Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling will tomorrow unveil an NT Remote Workforce Development Strategy in Nhulunbuy, as part Government efforts to improve living and working conditions for remote public sector workers.

Mr Stirling said Government recognised the crucial but difficult role remote workers played in delivering essential services to remote communities.

"More than 2000 public sector workers are spread across 132 remote Territory communities helping to improve health, education, infrastructure and other services to those communities," Mr Stirling said.

"It’s crucial that these workers have access to training and development opportunities which are on par with opportunities their urban colleagues receive. Improving opportunities and conditions for our remote area workers will also help our efforts to attract and retain people to remote areas.

"The Strategy seeks to address a range of challenges identified and faced by remote workers, including social and professional isolation; resourcing; relief staffing; and cross-cultural education.

"All Government agencies will be expected to take up the ideas and innovations contained in the Strategy for the benefit of their employees, including:

- further developing IT infrastructure in remote localities;
- making training delivery more flexible;
- increasing access to Internet and email;
- increasing the pool of relief staff available for remote localities; and
- reducing travel costs to increase workers’ access to training and development

"Our remote area workers are playing a crucial role in helping to develop the Territory. We need to provide them with as much support as possible as they carry out their jobs," Mr Stirling said.

"The Strategy will also be about increasing recruitment and development opportunities for Indigenous employees as part of wider Government efforts to build the economic and social capacity of remote communities."

Mr Stirling said the Remote Workforce Development Strategy was part of a broader Government initiative to improve living and working conditions for remote staff. An extra $1.3 million a year has been allocated to workforce development, as well as increased travel and freight allowances for remote staff. Additional funding has also been allocated to improving employer housing in remote areas.