Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling today announced the Northern Territory Government had approved the allocation of $2.7 million of Federal Government funds to upgrade vocational education and training facilities in the Territory.

The Federal funding is made available to each state and territory through the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) Infrastructure Program.

Mr Stirling said the expenditure would improve the delivery of VET and administrative process at Charles Darwin University campuses in the Territory, with the creation of an integrated IT system linking all regions.

Funds have been allocated to CDU to:

- upgrade Enterprise IT across several VET campuses
- relocate and upgrade the School of Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing to the Palmerston campus
- establish VET multi-media centres in Casuarina and Alice Springs
- part-funding the expansion of infrastructure for video-based material delivery (shared cost with Higher Education)
- part-fund the Alice Springs Information Shop
- upgrade the Katherine and Tennant Creek training facilities.

“The provision of more flexible regional training will be bolstered by the proposed improvements to training centre facilities in both Katherine and Tennant Creek,” Mr Stirling said.

“The expansion of CDU’s infrastructure for video-based material delivery will enable a wider variety of delivery options to remote areas as well as improving delivery on campus.

“Also, the highly successful School of Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing will be upgraded to cater for the increased demand for training in this area.”

The ANTA funds complement an allocation of $2.5 million of Northern Territory Government funds to upgrade the CDU higher education facilities in Alice Spring in July 2004.

The Northern Territory Government has received $3.4 million in ANTA funding in 2004, apportioned between major capital, infrastructure and equipment for public training providers.