Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said today the Country Liberals Government had achieved major savings in public service travel costs, in contrast to big spending under the former Labor government.

“The Department of Education and Children’s Services has taken on board our need to find efficiencies in light of the huge debt we have inherited from Delia Lawrie’s former Labor government.

“For years the Labor government allowed big spending and this can certainly be seen in the department’s travel costs right through a decade of government.

“Labor’s bill in 2011-12 for all Education Department interstate and international public service travel, including accommodation, came to nearly $7 million.

“In contrast, the total for seven months of travel by the public sector under the Country Liberals was only $2.9 million.

“What a difference, and I want to thank all the employees of the department for their help in achieving such efficiency and I am determined that all savings will go into services to gain better outcomes for all Territorian students.”

Mr Chandler said the spending under Labor for 2008-09 was $7.98 million, in 2009-10 $7.18 million and in 2010-11 $6.9 million with the main expenses being for meetings, training and conferences.

“I hope we do not again get to this level of spending,” Mr Chandler said.

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