Media Release

Peter Chandler
Minister for Education

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Independent Public Schooling transforming public education in the Territory

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Six more Territory Government schools will be given a greater say in how they are run when they become Independent Public Schools next year, taking the total to 12 schools across the Territory.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said the Independent Public Schools initiative was one of the most significant education reforms in decades and was transforming public schooling in the Northern Territory.

“Independent status gives schools and communities more say, flexibility and opportunities to innovate in the way they offer education to improve outcomes with their students,” Mr Chandler said.

The new IPS schools are:

- Bakewell Primary School
- Casuarina Street Primary School
- Casuarina Senior College
- Durack Primary School
- Gunbalanya School
- Taminmin College.

The new intake includes Gunbalanya School in West Arnhem Land, the Territory’s first very remote school to become an Independent Public School.

Principal of Gunbalanya School, Sue Trimble said becoming an Independent Public School was an opportunity for the school to lead community decision making.

“It will assist in generational change for our students and families in closing the gap for a better future,” Ms Trimble said.
Chief Minister Adam Giles said it was a great opportunity for parents, principals and teachers to work together and have a greater say in how their schools are run.

“We are focussed on achieving better results and creating job opportunities for Territory students – by enhancing teacher quality, increasing school autonomy and investing in student learning,” Mr Giles said.

“We want to ensure Territory students get the best possible education so they can reach their full potential and increase their job prospects when they finish school.”

All senior secondary schools in the greater Darwin area will be Independent Public Schools. Casuarina Senior College and Taminmin College join Darwin High School and Palmerston Senior College.

“This will significantly lift the educational opportunities for our senior secondary students and will make these schools highly competitive with non-government schools in the Greater Darwin area,” Mr Giles said.

Principal of Darwin High School, Trevor Read said it has been fantastic to be one of the first Independent Public Schools in the Northern Territory.

“It has allowed principals and board members to work together with the Chief Executive to share ideas about delivery of best practice education for the future,” Mr Read said.

“Independent Public Schooling has allowed the entire school community to come together and innovate, share best practice, and really focus on the long-term vision for our school and the Bullocky Point Education Precinct.”

The six schools will receive $50,000 in grant funding from the Commonwealth and will share in the Northern Territory Government’s $2 million investment in Independent Public Schooling to support innovation, greater community involvement and improving student outcomes.

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