Bess Price
Minister for Housing

Peter Chandler
Minister for Education

Budget boost for Barkly

24 May 2016

The Barkly Region has received a housing package worth almost $50 million as part of the NT Government’s Budget 2016-17 which aims to build the Territory economy, create jobs, boost tourism and improve community services.

More than $25 million has been allocated to construct new houses at Arlparra, including land servicing, water and sewerage upgrades.

Another $21.1m under national partnership agreements for Remote Housing and Remote Aboriginal Investment will be used to construct new houses and upgrade existing dwellings in remote Indigenous communities. This work will also involve associated infrastructure.

The budget also provides $3m for housing renovations in the town camps at Elliott as well as $1 million to expand the Remote Home Ownership Program to include Elliott. This money will be used to construct two new dwellings that will become available for ownership.

Housing Minister Bess Price said this was the first time the Remote Home Ownership Program had been offered on the Territory mainland.

“I want Aboriginal people to realise the benefits of home ownership in their communities,” she said.

Education in the Barkly Region has received almost $55 million funding in Budget 2016-17.

Primary, middle and senior schools in both the government and non-government sectors get the greatest share – more than $38m.

Indigenous education also benefits with $4.7million for strategies to provide quality and evidence-based programs and services for Indigenous students, closing the educational achievement gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students as well as expanding the Families as First Teachers Program.

And almost $250,000 in Territory and Federal funding has been allocated to the delivery of vocational education and training to develop skills to gain employment in the region.

Education Minister Chandler said the education package showed the Country Liberals Government commitment to education was aimed at ensuring young Territorians in Tennant Creek and the rest of the Barkly Region had an opportunity to receive the best possible outcomes.
The Government, through its Strong Society, Confident Culture Strategy, was providing a framework to build on the cultural and social strengths that connect Territorians.

Education was one of the nine high-level priority areas the Government was focussing on to achieve the goals of a strong society with a confident culture in the Territory.

The other priority areas for action are: Community, Diversity, Children and Families, Housing, Economic Security, Health, Community Safety and Lifestyle.

“This funding shows my Government is committed to early childhood education and care, as well as in the middle and senior years in the Barkly region,” Mr Chandler said.

“We also want to properly prepare our kids for when they eventually leave school and start looking for a job. It’s all about improving outcomes for our children and our schools are in a much better place thanks to this government.”

Budget 2016-17 highlights for the Barkly Region include:

**Health**

- $24m for hospital services including patient travel
- $6.5m for primary health care services in urban and remote areas

**Police**

- $13.05m to provide police, fire and emergency services including three police stations and a further three police stations funded under the National Partnership Agreement on the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment at Alpurrurulam, Arlparra and Willowra, and one fire station and three volunteer groups
- $4.81m to provide a 50-bed low-security prisoner work camp in Tennant Creek to contribute to providing real life skills and experience for prisoners

**Education**

- $250,000 in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
- $24.52m for primary school education in government and non-government schools
- $8.65m for middle years educations in government and non-government schools
- $5.08m for senior years education in government and non-government schools
- $4.7m to implement the Indigenous Education Strategy and expand the Families as First Teachers program
- $2.74m for preschool education in government and non-government schools
• $2.05m for early childhood education, including the Northern Territory Childhood Services Subsidy

• $1.9m for the Great Start Great Future Northern Territory Early Years Strategic Plan 2016-20 to improve services and outcomes for Territory children and their families

Housing

• $25.3m to construct new houses and Arlparra, including land servicing, water and sewerage upgrades

• $21.1m under the National Partnership agreements on Remote Housing and Remote Aboriginal Investment to construct new and upgrade existing housing, and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

• $3m for housing renovations in Elliott town camps

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