MEDIA RELEASE

Natasha Fyles
Shadow Minister for Education

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CHANDLER CUTS RISKING NAPLAN EFFORTS

Shadow Minister for Education Natasha Fyles said today that savage education cuts and policy made up on the run is risking hard fought improvements in the Territory education system.

“"The Minister, who clearly has lost control of his portfolio, is cutting teachers and resources to reach budget savings – not for educational reasons. He has admitted so himself,” Ms Fyles said.

“Now they are having Reviews but they don’t know by who or to do what and in the meantime they will keep cutting. This is just madness.

“The CLP make many false claims about the long term efforts underway to raise Territory education standards to the national average – particularly in the bush and heavily criticise Labor for investing in education over our three terms in office.

“Even a quick glance at the facts prove the Minister is way off the mark. He’s simply relying on spin to cover up his budget cuts, hoping no one notices the facts don’t match his story.

“Everyone knows the Territory is coming from a long way behind, a generational legacy of previous CLP Governments not investing in education in the bush. Let’s not forget before Labor was elected there were no high schools in communities – not one!

“NAPLAN results showed that Territory students were making gains outstripping the national average rate of improvement.

“Results released in September 2010 indicate in 11 out of 15 test categories Territory students outstripped the national average rate of improvement and were the most improved in the nation for reading spelling and grammar.

“Again in September 2011 Territory students showed the most improvement in 11 out of 12 test categories.

“There is no doubt the Territory has a long way to go and is coming off a low base. In 2010 Labor said the Territory was at the start of at least a five year, if not 10 year journey.
“The final proof that Labor’s investment in education is paying off is left to the CLP’s former Education Minister Robyn Lambley who said:

“The NAPLAN Figures show the percentage rate of improvement in AANMS [at or above the national minimum standard] in the Territory is stronger than other jurisdictions and that Territory students tested in 2008, 2010 and 2012 showed the greatest gains nationwide.” (14/9/12, Robyn Lambley media release)

“Education Minister Peter Chandler, by implementing Adam Giles’ budget cuts with no educational rationale has put all this long term effort at risk

“It’s time the Minister stood up for Territory students – said no to Chief Minister Adam Giles and Treasurer Dave Tollner and stopped the cuts NOW.

“It’s time the Minister proved he was more worried about Territory students than his spot in Cabinet.”

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