate a bus service that helps town camp students attend school.

Ms Fyles said the decision to scrap the Irrkerlantye student bus in Alice Springs seemed to fly in the face of Chief Minister Adam Giles push for improvements in Indigenous school attendance at last week’s COAG.

“While Adam Giles is in Canberra claiming he cares about getting Indigenous students to attend school, his Government is cutting programs that do exactly that,” Ms Fyles said.

“The Irrkerlantye Unit was set up at Bradshaw School to ensure children from surrounding Alice Springs town camps attend school in a supportive environment that works closely with families.

“The unit had a lot of success in supporting attendance and learning with some very marginalised students.

“The CLP Government decided to close the Irrkerlantye Unit at Bradshaw down at the end of 2012 and children were absorbed into the general school population.

“Now families have been told the bus donated to the Irrkerlantye Unit will no longer be used to get the students to school.

“Irrkerlantye family members and supporters have written a heartfelt open letter to all NT MLAs and Federal Members explaining why the bus is so important in helping their kids get an education.

“While Adam Giles is in Canberra lamenting Indigenous school attendance rates in the NT, he is doing nothing to support families trying to make sure their kids go to school.

“He should be explaining to families in his hometown why he is cutting school support services and ignoring the pleas of families who are asking to keep a bus service that helps their kids.”

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