Position papers and promises don’t improve outcomes

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In a week that was Opposition Leader Michael Gunner continued to spruik Labor’s faux promises that funding splurges will improve outcomes for Territory children.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said “Not only do these promises defy fiscal reason, they fail to make mention of any evidence based reform.”

Mr Gunner’s latest release alludes to a scatter gun approach to managing student behaviour, which could potentially see 152 Government schools across the Territory all implementing different policies and strategies for behaviour management.

“Labor will work with teachers to immediately deal with bad behaviour, we will work with school by school to understand what is needed to improve behaviour,” Mr Gunner said.

Earlier this week the Labor spin machine announced that every school across the Territory will get $300,000 to put towards repairs and maintenance, extensions or a school minor works project to stimulate the economy.

Minister Chandler said “This is just another example of a poorly thought-out copycat strategy. How does he expect to pay for his ideas, cut police, health or tourism, which Labor neglected when they were in Government.

“Government has progressed education in the last few years, it is obvious Michael is stuck in the past.”

“In the last three years we have undertaken a number of systematic reviews and using the evidence, implemented recommendations backed by the science to focus on student outcomes. This is what parents expect from a responsible government, not using tax payers money for cheap political stunts or like confetti at a Labor party function.

“The Country Liberals Government successful Boosting Our Economy package included working alongside schools and school councils to deliver targeted upgrades and infrastructure from forward works plans. By doing so this approach ensures responsible investment of Territory money. I am certain the Opposition Leader has been on an educational sabbatical for the last few years.”
“Parents can be assured that a Country Liberals Government is committed to improving the educational outcomes for our children. Our schools are in a much better place now than they were under the previous Labor Government.

“The Country Liberals Government has and will continue to fund Education to a high standard. We will not be drawn into a discussion about a miss conceived notion that a band aide approach to funding is the answer.

“Mr Gunner clearly has no idea when it comes to Education, he was quoted earlier this week as saying there has not been significant improvements under the Country Liberal Government.

“This Government is committed to spending money on reform that works. It has been under this government that Territory students have achieved their best ever results.

Including:

- 1338 students across government and non-government schools gained a Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) – greatest number of completion since inception
- Of these NTCET completions, 187 were Indigenous, it is the largest cohort to date
- Thirteen of the top 20 students across the Northern Territory were from government schools, with the top student from Darwin High School obtaining an outstanding Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 99.9.

“Territory Labor’s only plan for Education is to use money as band aides. They seem to be committed to the reformation of a top heavy central bureaucracy, schools will see autonomy lost, a system delivering disconnected programs and initiatives without any clear strategy to improving teaching and learning outcomes for children.

“The spending bill is adding up Mr Gunner, mums and dads want to know what you are actually planning to do?

“Position papers and promises without substance won’t improve outcomes for our children,” Mr Chandler said.

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