Nine new teachers will take up positions in Territory schools next week as part of efforts to address student behaviour concerns and improve school wellbeing, with a tenth vacancy in the process of being filled.

The new teaching positions are part of Government’s commitment to employ an extra 100 teachers in its first term.

“While most students are well-behaved, a minority of students behave poorly in our schools. It has become one of the biggest issues facing teachers today and we want to tackle the problem head-on,” Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

“The Building Relationships and School Wellbeing Project has been developed with Principals, the Australian Education Union and the Student Services Branch of the Department of Employment, Education and Training to do just that.”

Visiting the teachers during their final week of training for their new role today, Mr Stirling said the project was about more than just addressing student behaviour concerns.

“The teachers will also be working with whole school communities, including teachers, students, parents and carers, to develop positive relationships in schools and improve wellbeing,” he said.

“They will provide specialist advice and support to schools to develop strategies to tackle poor student behaviour and improve the school environment.”

As part of their role, the teachers will:

- train staff
- co-ordinate and facilitate strategies to improve school wellbeing
- assist the school to develop its own methods of supporting students and families experiencing difficulties

“The nine new teachers have extensive teaching experience, including in specialist roles such as international student teaching, special education, counselling and behaviour management,” Mr Stirling said.

They will be based at the following schools:

- Darwin region – Parap, Stuart Park, Jingili, Karama, Malak, and Wulagi Primary Schools as well as Dripstone and Nightcliff High Schools
- Palmerston and Rural – Moulden Park, Bakewell, Humpty Doo and Howard Springs Primary Schools
- Tennant Creek – Tennant Creek Primary School and Tennant Creek High School
- Alice Springs – Gillen, Bradshaw, Sadadeen and Ross Park Primary schools
- Katherine – MacFarlane Primary School and Katherine High School

The teachers have been undergoing intensive training at the Student Services Branch, Wulagi Primary School, for past two weeks and will take up their roles next week.
positions at start of Semester 3.

A teachers’ handbook and information sheets for parents on the Building Relationships and School Wellbeing Project are currently being prepared and will be ready for distribution in the coming weeks.

“The Government is to be congratulated on the level of support demonstrated by allocating these positions in the endeavours to support all stakeholders in education ie parents, students teachers and administrators” said Alan Perrin, Secretary of the Australian Education Union NT.

“Our membership has expressed great concern about school and student well being and this project has the potential to become best practice nationally.”