7 September 2006

TERRITORY JOBLESS RATE FALLS WHILE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RISES

The number of Territorians employed in the workforce continues to grow apace, with the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showing the participation rate is at its highest level in more than two years.

“The ABS data for August 2006 shows the Northern Territory’s participation rate is 71.3%, and this means there are plenty of jobs around for Territorians,” said Treasurer, Syd Stirling.

“Although monthly ABS figures can be volatile, they show the number of Territorians employed has grown from 102 300 to 103 000 over the same period.”

The ABS figures show the Territory’s unemployment rate has fallen from 4.6% to 4.3%, despite growth in the national unemployment rate to 4.9%.

“This labour force data shows the economy is growing strong, with small businesses continuing to expand and take on more staff – a pattern set to continue over the September quarter,” said Mr Stirling.

Contact : Michelle Fraser 8901 4010 or 0407 642 011