Media Release

Peter Chandler, Member for Brennan
Minister for Education

School holidays, what do you think?

29 July 2014

The Country Liberals Government has put results at the centre of our education policy and it’s important the school terms reflect that.

The Government wants to hear your views on the configuration and timing of school holidays and how they may assist in the improvement of education outcomes.

Current school holiday configuration has been in place since the 1970s.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said as the mid-year break recently ended, it was an ideal time to seek the views of parents, teachers, students and the general public about when school holidays occur.

“I’ve been on school councils for many years and I know there are wide and varying views on school holidays, it’s one of those age old debates,” Mr Chandler said.

“The government is seeking your views to gauge any appetite for change and if so what those changes could possibly be.

“Some ideas that have been put to me are shortening the mid-year break and extending the break between Term 3 and Term 4 by either reducing the mid-year break or the Christmas break.

“Another suggestion is that the mid-semester break of Semester 1 be flexible and align with the Easter long weekend.

“As the Country Liberals are pushing to make the Northern Territory an International Education and Training Hub there is also an opportunity to align some of our holidays with our Asian neighbours.

“This could better promote cultural and educational exchanges between schools and strengthen our ties.”

Consultations will be conducted in two phases – open consultation by survey, and, when the results of the survey are known, targeted consultation with key stakeholders.
Parents, students, school staff, and the general public will have the opportunity to complete a survey through the Department of Education’s website. It’s open now through to Friday 29 August 2014.

Secondly, school councils and other key stakeholders will have a chance to put forward their thoughts during upcoming consultation on the Education Act Review.

Visit [www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au) to find out more and complete the survey.

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