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CLP EDUCATION FUNDING BACKFLIP A WIN FOR SCHOOLS

The CLP Government has today admitted they plunged our schools into crisis and are scrambling to restore funding cuts to education with an immediate $23 million investment to avoid a disastrous start to the 2015 school year.

COGSO representing Territory families, the Australian Education Union representing teachers, the CPSU representing staff and Territory Labor all railed against the cuts to education being delivered through the CLP Government’s Global School Budgets and were told we were simply “scaremongering” and this backflip today is an admittance the CLP got it horribly wrong.

“For months the pleas of Territory teachers, parents, students and school councils fell on the deaf ears of former Minister for Education, Peter Chandler,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Despite the CLP Government repeatedly saying that no school would be worse-off under the Global School Budgets model, schools budgets were plunged into the red and school councils bravely fought budget cuts to staff and programs prior to Christmas.

‘Many School Councils wrote to the CLP Government to inform them of budget problems caused by Global School Budgets and to reject this form of funding.

“Now, with just days to go before students return to school, the CLP Government does a $40 million backflip to patch up the Education crisis they created.”

Ms Lawrie said since May last year Labor, the AEU and COGSO had strongly opposed the cuts being delivered through the new Global Schools Budgets model, pointing out the harm it would cause the Territory’s education system.

“Territory students deserve an education system that is appropriately funded to provide them with the best opportunities and education outcomes available,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Under the CLP Government schools have suffered back-to-back funding cuts that have taken their toll.

“Labor values education and has always made it an investment priority. We’ve had two years of chaos under the CLP. This is a victory for our educators.”

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