The NT Government will contribute $5000 towards school supplies for East Timor schools after the country’s First Lady, Kirsty Sword Gusmao, visited Darwin today to talk to students about the difficulties being faced by Timor’s education system.

Ms Gusmao gave presentations to students and teachers from the Darwin area at Ludmilla Primary School and Palmerston High School about the hardships facing their counterparts in East Timor.

Ms Gusmao used the opportunity to talk to students about ways they may be able to raise funds for East Timor schools as part of Harmony Day activities.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said the NT Government was happy to kick off fundraising efforts to assist East Timor schools, many of which are without basic equipment.

"The Territory has strong ties with the people of East Timor and it is important that we assist them any way we can as they undertake the difficult task of rebuilding their nation," Mr Stirling said.

"Many East Timorese schools are without desks, whiteboards, exercise books, pencils and pens – equipment that we take for granted in Australia.

"The Territory Government will provide $5000 for school supplies as part of the Harmony Day fundraising efforts.

"Following Ms Gusmao’s visit today, participating teachers and students will use the 11 days prior to Harmony Day to inform students about East Timor and to encourage fundraising activities.

"The school that raises the most money per student will receive a signed and framed token of appreciation from the President of East Timor, Xanana Gusmao.

"I urge Territory students to get behind these fundraising efforts and show their support for their fellow students in East Timor."