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MORE FUNDS FOR MACDONNELL SCHOOLS

Schools in the MacDonnell region are sharing around $160,000 in additional funding from the Territory Government for the purchase of much-needed equipment, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said today.

The schools have already received around $120,000 of the funding, with the remaining $40,000 to be contained in Budget 2005 and distributed to schools later in the year.

The extra funds are allowing schools to buy new school desks and chairs, photocopiers, faxes, televisions, DVDs, fridges, projector screens, whiteboards or lawn mowers.

Mr Stirling said, Territory-wide, the Government was providing an extra $2 million for School Equipment Program, with $1.5 million already distributed and a further $500,000 contained in Budget 2005.

“This funding for school equipment has been allocated as part of Government’s efforts to address a long-term backlog of need in Territory schools,” Mr Stirling said.

“Most schools have only a limited capacity to replace equipment and prior to these funding boosts, had been struggling to do so.

“Every Territory school, including those in the MacDonnell region, will receive a share of the funding.

“This injection will help to ensure that schools have the equipment they need to provide the best possible education to young Territorians.

“It will also provide a boost to Territory business, as the equipment will be purchased locally.”

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