Education Restructure – Next Building Block for Excellence

The next building block on the road to excellence in our education system is underway with a restructure of the Department.

Chief Minister and Education and Training Minister Paul Henderson said a report into the Department has revealed more needs to be done to deliver on the Government’s education and training agenda.

“The report shows we have built better schools, we have good classroom resources, with a lot of good teachers in place – but we have a culture of low expectations in education.

“That’s what this restructure of the Department is all about - I don’t want to raise the bar a little bit – I want to lift it to a level of excellence.

“We have accepted and will implement all the recommendations of the comprehensive review by Professor James Ladwig and Dr Chris Sarra.

“Delivering quality education for students across the Territory is the highest priority of this Government – and what needs to be done, will be done.”

The recommendations fall into five broad categories:

• Building a more coherent system;
• Building a performance based system;
• Strengthening organisational capacity;
• Increasing participation of Indigenous personnel at all levels; and
• Strengthening the regionalisation of DET.

“The report identified three main problems; structural incoherence, a lack of focus on results and a culture which accepts inefficiency and low expectations,” Mr Henderson said.

“Since this review was commissioned we have done a lot to tackle these issues, including:

• Appointing a new Chief Executive
• Starting the restructure of the Department
• Signing several new National Partnership arrangements with the Federal Government.
“We are also finalising a new Strategic Plan for the Department which we will be releasing in the next few weeks,” Mr Henderson said.

“Since becoming Chief Minister I have been determined to set into place a quality education and training system, with quality people, quality programs and quality systems. This report, the Strategic Plan and the restructuring we have undertaken will certainly deliver a new era of focus on quality.”

The report can be found at www.det.nt.gov.au

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