Communications Minister Paul Henderson said it was totally unacceptable the Northern Territory was the only jurisdiction to not receive funding in the recent round of Federal Government grants to boost the nation’s Information and Communication Technology industry.

“The Commonwealth made much of its announcement of $36M to ICT incubators ‘across the country – but not one cent will be dedicated to the Northern Territory’s growing ICT sector,” Mr Henderson said.

“ICT incubators are an important arena for developing small businesses and innovative concepts in this sector, and it’s a real slap in the face for the Territory to miss out on this funding.”

The Federal Government began the incubator program in 2000, and four companies from the Northern Territory’s Original IT Investments incubator – iLive Learning, Dolphin Software, GecOz and Sound Safety Pty Ltd - have produced good business results under the program.

“For these four companies, the Federal incubator funding is vital to continue to grow their operations, and if the Commonwealth Government is to be sincere about growing a successful national ICT sector, it must support all part of Australia, including the Northern Territory,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Northern Territory’s ICT industry has been abandoned by the Commonwealth Government, and this decision must be reversed.”