Over 42,000 students will begin arriving in classrooms across the Territory from 30 January as schools gear up for the start of the 2007 school year.

Minister for Education Paul Henderson, while visiting Larrakeyah Primary School with Local Member for Port Darwin Kerry Sacilotto, said there will be more than 28,000 primary and 13,500 secondary students attending the Territory’s 187 government and non-government schools this year.

“It is a very exciting year for education in the Territory with the roll-out of several key initiatives and projects,” Minister Henderson said.

“We are part way through the Martin Government’s $46.7 million capital works program - the biggest capital education investment in the Territory’s history.

“I’d also like to remind parents that the Government’s $50 Back to School Bonus is available again this year to assist with the purchase of necessities for the school year.

“Year 10 students will attend Casuarina Senior College and Centralian Senior Secondary College for the first time, the Senior Years program will give them better access to a wider range of subjects and vocational education and training (VET) programs.

“The Age of Entry Trial moves into Phase 3 with 22 government schools joining the project, giving more young students the chance to experience the proven benefits of early learning programs, this brings the total number of schools participating in the trial to 53.

“I would like to wish all students, teachers and parents all the best as they kick off another exciting school year,” Minister Henderson said.

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