MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

EDUCATION REFORM BACKED IN BUDGET 2014

13 May 2014

The Country Liberals Government has lead the most ambitious education reform agenda in the Territory's history aimed at challenging convention to improve outcomes.

Bruce Wilson's review into Indigenous Education, John Glasby's review into school infrastructure and a reform of the Education Act will be supported in Budget 2014 through an investment of $143 million.

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said Budget 2014 shows this government is serious about reforming education in the Territory.

"For over a decade we have seen investment in education based on ideology and not evidence, where dollars took priority over outcomes, something this government has set out to change," Mr Chandler said.

"For over 18 months we have been gathering evidence and outlining reforms, it's now time to back this up with the appropriate investment."

Budget highlights for education include:

- $126 million over four years for priority school infrastructure including;
  - $37 million over two stages for a pre-school and primary school in Zuccoli;
  - $20 million for a new special school in Bellamack;
  - $11.6 million for the new NT Open Education Centre at Darwin High School;
  - $10 million for special school infrastructure in the Northern Suburbs;
  - $5.2 million to increase capacity in remote schools; and $40.5 million to construct boarding facilities to provide bush students improved access to secondary education

- $17 million to support greater school autonomy through global budgeting and the review of the Education Act.

"This investment has come about because we have a government that is intensely focused on improving our education system so all Territory students, no matter where they live, have the best opportunity to participate in the Territory's bright future," Mr Chandler said.

"As the Northern Territory is poised to be the driver of development in Northern Australia, it is important that Territory children are at the forefront of the opportunities that will be created.

"We need bright kids for our bright future."

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