Supporting families with more help in classrooms

Education Minister Dr Chris Burns announced today that every urban school in the Territory will receive more classroom support for transition students commencing in the 2012 school year as part of Budget 2011.

Dr Burns said Budget 2011 will include $1.2 million for 42 full-time teacher aides in transition classrooms.

“The early years of education set the foundation for a lifetime of learning so we are supporting Territory families during this crucial period by giving transition students more help in the classroom,” said Dr Burns.

“Every school in Darwin, Palmerston, the rural area, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Batchelor, Jabiru and Alyangula will receive either a part-time or full-time teacher aide to work in transition classrooms.

“This builds on teacher aide resources already available for transition classrooms in remote schools.

“Under the direction of classroom teachers the aides will assist transition students who need help with numeracy and literacy.

“Teacher aides are a valuable resource in the classroom as they enable teachers to deliver lessons to the whole class while children who need assistance receive the one on one help they need.”

“By identifying and helping children who need assistance in their first year of school, we are able to help lay the foundation for positive learning experiences.

“Education is a key priority for this Government and Budget 2011 is supporting Territory families by investing in education for Territory children.

“We are also supporting Territory families by continuing to provide back to school vouchers for every student from preschool to year 12.

“Budget 2011 invests a record $3.24 million in back to school vouchers of $75 per student for more than 43,238 students across the Territory.

“The beginning of the school year can be financially stressful for many families and providing the back to school vouchers helps families buy textbooks, stationery, school uniforms and other school items.

“The Northern Territory Government will continue to support Territory families by investing in schools and helping every child have access to a good education which will prepare them for the future.”

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