Chief Minister Clare Martin today unveiled plans to develop the future directions of secondary education in Northern Territory Government schools.

Speaking during a visit to Darwin High School with Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling, Ms Martin said the Government would initiate a comprehensive report into secondary education provision in Government schools, beginning in January 2003.

"The Government is committed to building a smarter Territory through better education," Ms Martin said.

"This marks the first time in 10 years that secondary education in the NT has been reviewed.

"We will be looking at ways to improve secondary education; ensure that the delivery of secondary education is appropriate to each school community’s needs; and build real pathways from school to training to skilled jobs.

"The aim is to ensure that Territory students are receiving an education that is comparable to, or better than, that available in the rest of Australia and that helps them to meet the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world.

"The report will consider all aspects of secondary education provision in urban, rural and remote Government schools throughout the Territory.

"We will also be inviting the non-Government school sector to come on board and take part in the process.

"The first step will be a review to be conducted by a highly qualified external consultancy, who will receive advice from a Steering Committee made up of high-level NT education representatives.

"There will also be wide consultation with stakeholder groups throughout the Territory."

It is expected that a Report from the review will be delivered to Government by September 2003, with implementation of recommendations to begin in 2004.