WIN FOR TERRITORY SCHOOL STUDENTS

2 August 2013

Chief Minister Adam Giles has welcomed the Federal Coalition’s commitment to match Labor’s school funding offer without forcing Territorians into more debt or taking away control of our schools.

“This is exactly what we have been asking for and it has taken the Federal Coalition to deliver it,” Mr Giles said.

“An Abbott Government will boost education spending in the Territory by the same amount as Federal Labor over the forward estimates, but without the strings attached.

“It means we don’t have to sign up to Kevin Rudd’s red tape or put money on the Territory’s credit card for future generations to pay off.

“Kevin Rudd’s Gonski offer was a bad formula, demanding a $314 million Territory cash contribution that we could not afford thanks to Delia Lawrie’s $5.5 billion dollar debt legacy.”

Federal Labor’s school-by-school funding formula said that around 40% of our schools were overfunded and could do with less.

The Territory Government didn’t agree and could not sign up to such a flawed model.

“The Federal Coalition has vindicated my decision not to sign up to Gonski. Tony Abbott has made a fairer offer that protects the interests of Territory schools and students,” Mr Giles said.

“It is refreshing to deal cooperatively with my Federal Coalition colleagues after months of Labor stonewalling and wedge politics at the expense of our children.”

“Labor’s Gonski model would have stripped us of control of our schools, introducing new layers of bureaucracy to manage a prescriptive funding formula,” Education Minister Peter Chandler said.

“We now get to spend this extra money where we see the need instead of being dictated to by Canberra.”

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