A new board will be established to provide advice to government on the future direction of employment and training initiatives under legislation introduced into Parliament today by Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling.

Mr Stirling said amendments to the NT Employment and Training Authority Act would see the existing Employment and Training Board replaced with a new ministerial advisory board.

"The new legislation reflects this Government's strong commitment to improving employment and training opportunities for Territorians," Mr Stirling said.

"The new board will have 13 members instead of the current 10 and they will be drawn from a broad range of stakeholders.

Representation on the Board will be broadened by:

- including two representatives from Training Advisory Councils and one nominated by the NT Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- increasing regional representation by including at least three members from areas outside of Darwin and Palmerston;
- ensuring indigenous representation with a nomination from ATSIC;
- including a person nominated by the NT Trades and Labor Council;
- including a Vocational Education and Training practitioner;
- including a member from the Commonwealth who is responsible for NT VET programs; and
- ensuring high level representation from key NT public service agencies.

"The proposed amendments will ensure that the Board has the expertise and experience to provide strategic advice to Government on the development of employment and training policies," Mr Stirling said.

"Current board members will stay on until their terms of appointment expire in early July 2002, allowing for a smooth transition to the new Board once the legislation is passed, which is expected to occur in the August Sittings of Parliament."