Peter Chandler  
Minister for Education

**Reforming the Northern Territory Education Act**

4 June 2015

Territorians have a chance to have a say on the draft Education Bill as the current 35 year old *Education Act* continues its comprehensive makeover.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said the aim of the draft Education Bill is to support a flexible education system and contemporary legislative framework to deal with current and future issues affecting school education in the Territory for the next 20-30 years.

“We also want to provide a strong foundation for an education system that is relevant to current and future young Territorians, and which supports modern teaching and learning methods,” he said.

“The current Act is 35 years old. It’s outdated and no longer provides an adequate framework for delivering high-quality contemporary education to develop our students.

The draft Bill has been prepared following extensive consultation around a discussion paper released in 2014.

The draft Education Bill 2015 proposes significant updates to the legislation including:

- lowering the compulsory age of schooling in recognition of the importance of early education;
- greater flexibility for parent and community involvement in schools and school boards for Independent Public Schools;
- supporting contemporary practices for students with a disability; and
- broadening options for principals managing student wellbeing and behaviour.

Minister Chandler said the Country Liberals Government is working hard to give Territory kids the best education possible, so they can leave school and get a great job.

“It is one of the many priorities we have to ensure Territory students are afforded the best learning opportunities in the nation.

“Updating the Education Act is one way we will deliver on that commitment.”

Consultative public meetings will be held in regional centres in June 2015.

For more information and to provide feedback visit: [www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au). The closing date for comment is 7 August 2015.

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