GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE ESSINGTON SCHOOL

The Territory Government will provide financial assistance to the Essington School in Darwin to build the first stage of a middle school classroom building, Member for Nightcliff Jane Aagaard announced today.

Mrs Aagaard said as part of Budget 2005, Government would provide 50% of capital costs – $450,000 – and 50% of loan interest towards the project over ten years – a further $177,000.

“The project will see five extra classrooms built, as well as a staff room, additional student toilets and a coordinator’s office,” Mrs Aagaard said.

“The Government will also assist the school by providing 50% of the capital interest costs of two other projects they have planned – upgrading the pre-school toilets and refurbishing classrooms to provide a General Science Laboratory. Government will provide capital interest funds of $21,000 towards the pre-school toilets and $43,000 towards the science lab over ten years.

“The Essington School does an excellent job of educating Darwin students, but its enrolments are now exceeding the school’s capacity.

“Last year, enrolments increased to around 500 students. The school, with a classroom capacity for 360 students, bought additional transportable classrooms to cater for the extra demand, but enrolments continue to grow.

“Government is pleased to be able to assist the school with these important projects that will significantly enhance the school environment.”

Mrs Aagaard said the projects were being funded under the Capital Subsidy and Interest Subsidy Scheme, which is specifically aimed at providing assistance to non-Government schools.

“This is a fantastic scheme that allows Government to provide assistance to independent schools and keep the Territory moving ahead,” Mrs Aagaard said.

“The funding for The Essington School is a great result for Darwin and for Nightcliff residents in particular. This is the first time the school has received such a major funding injection from the Territory Government.

“The school community and parents of students put in an extraordinary effort fundraising for their children and the school – Government is proud to be able to assist their hard work.

It is part of Government’s efforts to enhance school environments for students and teachers alike and improve educational results for young Territorians.”

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