Territory schools embracing direct instruction

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Fifteen Territory schools are reaping the benefits of the Direct Instruction program with early signs of positive improvements across the board.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said he is over the moon with the early signs and is confident they will continue to improve over the ten years of the Indigenous Education Strategy.

“Early signs show that students are using English more frequently when speaking, conversing to one another in English and in full sentences,” Mr Chandler said.

“Students attention span has increased, as well as their ability to stay on task in the classroom.

“Students returned from the four week holiday period and resumed lessons with no or little loss of learning and continued with their lessons immediately.

“In some schools every single child is able to sound out unknown words, they know the instruction methodology and now prompt new or relief staff to support them with their delivery.”

Principal of Borroloola School, Mr Max Agnew said visiting classrooms is truly an uplifting experience.

“As I observe teachers, tutors and students they are fully engaged in quality learning that results in students being able to decode text and understand its meaning,” Mr Agnew said.

“Knowing that the students at Borroloola are participating in a structured programme that will enable them to achieve levels of literacy, which will open the door to their future learning, is outstanding.”

Direct Instruction is a model for teaching that emphasises well developed and carefully planned lessons designed around small learning increments and clearly defined and prescribed teaching tasks.

The program is managed by Good to Great Schools Australia, a non-for-profit organisation that was awarded $22 million by the Federal Government to deliver the program across three states and territories.

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