The Territory Government has donated a drilling rig to Alcan's YNOTS program in Nhulunbuy.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training and Member for Nhulunbuy Syd Stirling, who handed the rig over today, said it would greatly assist Alcan to deliver mining operations training to local Aboriginal people through YNOTS.

"The drilling rig was previously used by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment but became surplus to requirements," Mr Stirling said.

"It is currently valued at around $9000. To purchase a new drilling rig would cost around $70,000 - $80,000, so the donated rig will be a valuable training resource for the program.

"This year, there are 24 Aboriginal trainees involved in the YNOTS program who are being taught the skills and knowledge they need to obtain employment in the mining or civil skills areas.

"This year, the Department of Employment, Education and Training has had close involvement in this program, in conjunction with key YNOTS staff.

"When they graduate from the program, the participants will have a nationally recognised qualification that can be used throughout Australia.

"Part of the program includes enhancing participants literacy, numeracy and life skills, which will allow them to progress through to a higher level of competency.

"The Government is pleased to be able to support Alcan with this fantastic initiative, which will help to increase Indigenous employment in East Arnhem."

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