A government balls up
or just a cover up?

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, thinks the Government has lost the plot when it comes to changes in education services.

Gerry says the present government seems to have made an agreement with Essington School to move into the Northern Territory Open Education College (NTOEC).

Nothing necessarily wrong with that but no one knows what was in the agreement but this seems to have now led to a costly and controversial shemozzle in the delivery of educational services in the Territory.

Gerry said for starters the Government in December 2012 promised to first build NTOEC a new facility before they moved them out but that has not happened.

Instead NTOEC is being moved to Nightcliff Middle School (NMS) which as the chair of the NTOEC School Council (Vicki Proud) has said in a recent letter to the Minister, is quite unsuitable.

Now the NT Music School presently at NMS has to move out and is required to relocate to Sanderson High School.

Teaching and Learning with ITC also at NMS is being moved out and being relocated to Harbour View House and in the process losing most of its 24 staff.

And to top it off, Participation and Pathways also at NMS is being moved to Harbour View too.

Gerry says these moves are going to cost a lot of money, a lot of disruption and especially in the case of NTOEC, poor outcomes, all because the Government, it seems, wants NTOEC out, so Essington can move in early next year.

Gerry is calling on the Minister to explain

- Why the Government is in a hurry to kick NTOEC out of their home?
- Why hasn’t the Government built NTOEC a new facility as promised?
- What was the agreement with Essington and the Government?
• How much will shifting the NT Music School, Teaching and Learning with ITC, Participation and Pathways and NTOEC cost the taxpayer?
• Why is Teaching and Learning with ITC not only being relocated but being downsized (24 staff down to 4 or 5) to a point where it’s difficult to see how they can continue training teachers and school classes in IT effectively?

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo