Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling today officially launched the new Safe Start Education Resource kit at Sanderson High School.

The kit will be an educational resource for teachers and help highlight the importance of occupational health and safety (OH&S) training to Territory secondary students – our workforce of the future.

An initiative of NT WorkSafe, the Safe Start kit has been distributed to careers advisors and educators at all Territory government and non-government secondary schools and community education centres.

Mr Stirling said it will ensure workplace safety is recognised as paramount by secondary students.

“We want to create a safer working Territory and this educational kit is an important asset in reducing workplace injuries and fatalities,” he said.

“It specifically targets secondary students in Years 9 –12 and will prepare school-leavers for the work environments they will encounter in the future.”

Mr Stirling said this especially is important for students undertaking work experience, as well as those involved in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Safe Start project involved various working groups, with representatives from NT WorkSafe; the Department of Employment, Education and Training; the Department of Corporate and Information Services and wider industry.

Extensive consultations also took place with teacher focus groups drawn from government and non-government schools across the Territory including Sanderson High School.

The kit is divided into the four key sections: prevention, hazards, workplace relations, and compensation/rehabilitation. It includes a folder containing OH&S information, student resource pages, English as a Second Language modified overhead transparencies, the NTWS Putting Safety First booklet, sample workers’ compensation claim forms and an accompanying Safe Start CD.

Explanations given about the various health and safety laws, including relevant sections of The Work Health Act, The NT Anti Discrimination Act and The Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

All sections contain information and activities related to safety issues, with examples and issues relevant to young Territorians living in the Top End, Central Australia and remote communities.

Contact: Craig Rowston 8901 4010 or 0401 119 777