Opposition Leader, Delia Lawrie, today slammed further cuts to education in budget 2014 and accused Treasurer, David Tollner, of selling our kids’ future to pay for his CLP Government’s incompetence.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP Government’s $28 million cut to its contribution for education was a slap in the face for all Territory kids and their families.

“Everyone except this Chief Minister and this Treasurer understands that education is the key to unlocking the potential of the Northern Territory and the key to a bright future for all young Territorians,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It’s astounding that the CLP is cutting education funding when they expect an increase in student numbers of 520 across the Territory.

“No area is spared the Treasurer’s knife with cuts across the board to Early Years, Middle Years, Senior Years and Tertiary Education and a further 235 job losses.

“The loss of 235 jobs means fewer teachers in Territory schools.

“A massive cut to Early Years spending is a direct result of the CLP’s failure to secure ongoing funding for families as first teachers and indigenous early childhood development programs from the Commonwealth.

“Far from securing our future, this budget cuts teachers, slashes education spending and sells out the future of the Territory and our kids.

“Territorians deserve a Government that values and invests in education.

“The CLP have failed this test miserably.”

BUDGET LOWLIGHTS

- A further 235 job cuts which means less teachers in our schools
- Early Years cut from $21.872m to $10.947m, a reduction of $10.9m and equivalent to a cut of 54% in real terms
- Primary Education from $359.423m to $361.228m, equivalent to a cut of 3.1% in real terms
• Middle Years cut from $124.417m to $121.758m, a reduction of $2.7m and equivalent to a cut of 5.7% in real terms

• Senior Years cut from $124.660m to $122.212m, a reduction of $2.5m and equivalent to a cut of 5.6% in real terms

• Tertiary Education cut from $12.319m to $9.976m, a reduction of $2.3m and equivalent to a cut of 23% in real terms

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