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Nurturing the Love of a Good Book

Education Minister Paul Henderson visited the local library today to encourage parents and children to read together as part of the Government’s push to boost literacy rates in the Territory.

Mr Henderson said the Department of Employment, Education and Training’s stand on this year’s show circuit will focus on literacy, complete with celebrity readers and a chance to win a boxed set of Dr Seuss books.

“This Government is committed to boosting literacy rates across the Territory because we know that solid literacy skills are the foundation of future job opportunities,” Mr Henderson said.

“We have committed $2.7 million in Budget 2007 to expand the National Accelerated Literacy Program from 51 to up to 70 schools, and are implementing a stronger focus on literacy and numeracy in the classroom with the introduction of Middle Years schooling.

“Parents also play a vital role in building their children’s reading skills and the DEET stand will include information on the Government’s Raising a Reader program which offers tips for introducing reading with your children and how to nurture your children’s love of reading.”

There will be two public readings a day at each show and celebrity readers include Mr Henderson, Chief Minister Clare Martin, Administrator Ted Egan AO, Alice Springs Mayor Fran Kilgariff and local radio personalities.

Each child who visits the DEET stand at the show will be able to enter the competition to win a limited edition 50th birthday set of Dr Seuss books.

More information about the Government’s reading initiatives can be found at the show display or at www.deet.nt.gov.au/education/focus_on_literacy.

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Moving the Territory Ahead

Northern Territory Government - Nurturing the Love of a Good Book