New strategy to improve Middle Years schooling across the Territory

17 March 2016

Middle Years education is at the forefront of the Northern Territory Government’s plan to improve educational outcomes for all Territory students.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said the *Work Like the Best – Middle Years Teaching and Learning Strategy 2016-2018* aims to ensure that middle years’ education throughout the Northern Territory is delivering quality programs and quality teaching.

“This three-year strategy is aimed at driving policy and programs in the areas identified as having the greatest positive impact on the quality of middle school education,” Mr Chandler said.

“We want to ensure that Northern Territory middle schools offer rich, relevant curriculum that develops resilience, life-long learning skills and a strong sense of self in every adolescent learner.

“The strategy will assist teachers to understand the unique needs of young Territorians and provide platforms to improve student learning and engagement.”

The strategy is guided by the work of independent education consultant, Vic Zbar following his review of middle years’ education in the Northern Territory.

A key action of the strategy is the inaugural Middle Years conference which will be held in September 2016, for principals and teachers of government middle schools.

“The conference will focus on student wellbeing and classroom strategies to deliver high quality teaching and learning programs to middle years’ students,” Mr Chandler said.

“The key actions of the strategy will prepare students for a successful entry into their senior secondary education.”

Member for Sanderson Peter Styles said a six-month review will be undertaken to monitor progress of the strategy and ensure that the implementation plan is on target.

“Sanderson Middle School and middle schools right across the Territory provide our youth with important academic and life lessons at a crucial time in their development,” Mr Styles said.
“The effective transitions between primary, middle years and senior secondary phases of schooling are integral to continuing student engagement and learning.

“I am pleased to be part of a government that is not only improving education services for our children, but also enhancing the skills of Territory teachers to provide the best possible education for all young Territorians.”

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