CLP EDUCATION CUTS HIT HARD IN THE BUSH

The Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker, today said that CLP cuts to school funding and cuts to teacher numbers are having a real and very negative impact in remote Territory towns.

“We know if you cut education funding and cut teachers, students come off second best”, Ms Walker said.

“We know that in the first year of the CLP government about 69 teachers have already gone.

At Yirrkala School, the CLP cuts mean that the school is losing 4 teacher positions.

“Unless the cuts are reversed it is likely the school will lose an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and lose an IT support officer.

“I have attended the school council and listened to teachers, community leaders and parents who are very concerned about the impacts of these cuts.

“At Yirrkala Homelands School, CLP cuts mean that the school is losing two teacher positions.

“Unless the cuts are reversed it is likely the school will lose an ESL teacher.

“The CLP need to guarantee that critical support roles for ESL, home liaison officers and senior cultural advisers will remain to support disadvantaged students.

“In Nhulunbuy, the local high school, which is also a registered training organisation, is losing 3.2 teacher positions.

“These cuts mean poorer learning outcomes for students and dismantling support structures will make the hard job of tackling fluctuating attendance levels even harder.

“Fewer teachers means less subject choice, less individual attention for kids in the classroom and less opportunity for young Territorians to take up the challenges of the future,” said Ms Walker.

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