At least eight of the 15 Masters teaching students from the University of Sydney who undertook a 10-week internship in remote Territory communities are staying on to teach full-time in the NT, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said some of the other student teachers were considering taking up full-time positions in the NT next year.

"The student teachers arrived back in Darwin last week for a debriefing session and have each reported that their 10-week internship was an incredibly rewarding learning experience," he said.

"They acknowledged the challenges of teaching in remote communities but are excited by the prospect of making a real difference in the lives of remote Territory students.

"Considering that the purpose of the internship was to encourage the student teachers to take up full-time positions in remote communities from next year, it’s a fantastic result that so many of them have decided to take up positions almost immediately," Mr Stirling said.

"We welcome them on board and wish them the best of luck in their careers."

The students taking up full-time positions are:

James Warne (going to Umbakumba)
Abi White (Yirrkala)
Michelle Jones (Yirrkala)
Jessica South (Yirrkala)
Ann Holden (Galiwinku)
Mel Phegan (Galiwinku)
Trina Fuller (Galiwinku)
Annie Telfer (taking up position as Groups Schools Resource Officer for Top End rural schools)

Mr Stirling said the student teacher internship pilot program was developed by Indigenous Education Division of the Department of Employment, Education and Training in partnership with the University of Sydney.

"The program aims to address teacher supply and retention in remote NT schools and is part of the Government’s wider teacher recruitment and retention strategy," he said.