Peter Chandler, Member for Brennan
Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment

Talking hands lead to healthy thinking

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The Country Liberals Government is continuing to assist students with special learning needs achieve success in the classroom.

Students with hearing difficulties from urban, regional and remote schools will be taking part in a five-day Darwin-based residential school to enhance their sign language skills.

The third annual Talking Hands Residential School began this week at Kormilda College and will provide students, aged 7-18, with an opportunity to meet signing students.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said it was a great opportunity for students from outside of regional centre to access quality sign language training.

“Eighteen students from 13 different schools will be participating, each to be accompanied by a carer, family or staff member, who will fully participate in the week’s activities to develop their signing skills,” Mr Chandler said.

“With the theme of Healthy Living – Healthy Eating, Healthy Ears, the students will focus on developing healthy behaviours such as buying nutritious fillings for sandwiches and sandwich making, and the importance of hand washing before handling food.

“The learning activities will include signing games, role playing and food preparation. These will be photographed and videoed to create experience books for students to take home and share with their families and schools.

“To practise signing, the students will visit shops and urban facilities such as Casuarina Shopping Centre, Leanyer Water Park, Planet Ten Pin, attend a sports day and a performance of The Beat festival (a performing arts show involving Territory schools held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre).

“Last year, up to 15 students from Alice Springs, Katherine, Arnhem Land, Darwin and Palmerston attended the school.”

The Talking Hands Residential School is being conducted by the Department of Education Student Support’s Disability Team, supported by VidKids, DeafNT and Deaf Children Australia.

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