Key decision makers on employment, education and training are meeting today and tomorrow at a Leaders’ Forum at the Northern Territory University.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling, who opened the forum this morning, said it was a crucial opportunity for educators to come together to discuss the continued development of a prosperous and equitable Northern Territory.

NT School Principals; Assistant Principals; senior staff of the Department of Employment, Education and Training, representatives from the NTU and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education; and Principals from the non-government school sector are participating in the Forum. This is the first time that such a diverse group has met in this way.

"The theme of the Forum, Actioning the Vision, focuses on translating the Government’s vision for employment, education and training into action. We have made a commitment to Territorians to lift the standard of education and training for our young people so they are able to become productive participants in the social and economic life of the Territory," Mr Stirling said.

"To do that, we need our education leaders to ensure DEET is a responsive, service-oriented organisation that is able to deliver on our commitments.

"The forum provides an opportunity for participants to focus on issues confronting employment, education and training in the Northern Territory and develop collective strategies for meeting these challenges.

"In particular, participants will consider the sub-themes of improving Indigenous education; engaging boys in school; and developing understanding around how learning theories and styles affect success both at school and in further study, training and employment."

The keynote speaker at the Forum is Lyn Watts, a leading educationalist who has an intense interest in teacher professional development in the areas of both educational leadership and curriculum development.

The speaker for the Forum dinner is Bob Hince who was a primary school principal for 20 years in Sydney. He has been educational consultant and Principal Education Officer for Teacher Inservice Training in NSW. He has taught primary school in Malaysia and England, and in various regions in NSW. He is the author of four self-development books and many educational articles.