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BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT TO HELP FAMILY HIP POCKETS

Minister for Employment Education and Training Syd Stirling has announced that the Northern Territory Government will implement the $50 Back to School Payment Scheme from the start of Term 1 2006.

Mr Stirling said the Back to School Payment fulfils a $2 million election commitment, announced earlier this year, and is part of the Government’s second term education reform agenda.

“We have established the scheme to help families offset the cost of textbooks, stationery, school uniforms, and other essential school items,” he said.

“These are the start of year expenses that comes with providing the best education for their children.

“There’s no denying that educating students and providing them with the necessary tools for their schooling is an expensive business for parents.

“This voucher should help alleviate some of the financial burden for NT parents and guardians.”

Mr Stirling said parents or guardians of students from Transition to Year 12 in the Northern Territory are entitled to receive one $50 voucher per child.

Schools will issue vouchers to all students enrolled at their school at the beginning of Term 1 2006.

The vouchers are only redeemable for essential school items from the schools which issue the vouchers.

It will be at the school’s discretion whether the voucher is distributed by mail to parents/guardians, or collected by parents/guardians from the school.

For further information parents are encouraged to contact their school directly, or visit www.deet.nt.gov.au

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