Education Under Attack

Shadow Minister for Education, Nicole Manison, says the Australian Education Union is right to question the cuts in education under the CLP Government.

“This government has cut the amount of money going to schools, the number of teachers available for schools and the amount of resources available in the classroom,” Ms Manison said.

“In the last budget brought down by a Labor Government in 2012 there was over $685 million allocated to government education. In the most recent CLP budget in 2015 the government education budget dropped to $663 million.

“The CLP refused to accept Federal Labor’s Gonski model, which would have stopped them from making cuts to the Territory education budget. Instead they waited for Tony Abbott’s version, which gave them free reign to cut education spending.

“There’s been a $22 million cut to government schools and that doesn’t take into account the growth in salaries, power and water and other costs in that time.

“Over 500 staff have been cut from the Department of Education and around 330 of those staff cut have been from Territory schools.

For example:
- Casuarina Senior Secondary has lost 28 staff
- Centralian Middle School has lost 5 staff
- Darwin High School has lost 14 staff
- Larapinta Primary School has lost 6 staff
- Ramingining School has lost 6 staff
- Rosebery Middle School has lost 16 staff
- Tennant Creek School has lost 11 staff

“This year many schools are forced to make cuts under global school budgets too, and many schools are currently faced with more tough decisions for next year because of their budget situations,” Ms Manison said.

Ms Manison said that the CLP needed to explain why it had focussed on education in their cuts across Government.

“Education is the key to improving the lives and opportunities available to our children. To target it for the savage cuts to Territory schools begs the question of what sort of future the CLP want for the Territory.”

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