I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome Territory students to the 2002 school year and wish them every success over the coming year.

A good education is the best investment we can make in a young person’s future.

The government is committed to providing Territory schools with the staff and resources needed to ensure students receive the best education possible.

In the years ahead we will be following through on our commitment to boost teacher numbers by 100, at the same time as reducing teacher turn over.

We will continue to implement the best possible IT and telecommunications networks to ensure diverse curricula is delivered to all Territory students, whether they live in the city or the bush.

We have also committed to implementing the recommendations of the Collins Review, which addresses the acute needs in indigenous education.

Our commitment to Territory students extends beyond high school. We will continue to support our school-leaving students whether they are looking for employment, training opportunities or to further their education at a tertiary level.

There’s no doubt that a good education provides a solid foundation in life, opening up new opportunities and experiences for our young people.

I urge young Territorians to work hard over the coming year, reach for their goals, and strive to be the best they can.

Best wishes to every student for an exciting and fulfilling 2002.