Education Act now act for the future

1 December 2015

Education in the Northern Territory is now in line with the rest of Australia thanks to the new Education Act passing through Parliament this evening, replacing the out dated 35 year old Act.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said students and teachers will head back to the classroom next year with an Act designed for them, by them.

“After 20 months of consultation we now have an Education Act in the Territory which is forward thinking, has community input and is designed to create a job ready generation,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Act is flexible, creates a framework for future orientated schools, supports Independent Public Schools and encourages autonomy – none of which was in the old act.

Major revisions include:

- Increased powers for principals around student behaviour;
- Increased focus on parent and community engagement;
- Parents can now appeal major decisions they don’t agree with;
- International students are now recognised;
- Tighter controls around home schooling;
- Police checks for mature age students; and
- Independent structure put in place for non-government schools

Minister Chandler said it is now a modern Act that sets the frame work for future generations.

“We have listened to concerns from the opposition, Education union and the community and we sincerely thank everyone for their contributions and we have taken them on board,” Mr Chandler said.

“We are providing a strong foundation for an education system that is relevant to current and future young Territorians, and which supports modern teaching and learning methods.
“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.”

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