Gerald McCarthy  
Minister for Education

**New Teachers Welcomed By Old Hand**

24 January 2017

Acting Minister for Education Gerry McCarthy today attended an orientation for teachers and school staff to welcome them for the 2017 Territory school year.

Mr McCarthy said new teachers are part of the Labor Government’s $124 million investment in education over the next four years.

“We are re-investing in education after the CLP ripped more than $100 million out of the sector,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The first tranches of the new money will become available early in the school year and it will be up to schools to determine how to direct the funding to best meet the needs of their students.

“Our intention is to ensure there are quality teachers in every classroom across the Territory.

“As someone who arrived in the Northern Territory as a teacher, it’s a great privilege to be able to welcome this year’s new starters.

“I hope they make the most of the unique opportunities the Territory has to offer.”

The teacher orientation program is an opportunity for school staff to familiarise themselves with the Northern Territory Department of Education, so they are best prepared to deliver high quality teaching and learning programs to Territory students.

Orientation provides teachers and school leaders with essential information and guidance to enable a smooth entry into their school and community.

“All of our educators play a part in ensuring Territory students receive the very best education,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The Northern Territory is a diverse teaching environment and it’s important that we equip school staff with essential information and guidance to ensure a smooth transition into Territory schools.”

“School staff destined for remote schools across the Territory will participate in ‘remote ready’ workshops.
“Teachers will take part in cultural awareness sessions to learn skills about communicating and negotiating in intercultural environments to arm them with effective strategies for being culturally aware.”

Some teachers already have experience working outside the Northern Territory, while others are recent university graduates from both the Northern Territory and elsewhere. The teachers and school staff will work in one of the Territory’s 151 government schools which cater for 33,000 students.

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