Reform in Employment, Education and Training is at the heart of the Territory Labor Government’s second term program, according to Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling.

Mr Stirling today told 300 delegates at the annual DEET* Leaders forum that lifting educational outcomes could mean the difference between building a strong future for the Territory, or holding back its social and economic potential.

“Since the June 2005 election we have driven a new focus on Indigenous education, implemented the Building Better Schools program, and have expanded the age of entry trials and accelerated literacy program.

“The Middle Years approach to schooling is the next step in improving educational outcomes for Territorians.

“Throughout the course of the next three years the Martin Government is also committed to the development of a new staffing formula, a world class distance education facility, and the modernisation of the Education Act, including working with School Councils to revamp devolution,” Mr Stirling said.

The Minister said that educational leaders were important partners with Government in ensuring that these necessary reforms were effectively implemented.

“Our approach is focussed on students and the teachers who support them. It is aimed at lifting outcomes and improving opportunity for young Territorians.

“This is the most important thing a Government can do. We welcome educational leaders joining us in this task.”

* = Department of Employment, Education and Training

DEET PR Steve Mullins will be at Marrara Stadium to arrange interviews with the Minister and other forum participants.

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