Parents will have more information about the performance of Territory schools under a plan to be discussed at meetings of education ministers in Adelaide tomorrow.

Education and Training Minister Paul Henderson left for Adelaide today, saying he would support the plan to provide more transparency and accountability in our school system.

“Under the national reporting proposal we will be able to compare schools in the Territory with similar schools interstate,” Mr Henderson said.

“This will help us improve the performance of our schools – replicating what is successful and identifying areas where improvements can be made.

“We will also be able to compare school with similar characteristics within the Territory - again helping to make improvements and identify problems.”

The national reporting model is likely to cover areas such as:

- Literacy and numeracy levels;
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar;
- VET participation;
- Attendance;
- Percentage of students reaching year 12;
- Parent/teacher satisfaction; and
- School staffing information.

Mr Henderson said he would also be receiving an update from the Commonwealth on the school improvements through the Rudd Government’s $42 billion stimulus package.

“The Territory has already secured $13 million in work at 121 Territory schools, improving schools and helping the Territory economy withstand the impact of the global financial crisis.

“These projects will result in our schools – both Government and non-Government - getting upgrades and refurbishment work of up to $200,000 each.

Works will include new and upgraded shade areas, computer labs, sporting ovals and outdoor learning areas. On top of this funding, all primary schools will receive up to $3 million depending on their enrolment for a new major infrastructure project such as an assembly hall or library, and secondary schools can apply for science labs and language centres.

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