Media Release

Peter Styles, Member for Sanderson
Minister for Business

Major reforms for vocational and educational training

13 March 2015

Submissions from stakeholders in the training sector are being sought as part of a consultation process to develop new business and funding models for training delivery in the Northern Territory.

“The Giles Government is seeking input on a range of issues to assist in developing a sustainable approach to supporting growth in the Northern Territory training market,” said Minister for Business Peter Styles.

“The paper will seek feedback on how best to invest public funds to achieve value and ensure training is closely aligned with the needs of the Northern Territory.

“The people of the Northern Territory have a lot to contribute and the Giles Government wants to invest the funds where Territorians will receive maximum benefit.

“The vocational education and training system nationally is undergoing major reform in the administration of vocational education and training.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to growing and skilling our workforce and the vocational education and training sector continues to play a major role in this, ensuring the Territory remains strong and competitive in the national and international arena.

“As Minister for Business I want to ensure the activities of the vocational education and training sector are focused on providing business and industry with the skilled employees it requires to capitalise on the market opportunities of the future,” said Mr Styles.

“A broad program of reform is being undertaken, with the intention that a new framework for vocational education and training in the Territory be in place for the 2016 academic year.

Minister Styles said over $80 million in grant funding will contribute to the delivery of training, and to support the vocational education and training sector.

This includes a new funding model that will be transparent and create a more contestable vocational education and training market while providing appropriate subsidisation for priority areas.

“The Giles Government will invite the public to provide submissions to inform the development of a new funding and business model for vocational education and training in the Northern Territory.
“The Northern Territory Government values the role of our public providers Charles Darwin University and the Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. The review will ensure that these providers are included and involved throughout the process,” said Minister Styles.

Submissions received by 17 April 2015 will be considered as part of the consultation. The discussion paper can be found on the Department of Business website.

The Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority Advisory Board is overseeing the review process.

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