FIGHTING FOR A FAIR DEAL FOR TERRITORY KIDS

18 May 2017

Minister for Education Eva Lawler has called for a more collaborative approach between Federal and State Governments following today’s Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council meeting in Adelaide.

“The NT Government will continue to put Territorians first – we know that investing in our children isn’t just the right thing to do, it’s smart thing to do,” Ms Lawler said.

“The Federal Government's approach on education funding package and reforms announced as part of their 2017-18 budget has been disappointing to date.

“We need to be part of the decision making on major funding and policy reforms like this, to make sure they are workable and appropriate in the NT context.”

Over the next 10 years the Turnbull government proposes to reduce the rate of per-student funding for Territory students in government schools. Under this arrangement the Northern Territory would be the only jurisdiction transitioning down to a lesser per-student funding rate than in 2017.

“Average per-student funding for government school students across Australia will grow 5 percent per year for the next decade. Meanwhile, recurrent funding for Territory students will grow by just 1.3 percent annually for the same period,” Ms Lawler said.

“I have been, and will continue to, fight for a fair deal for students in our government schools. We all know that the Territory has higher levels of disadvantage and higher costs for service delivery, especially in our remote schools.

“The Territory Labor Government is backing Territory kids, with an additional $124 million being invested in education over 4-years, why should they being short changed by the Commonwealth?”

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