Education Minister Paul Henderson today confirmed Middle Years programs will start on day one of the 2008 school year in Palmerston and across the Territory.

Keytown Construction has advised the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) it will not be able to complete the $12 million Palmerston High School senior wing extension in time for the start of the 2008 school year as contracted.

“This means that current Year 6 students will start the middle years program at their current primary school, and will relocate to Palmerston High School at the start of Semester Two,” Mr Henderson said.

“Most importantly, the students will still study the middle years curriculum with teachers from Palmerston High School, and will be enrolled as students of the High School and wear the Palmerston High uniform.”

Students in years 10 to 12 will move to the new senior wing in Semester Two.

Middle years programs deliver a stronger focus on literacy, numeracy and greater support for students in the classroom, opening up pathways to tertiary education and vocational education and training.

“DEET has done an excellent job in ensuring students will not be disadvantaged by the failure of the project to be delivered on time and I am pleased the students will receive the benefits of middle years from the start of the 2008 school year,” said Mr Henderson.

“Nevertheless, it is appropriate for DEET seek legal advice in light of the failure to complete the extension on time, including application of the late delivery clauses in the contract.”