Remote schools program suspect: Union

Sasha Petrova
EDUCATION REPORTER

A CONTROVERSIAL teaching method pushed by the NT Government for rollout across remote Territory schools is not suited to remote Indigenous education.

So says the Central Australian organiser for the NT’s Education Union Nadine Williams.

Ms Williams said “fifty different versions” of Direct Instruction (DI), the prescriptive teaching formula that groups students according to their level of skill and not age – had been tried in Central Australia.

“It’s not a new idea. It’s a basic idea to deliver teaching where children have difficulties but there is no hard evidence that it has worked.”

In fact there’s been evidence to the contrary, she said.

“In Central Australia, we’ve got kids who are traumatised by family fighting. These children don’t need Direct Instruction. They need someone to protect them.”

DI was developed in the United States in the 1960s with a focus on the needs of children with learning difficulties.

The method breaks each learning task down into its smallest component and requires the student to master the smallest component and repeat the teaching process until they master it.

But the NT is already ahead of the other states in this area schools in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia.

The quickest and easiest way to enrol is to go online and visit www.ntec.nt.gov.au or call 1300 432 000.

THE Territory Government’s DriveSafe NT Remote Driver Education and Licencing Program has been recognised as an ABA 100 Winner for Innovation in The Australian Business Awards 2014.

The DriveSafe NT Remote Driver Education and Licencing Program operates in over 30 remote communities across the Territory, teaching people about safe driving and assists people in attaining their licence. The service provides mobile services to remote communities, including learner theory classes, driving lessons for holders of Learner licences.

They also conduct tests for Provisional Licencing, MVR services such as registration, licence renewals and vehicle inspections, as well as road safety education sessions.

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Steve Menzies

EVERYTHING is progressing well for Matt Paterson-Nicolai on his 2256km Light de Stars Tour from Alice Springs to Melbourne raising money for the Starlight Children’s Foundation.

He, and his support team, spent last night at Glen Innes, SA after riding about 830 in five days.

The only “setback” was when he left his sandshoes at a rest point and did not realise it until 30km down the road. He says cream has kept sad-sore toes at bay.

“I did not expect the first three drays to be all uphill,” Mr Paterson-Nicolai said.

“Thankfully on the fourth day into Coober Pedy it was downhill.”

“It was really good to get there and see more than three people.”

The ride has not been as hard as I expected. I just get on the bike, put music into my ears and pedal.

“I think it is more boring for my support crew. Katelyn gets out at times to ride with me.”

Mr Paterson-Nicolai is keeping to a scheduled 160km a day and plans to arrive in Melbourne on August 22.

Follow the trip, and donate to the cause, at http://lightdestarstour.wordpress.com/

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160km a day sometimes an uphill ride

Steve Menzies

The NT Government’s DriveSafe Program is underway.

They need someone to protect them.

“Telling Davies about the need to improve literacy rates in remote Northern Territory schools is not a new idea. It’s a basic idea to deliver teaching where children have difficulties but there is no hard evidence that it has worked.”

At the same time, the Northern Territory Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DSEC) is working with a visiting International Special Education Expert to identify how best to address the needs of children with learning difficulties.

Driver education is not new to the Territory, teaching people about safe driving and assists people in attaining their licence.

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ARTIST Emma Newman is mad about junk. She was involved in a junk sculpture project last year for Tennant Creek’s Desert Harmony Festival.

Her latest project is Funky Junk. It was inspired by Earthship bars and restaurants, or communities when moving ahead more effectively with communities without cooperation.

On the mainland, education programs, have been slammed by unions. The Greens and many academics.

Australian Greens spokesman woman on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders issues Rachel Siewert said the Government needed to collaborate more effectively with communities when moving ahead with education policies.

“Imposing regimes on communities without cooperation will not deliver the long term reforms we need,” she said.

Follow the trip, and donate to the cause, at http://lightdestarstour.wordpress.com/ Club fan Patricia rolls right way

Patricia Ansell-Dodds with her grandchildren, Jacquin, Rasharna and Liam McCormack, celebrates winning the car in the Starlight Children’s Foundation Light de Stars Race.

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