Teachers will be better represented on both the NT Board of Studies and the Education Advisory Council (ECA) under proposed changes to the Education Act, introduced into Parliament today by Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling.

Mr Stirling said the proposed amendments aimed to revise membership on both the Board and the Council, including reinstating the Australian Education Union.

"The previous Government removed the AEU from both bodies in 1995 following a dispute during Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations," Mr Stirling said.

"The AEU is a major stakeholder in Territory Education and the Government wants to ensure the union is represented on these key bodies.

"By reinstating the Union on both the EAC and Board of Studies, the Act will ensure the Government is fulfilling its commitment under the current EBA."

Mr Stirling said other proposed changes to the Board of Studies reflected the restructure of the Department’s curriculum functions, assessment and certification processes.

"The amendments will result in a more streamlined Board with a shift to increased indigenous and non-indigenous parent, industry and community representation," Mr Stirling said.

"It will better enable the Board’s ability to provide high-quality expert and stakeholder input to Government on curriculum policy.

"The changes include:

- focusing on a deliberative and consultative role for the Board;
- guaranteeing the independence of the Chair;
- requiring the Board to report jointly to the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer to enhance the openness of the Board’s operations;
- ensuring expert and independent advice is provided to the Minister and is representative of the Board’s views rather than the Departments; and
- decreasing the number of representatives on the Board from the current 21 to 16.

"The Government is committed to ensuring that advice to the Board is fully informed by the views of all key stakeholders, particularly parents and teachers."