Media Release

Peter Chandler
Minister for Education

Transition Support Unit will help Indigenous students and their families

30 November 2015

The Minister for Education Peter Chandler today launched the Transition Support Unit as part of the Department of Education’s ten year Indigenous Education Strategy.

“The role of the Transition Support Unit is to work closely with Indigenous students and their families to make the best choice for each student entering into their secondary schooling,” Minister Chandler said.

“Students may choose to stay ‘on country’ to complete a program offering English literacy and numeracy via vocational training and career pathways.

“Alternatively, students may choose to move to a residential boarding facility in a regional or urban centre.”

Further support will also be provided to achieve the long term goal for every student to be well equipped to take up employment, training and higher education.

“The strategy aims to ensure Indigenous students in the Northern Territory are successful and confident in their education journey and have choices and options both within and beyond their communities,” Mr Chandler said.

25 staff have been recruited to the Transition Support Unit, 13 of whom are Indigenous with strong connections in communities across the NT.

Indigenous secondary students in remote and very remote regions will be supported with Transition Support Unit officers based in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin.

Transition Support Unit Director Rob Picton said, “An excellent range of skilled officers have been recruited to the TSU, some of whom have existing connections with remote NT communities.”

“The team is highly focused on providing a safe and successful education experience through to Year 12.”

“A feature or our work will be intensive support to Indigenous families and students who are attending residential boarding facilities across the Territory and interstate.”
$13 million has been allocated to the Transition Support Unit by way of Stronger Futures funding from the Australian Government (now known as Remote Aboriginal Investment funding).

Since commencing operation on 5 October, the Transition Support Unit has:

- Visited over 30 very remote schools
- Established relationships with all NT boarding schools, boarding facilities and many interstate boarding schools
- Connected with over 130 students including former boarding school students requiring reengagement

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