The Territory Government is moving to address the urgent need for new school equipment and furniture for teacher housing, immediately injecting $2 million into a replacement program.

Making the announcement during a visit to Malak Primary School today, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said that under the program, Government will:

- replace broken and sub-standard furniture and whitegoods in teacher housing at a cost of $1 million;
- provide schools with the funds to purchase urgently needed equipment at a cost of $1 million.

The equipment and furniture will be purchased locally, providing a boost to Territory business.

Mr Stirling said most Territory schools have only a limited capacity to replace equipment and have been struggling to do so within their existing budgets.

“Meanwhile, some teachers living in staff housing are making do with sub-standard furniture and whitegoods,” he said.

“This new initiative is part of Government’s commitment to ensuring that schools have the equipment they need to provide the best possible education to young Territorians. We also value the crucial role our teachers play in our community and we want to ensure they have a comfortable living and working environment.”

Mr Stirling said every Government school in the Northern Territory would benefit from the program, with $112,300 going to pre-schools for new equipment; $670,800 going to primary schools; and $224,300 going to high schools.

“For example, Malak Primary School will receive $6417, while Malak Pre-School will receive $1386.

“Schools will be able to purchase a range of essential equipment including desks, chairs and other classroom furniture; televisions and videos; photocopiers and faxes; fridges and ride-on mowers.

“The allocation for teacher houses will see furniture and whitegoods replaced in 290 dwellings.”

Mr Stirling said Government would give consideration to similar levels of ongoing funding as part of the Budget process.

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