Government must support Australian Technical Colleges

The Leader of the Opposition Terry Mills has called for the Martin government to support the establishment of the Australian Technical College in Darwin after negative comments by the ALP in Question Time in October 2004.

“The Coalition committed to establishing Australian Technical Colleges in areas of high skill shortage in the 2004 Federal Election and see great opportunities for the creation of a Technical College in Darwin, Mr Mills said.

“These Colleges will provide high-quality training and will be industry driven, meaning that students will be better prepared for employment after the completion of their studies.

“I believe that the involvement of industry specialists in the establishment and designing of courses will be of great benefit to those students who wish to pursue skilled training in the Territory. Industry involvement is critical and we have seen very positive comments coming from industry regarding the creation of the Technical Colleges.

“However, I am very concerned that the Martin government is ideologically opposed to the Technical Colleges after the negative comments by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling, during the Federal election campaign.

“We heard much criticism from the ALP all over Australia when this policy was released and I just hope that Mr Stirling can see the benefit of providing high quality opportunities for the people of the Territory to gain new skills.

“I am worried that Mr Stirling will not be able to support a new and positive move to address skill shortages in the Territory. He should put party politics aside in preference for a great positive investment by the Federal government to address the problem of skill shortages in the Northern Territory”.

ENDS