First Job Program for Territory Employers

The Country Liberal Party is today releasing a critical element of our “Territory 2020: The Economic Future” blueprint to turn the Territory into an economic powerhouse.

*Territory 2020* is a 15 year economic development program, firmly focused on achieving the best possible long term position for the Territory in the Australian Regional and Global context.

Total funding for the multi faceted package is $74 million.

We have already announced the most sweeping tax reform program for the Territory to create the most favourable investment climate in the country.

Today’s announcement, a *First Job Program for Territory Employers*, meshes with our Business Tax Relief Plan

The *First Job Program* for the Territory is a strategic, targeted initiative designed to attract Territorians into apprenticeships, keep young Territorians in the Territory, attract interstate workers here, grow our declining population and stimulate the Northern Territory economy.

The *First Job Program* includes;

- First and foremost in our policy is the Country Liberal Party’s total commitment to Charles Darwin University.
It was the CLP, in government, that developed the University College of the NT in 1984, in the face of fierce opposition from the federal Labor Government.

Successive CLP governments continued to fund and support the NTU through direct and special grants to ensure its services were at the highest level. That support and commitment continues.

- A package of incentives for employers to help them attract school leavers and Charles Darwin University (CDU) graduates to get an apprenticeship or traineeship in the Territory,

- An exemption from a requirement for employers to have to pay workers compensation insurance for the above employees for 3 years and includes Government directly paying wage subsidies to trainees,

- The salary of these new employees will not be taken into account in assessing payroll tax thresholds as a further incentive to employ young Territorians,

- Measures to encourage more students through the payment of bursaries to take up apprenticeships and traineeships, with these bursaries continuing with the successful completion of each year of training,

- Work constructively with the Federal government to guarantee the Darwin Technical College is successful and providing real options for students and apprentices,

- Ensuring that CDU provides appropriate access to meet industry training requirements with trainers attuned to current industry requirements and who are respected throughout the industry for their knowledge.
The Country Liberal Party believes that the Territory pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit and ‘go get ‘em’ attitude has been suppressed by this Labor government.

We want to unleash the full potential of the Territory and have fully costed plans to turn the Territory into an economic powerhouse.