Peter Chandler
Minister for Education, Minister for Infrastructure

**Palmerston Special School under construction**

7 December 2015

A state-of-the-art special education school will cater for 84 children as construction of stage one of the Palmerston Special School commences.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said the Territory Government continues its investment in special needs education with $21.35 million allocated to stage one of the new school in Palmerston.

“This purpose-built special education school will maximise learning opportunities for high support needs children, with a teaching environment tailored to the safety and amenity of the students,” Mr Chandler said.

“Work on stage one has already commenced and will provide 84 places for pre and primary students with disabilities who have significant specific learning needs that require additional support and specialised resources and mobility equipment purposed learning spaces.”

The tender to construct the new school was awarded to local company Sunbuild Pty Ltd.

“The awarding of this tender is a milestone in the Northern Territory Government’s investment in special needs education across the Territory and will create jobs, with over 80 people expected to work on the project,” Mr Chandler said.

“The construction will include; three general learning areas, hydrotherapy pool, multi-purpose hall, specialised outdoor learning areas, administration building and security access control of doors throughout the school.”

Nemarluk School Principal Lorraine Hodgson said students currently, some very vulnerable, have to travel over in the bus for over an hour to get into school here at Alawa.

“This means a very early start to their school day and late end to their day. Some preschool children travel with their families in to Alawa. The new school will mean access to appropriate schooling and in particular early intervention for preschool aged children,” Ms Hodgson said.

“Specialised programs and a safe and appropriate learning environment will be provided in Palmerston as it is in Darwin.”

Mr Chandler said the new school is not named yet, as it will be the school community’s work to decide what the name is going to be and create the schools’ identity and culture.
The $21.35 million was allocated in the 2015 Budget for stage one of the new school, with an expected completion date of late 2016 with the school to be operational by early 2017.

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