Student’s needs put first with global budgeting

17 September 2014

The Country Liberals Government is increasing the level of autonomy in Northern Territory schools to provide them with the right tools to make local decisions and improve education outcomes.

Global school budgets will be rolled out in Northern Territory schools for 2015 which will, for the first time, allow principals and school councils authority over their school’s resources including their staffing make-up.

This new way of staffing schools will be coupled with a per-student needs-based funding model which has been developed based on research by expert education consultant, Professor Stephen Lamb.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said global school budgets and a needs-based funding model will mean schools are appropriately staffed and funded for the students they have.

“The current method of staffing schools, through an arbitrary student - teacher ratio model administrated by a head office, caused undue stress for schools who frantically horse-trade with the Education Department to get the staff they need,” Mr Chandler said.

“Global school budgets mean principals will be given a one-line budget, determined by the needs of their student population, for everything from staffing to operational expenses.

“This new method will allow schools to design a workforce to meet their schools needs instead of trying to fit those needs around a staffing allocation decided in the Mitchell Centre.

“Needs-based funding is long overdue in the Territory because it recognises individual students and is dependent on their educational requirements.

“Each student attracts a base level of funding and then additional loadings are provided for; stage of schooling, socio-economic background, remoteness and indigeneity.

“No school will be worse off in 2015 as a result of the introduction of global school budgets, in fact many schools will be better off as they’re finally funded for the needs of their students.
“Global school budgets are for the delivery of core education, targeted programs such as special education, agriculture, bi-lingual programs and distance education will continue to be met centrally by the Education Department.”

Further information is available on the Department of Education's website:


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