22 March 2006

STEP FORWARD FOR IRRKERLANTYE STUDENTS

The Education Minister, Syd Stirling, today welcomed a resolution regarding the Irrkerlantye Learning Centre – ILC - and the future of its students.

Mr Stirling said that representatives from the Irrkerlantye site had accepted the Territory Government’s offer to relocate to Bradshaw Primary School.

“Bradshaw will give these students a better education with more opportunity,” the Minister said.

“The decision has been made with the best interests of the students in mind.”

The Territory Government’s offer includes:

- Each class will be staffed by a teacher and assistant teacher, and will have additional inclusion support assistance
- Quality facilities, including two new classrooms and outdoor areas, modified to meet the needs of students and family members
- Extra funding for Bradshaw to purchase new furniture
- Other resources from Irrkerlantye will be transferred to Bradshaw
- Transport. Negotiations are underway to gift a Government coaster bus to Ngarte Mikwekenhe Community Incorporated. It will also be used for culture days, local excursions and sports programs.
- Extra-curricula activities will be offered at Bradshaw
- Ongoing support for students

“The current Irrkerlantye site is an unacceptable place for children to learn,” Mr Stirling said.

“The facilities at Bradshaw Primary School are far superior and these students deserve the best.

“The Education Department has developed a transitional plan to help students enter their new school with the support they need.

“I appreciate the efforts and commitment of staff at both the Irrkerlantye Centre and Bradshaw, and will personally make sure the students’ transition is successful.”

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