New Passports to Better Learning

Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton, today launched a new scheme aimed at encouraging school attendance - the Northern Territory's first School Passport system.

Mr Hampton joined staff and students at Sadadeen Primary School, the first school in the Territory to use the new passports.

“The passports are an innovative idea designed to encourage better attendance, behaviour and educational outcomes for students,” Mr Hampton said.

“Families earn points for participating in school based activities and these points are redeemable for resources like school uniforms, camps and excursions.

“For example, a parent or family member can earn points by covering library books, helping in the canteen or homework centre, or attending school events.

“These points are then redeemed for special ‘school money’ vouchers which can be saved and spent on school-related items.

“The scheme encourages families to get involved in their children’s school and in turn students are encouraged to go to school, leading to better educational outcomes.

“Sadadeen is the first school to implement the passports and Braitling Primary School, Bradshaw Primary School, Centralian Middle School and Centralian Senior School will roll the program out in Semester 2 this year.”

Mr Hampton said the School Passport scheme is one of the initiatives under the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan.

“Over the past 18 months the Youth Action Plan Grant has injected $750 000 into resources and programs operating in Alice Springs schools.”

Youth Action Plan initiatives include:

- 16 additional support officers, including 5 Preschool Engagement Officers and 3 Targeting Health Improving Engagement Officers supported by DEEWR funding.
- Multiple new support programs including the School Passport, Targeting Health Improving Engagement and Preschool Engagement.
- Parent Partnerships grants to enable families to drive small scale engagement activities within the schools.
- Additional student support vehicles at Sadadeen Primary School, Braitling Primary School and Gillen Primary School

An additional $500 000 of Youth Action Plan funding will be made available to schools in the 2012-2013 financial year.

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