Dr Richard Lim  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition  
Chairman, Policy Development Committee  
Shadow Treasurer,  
Shadow Minister for Education, Employment & Training,  
Racing, Gaming & Licensing, and Central Australia  

Government fails bakery and pastry apprentices  
14 October 2004  

CLP Shadow Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Dr Richard Lim is asking that the Minister to immediately put in place a replacement trainer for 15 Bakery and Pastry apprentices who will be without a trainer as of next week when the current trainer leaves for interstate for personal reasons.

"The Minister must immediately put in place a replacement trainer for the 15 Bakery and Pastry apprentices so that they can continue their studies without interruption," Dr Lim said.

"Most of the apprentices are in their final six months of training, and during this week, are preparing for their examinations.

"The apprentices are due to return to class in 2 weeks time, but have been told by the Charles Darwin University, Palmerston Campus, that there will be no instructor at that stage.

"For these apprentices, it means that they have to put off completing their training until next year, providing an instructor is available.

"One apprentice from Port Keats, who had already lined up a job in France, now cannot take up the job as he is not able to complete his course by March 2005.

"Another apprentice from Alice Springs had paid for his accommodation at the CDU, but now finds that there is no point staying in Darwin for the next weeks as the course is not being provided, and wants to return home, but finds that he is unable to get a refund on his money to buy his airline ticket.

"This is another botch up by the Martin Labor Government, and a failure of its training and jobs plan.

"The Minister must get his eye back on the business of managing his portfolios so that we can ensure Territory youth of good education and training opportunities."

Ends