TERRY MILLS
OPPOSITION LEADER
MEDIA RELEASE

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DOUBLE BLOW IN EDUCATION

The release of very poor test results for Territory students and news that the teachers will continue their long running strike action is a double blow for the Minister of Education, Marion Scrymgour.

“Once again a lack of leadership from the Labor Government has resulted in Territory students being left behind,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“The Henderson Government’s initial offer to teachers was insulting and it is now harvesting the bad will of that foolish strategy.

“I urge the teachers to pursue their industrial action in a manner that doesn’t impact on senior students preparing for important end of year exams.

“I demand that the Government put more resources into classroom teaching.

“The very poor national student test results are another illustration of the problems with this Government’s education policy.

“The Labor Government has misrepresented an investment in buildings and buses as education reform

“True education reform comes from improving the curriculum and strengthening the teaching profession.

“A focused curriculum in the hands of competent, dedicated teachers will lead to improved education outcomes in the Territory.

“The Territory’s education system needs to get back to basics – kids need to be taught to read and count in order to develop their reasoning skills.

“Without a genuine partnership between the Minister for Education, the Department of Education and the teachers, Territory students will continue to be lag way behind the rest of the country.

“In particular the Henderson Government must increase its commitment to improve teaching resources in the bush.

To arrange further comment : Greg Charter 04000 14059