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Minister Must Intervene to Ensure Sufficient Teachers at Pine Creek School

Shadow Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Dr Richard Lim is calling on the Minister to step in and make sure there are an adequate number of teachers at Pine Creek School.

“I am calling on the Minister to ensure that there are adequate numbers of teachers at the Pine Creek School to teach the 40 students that are there,” Dr Lim said.

“The Pine Creek School has 40 students ranging in ages from Pre-School to Year 7 and will have only two teachers to conduct classes for all the children.

“According to staffing formula, the school will lose one teacher and the teacher aide will have to go or have her hours cut because the school is just below the quota of 42 students to have three teachers.

“It is well and good to work within formulas when you live in cities and going to larger schools where there are enough teachers and aides to fill the gaps.

“In regional Territory, resources are scarce and the loss of one teacher out of a complement of three for a loss of 2 students makes a huge dent in the capacity to deliver good education.

“This is another indication of how the Martin Labor Government is running down regional services.

“If the Martin Labor Government was serious about providing good education across the board, and in particular, making sure that indigenous students get as much support as possible, the Minister will step in and advise the Department of Employment, Education and Training to retain the third teacher at Pine Creek School.

“Our children’s education is of paramount importance, and we cannot be short-changing them especially in the early childhood years of development.

“With the school term now in its fifth week, the school cannot go on with one teacher short. The Minister must act now.” Dr Lim said.

Ends

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