MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

NEW LEARNING CENTRE FOR KALKARINGI

23 May 2013

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said today improved education outcomes for Indigenous students remain a key focus for the Northern Territory Government.

He was opening a $1.6 million learning centre at Kalkaringi School.

“The Vincent Lingiari Learning Centre takes the name of a famous Australian leader who recognised the importance of a good education,” Mr Chandler said.

“He led the Gurindji people in a walk-off from Wave Hill station in 1966 after Vesteys refused to pay wages to Aboriginal workers. The protest evolved into a struggle for land rights.

“I hope the naming of this new centre will inspire every Kalkaringi student to follow his example and achieve to their fullest potential.

“Everyone’s ability to contribute to the community and the Territory will be enhanced by a good education. The new centre will be a valuable addition to the school for the benefit of all students.”

Kalkaringi School, about 470 kilometres south-west of Katherine, has 135 students and 14 teachers.

The centre would house a classroom for primary students, teacher preparation areas and a student counselling area, Mr Chandler said.

“The Territory Government has a $75.3 million investment program for school buildings, infrastructure and maintenance in the 2013-14 year.

“We take our responsibility to provide resources so young Territorians can get the best education possible very seriously.

“There will be new building works in 22 schools around the Territory including more classrooms, an administrative building, arts space and flexible learning space.”

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