Introducing the Territory's first Independent Public Schools

22 October 2014

Five Top End schools and one Central Australian school have been selected to be the Northern Territory’s first Independent Public Schools.

‘Independent status’ allows greater autonomy for schools with proven governance and leadership structures to tailor their school program to suit their students’ needs and improve outcomes.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler would like to congratulate the following schools:

- Braitling Primary School
- Darwin High School
- Larrakeyah Primary School
- Leanyer Primary School
- Palmerston Senior College
- Wulagi Primary School

“Each school contains a unique mix of student needs, interests, aptitudes, aspirations and passions and those who work at the school level are best placed to determine the particular mix of all the resources available to the school to achieve optimal outcomes.” Professor Brian J Caldwell – Melbourne University

Minister Chandler says the government’s push for more school autonomy is based on evidence and is squarely aimed at improving student outcomes.

“Research by Professor Caldwell, the University of Melbourne and the OECD say improving school autonomy leads to improved outcomes, and that’s what we should be aiming for,” Mr Chandler said.

“Independent Public Schools will have more control over staff selection, management and development as well as elements of the teaching and learning program.”
“Schools will remain part of the public education system and will need to adhere to industrial and legislative boundaries, but will operate under different accountability and governance structures – appointing a school board and reporting directly to the Chief Executive.”

Eight schools applied to become one of the Territory’s first Independent Public Schools and were subject to a rigorous assessment process to ensure they were ready to take this step.

The Department of Education will work with the unsuccessful schools to help build their capacity so they can apply again next year. Other schools are also welcome to apply during the next round of selections in 2015.

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