Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said today the Territory’s first Indigenous Child and Family Centres, which will become family hubs, will be built under the Country Liberals Government.

“A range of activities and services will be under one roof. I see the centres as a magnet that will draw families in for the help and support they need.

“The centres will make a strong contribution to regional development by getting children off to a good start in life and strengthening families and the community.”

Budget 2013 has allocated $7 million to progress the construction of five centres at Maningrida, Nugukurr, Gunbalanya, Yuendumu and Palmerston.

The $7 million is part of $42.35 million of Commonwealth funding for child and family programs within the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development project.

“The final mix of learning, care, parenting and health services will vary depending on each community’s strengths and weaknesses but is intended to meet the needs of young children and their families,” Mr Chandler said.

“There could be childcare programs, literacy, healthcare and parenting skill programs with the combination being decided through consultation.

“Importantly, the centres will also connect with services to ensure the community has the support it needs.”

Mr Chandler said the Child and Families Centre project had been left to languish by Delia Lawrie’s former Labor Government.

“They took their eye off the ball and have failed to deliver, not a stone has been turned and the funding sat idle.

“It is disappointing especially when we have a high level of need in the Territory; however the Country Liberals are stepping up, taking responsible action to provide the support needed.”

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