2nd June 2005

NYANGATJARA COLLEGE NEEDS MORE CASH

The member for Macdonnell today condemned the NT government for their diminished commitment to the students of Central Australia. The Nyangatjara College has been operating in Central Australia at Yulara, Docker River, Mutitjulu and Imanpa for several years on a unique co-educational system.

The college has demonstrated a wonderful ability to educate Aboriginal people bringing them a standard of education that has seen students find work in the nearby resort.

The Martin Labor Government has given limited funding to the college in spite of their results and it stands in stark contrast with the support given by the CLP up until 4 years ago and the current Federal Government that did much to expand the school under the tutelage of Dr Brendan Nelson.

Speaking in Alice Springs today the local member John Elferink said,

“This school is working because I’ve seen it work. Its budget is much smaller than similar institutions in Darwin and the inequity in NT funds in simply not fair to the central Australian students.

“The Shadow Minister for education Dr Lim and I have discussed the predicament in the school and he has given me a firm commitment to establish dialogue to improve the situation should we win government.

“Dr Lim and I realise this means extra dollars but money spent on results is money well spent.

“I have always supported and will continue to support the college.”

John may be contacted on 0414884671