Cabinet has approved the removal of compulsory age 65 retirement provisions from the NT Public Sector, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said amendments to remove the provisions in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* were due to go before Parliament next week.

"The NT is the only jurisdiction in Australia to still have a compulsory retirement age in its public sector employment legislation," he said.

"All other States and Territories have recognised that such a provision is inconsistent with anti-discrimination legislation.

"This Government believes that ceasing the employment of valued and skilled public sector workers on the basis of age alone is simply unacceptable.

"In addition, the Australian population is healthier and living longer than ever and as a result, people have potentially many years of productive work life beyond the age of 65.

"These changes allow individuals to retire when it suits them."

Mr Stirling said with an ageing Australian workforce, employers needed to seriously consider retraining fit and willing older workers beyond the age of 65.

The number of young potential employees coming into the Australian labour market each year is also expected to reduce which will have a significant effect on the workforce in coming years.

"The NT Government is committed to ensuring that the NT Public Sector is an attractive employer to Territorians of all ages," Mr Stirling said.

"At the Government’s request, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment has put in place interim arrangements which will enable employees aged 65 to continue as temporary NTPS employees until the legislation is passed and enacted.

"These arrangements have already seen 19 employees aged 65 and over stay on in the public sector since September 2002."