Minister for Employment, Education & Training Syd Stirling today announced that the NT Government will provide around $839,000 in subsidies over ten years towards the construction of a new classroom complex and library at Nyangatjatjara College at Yulara in Central Australia.

Mr Stirling, who made the announcement during Community Cabinet in Alice Springs, said the college was a unique initiative in Indigenous secondary education, teaching students from the communities of Imanpa, Mutitjulu and Docker River (Kaltukatjara). The communities are all members of the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation.

"Nyangatjatjara College has a reputation for outstanding educational outcomes and boasts a high retention rate of students," Mr Stirling said.

"It is also the only secondary education institution in Central Australia operating outside of a major urban centre.

"However, classes are being conducted in increasingly cramped conditions, which is why I’m delighted to make this commitment to the College, allowing it to expand its Boarding Campus at Yulara."

The College operates classes and programs in each of the communities it services, but also offers secondary residential education to young men and young women separately at the Yulara Boarding Campus.

This accords with traditional Aboriginal educational principles that young men and young women should be kept apart during their adolescent education.

"The NT Government is committed to supporting initiatives such as Nyangatjatjara College which are designed to bring Indigenous educational outcomes to national standards and are in keeping with recommendations of the Collins Learning Lessons Review," Mr Stirling said.

"I congratulate Nyangatjatjara College, its parents, board members, teachers and students on their achievements so far and offer every encouragement as they work to lift Indigenous educational standards."

Mr Stirling also acknowledged the contribution of Voyages Hotels and Resorts which sub-leased the land for the new complex to Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation.

He said construction of the new classroom and library would begin next financial year.