Principal appointed to Palmerston special needs school

27 July 2016

Today the Minister for Education welcomed Ms Annie Keighran as principal of the new Palmerston special needs school.

The Minister for Education Peter Chandler said “Construction has been progressing well on the $21.35 million special school facility in Bellamack in preparation for its expected completion in September 2016 and readiness to enrol students in Term 1, 2017.”

The appointment of the principal is one of the school’s most important milestones.

“Ms Keighran has over 25 years’ experience in the education sector, with many of those years spent working in special needs schools,” Mr Chandler said.

After starting her teaching career at Nemarluk School in 1991 (formerly known as Ludmilla Special School) Ms Keighran taught at the Palmerston High School Special Education Centre, and was later appointed Assistant Principal at Henbury School.

In 2004, Ms Keighran relocated to Kuala Lumpur where she was appointed Head of Curriculum Support at the Alice Smith School and later transitioned to the British International School in Cairo. Ms Keighran’s most recent role was in Thailand at the Patana School as Leader of Learning Support.

Ms Keighran has now returned to the Territory to become principal at the special school in Palmerston.

“I am delighted to be appointed to the role of principal of this new school and I look forward to growing the school together with the students, their families and the broader community,” Ms Keighran said.

“I strongly believe that education unlocks the potential in both students and staff, inspiring and enabling them to be the best they can be.”

Minister Chandler said “The establishment of a special school in Palmerston is a key element of the Country Liberals Government’s commitment to providing education facilities for students with disability.

“We will continue to invest in education for students with disability with $21.35 million invested in stage one of the new special school in Palmerston providing 84 places for preschool and primary school students.”

The design provides a safe and secure learning environment with self-contained general learning areas including:
• Covered safe drop off area for buses and parents
• Specialised indoor and outdoor learning areas
• Covered, outdoor heated pool
• Early learning centre for preschool students

“The Sunbuild team is doing a fantastic job with the construction of this facility. This is a step in the right direction for high support special needs students and their families residing in the Palmerston and rural area,” Mr Chandler said.

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