Government will step up efforts to tackle problem behaviour in schools, including assigning 10 extra teachers to behaviour management support next year, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Addressing around 500 Top End teachers at a World Teachers Day function, Mr Stirling said poor behaviour by students was becoming more of an issue for teachers.

"Teaching is a tough profession, with ever-increasing demands and expectations placed on our educators," Mr Stirling said.

"While the majority of students are well-behaved and willing to learn, problem behaviour from a minority is becoming more and more of an issue for teachers.

"In response, Government will assign ten of the 100 extra teacher positions we are providing in our first term to behaviour management.

"These teachers will work with teams of schools, assisting them to better deal with student misbehaviour.

"We are also working to improve resources to teachers in the classroom so they have more support in dealing with problem students.

"The department is working with schools to strengthen their behaviour management programs and we want to improve relationships between parents and teacher so teachers are getting support on the homefront to address poor behaviour.

"Some of these initiatives are still being formulated and discussions will need to be held between Government and teacher representatives on this matter, but it is an area that we are keen to tackle.

"Government places a great deal of value on our teaching profession and the important role they play in helping to shape the Territory’s future. We want to give them as much support as possible."

Mr Stirling also told teachers that Government was looking at ways to improve staffing formula in schools.

"Government will consult with teacher representatives in the near future as part of efforts to move towards a program of improved class sizes and more school resources over the next few years."