Education: Building bridges to the future

A CLP Government will upgrade the Territory’s education system to ensure young Territorians and those wish to pursue additional qualifications in later life have access to high quality educational and training resources.

Annual additional funding - $3.9 million

Similar to Health, we will closely examine the current priorities of Education expenditures.

We believe that there will be scope for improved efficiencies in use of the outlays as they stand. Our additional budget provision is a contingency increase in the event we find that there is insufficient funding capacity once the full picture is known.

We believe the Territory’s future hinges on a population equipped with a sound education and vocational skills, which allow them to both gain employment and to seek continuing improvement and skill upgrades during their working lives.

We will put in place a program to enhance education and student outcomes.

We will promote a strong school attendance policy with no exceptions.

We will increase support for the special educational needs of children with disabilities.

We will provide further support for specialist student counsellors and industry-aware careers counsellors to ensure services can be delivered effectively.

We will provide safe school environments with strong pastoral care, school-based constable programs and drug awareness programs.

We will increase freedom of choice in education by supporting a strong non-government sector to work in a complementary and cooperative environment with government schools.

We will develop at least one specialized classroom which will cater specifically for students of secondary school age with poor literacy or numeracy.

We will upgrade distance education through the enhancement of services provided by the Northern Territory Open Education Centre.

We will work towards development of schools of excellence and teachers of exemplary practice.
Education: Building bridges to the future

We will enhance the status of Vocational Education and Training. We will promote vocational education as a positive choice of post-school education.

We will ensure that courses and modules once commenced are maintained for the duration of the academic year.

We will increase apprenticeship and traineeship grants made to students.

We will provide increased bursaries for apprenticeships in areas of skill shortage.

We will work cooperatively with the Commonwealth in the establishment of an Australian Technical College in Darwin.

We will reinforce the involvement of parents in the school system

We will strongly support the philosophy of parents and families as partners in Education for their children.

We will strengthen and extend the Parents as Teachers program Territory wide in a staged strategy.

We will introduce training and capacity building of members of school councils.

We will introduce additional programs to encourage positive parental influence over their children to go school.

We will support and encourage Gifted and Talented Young Territorians

The CLP believes that gifted and talented children can be as disadvantaged in our school system as those with learning difficulties and suffering social and economic hardship.

Gifted and talented children also need additional guidance and accelerated learning opportunities.

We will develop a specific policy, strategy and provide resources for programmes such that these children can be identified and given the opportunity to collaborate with their peers in a challenging environment.
Education: Building bridges to the future

We will expand the School Cadet Program - Cadets NT

For many years school cadet programmes have provided a proven and widely accepted model for youth development both in the Territory and nationally. Current cadet programmes largely exist and operate separately from schools. There are currently community based cadet programmes operating in the Northern Territory, including Defence related cadets, Scouts, Junior Police Rangers, Junior Park Rangers, Emergency Services Cadets and St John’s Cadets.

A CLP Government will establish Cadets NT, a program to provide funding to schools who wish to operate a cadet unit. Students will be able participate in Cadets NT at no cost with funding provided to schools at a rate per student.

Funding will cover the cost of uniforms, training, travel and activities with an initial grant made to purchase equipment such as tents. Involvement in the programme would be optional for schools and participants.

We will introduce a First Aid Training Program for Territory Students

All Territory secondary students will complete the St John’s First Aid Certificate as part of their education.

We will upgrade Security Surveillance at all Territory schools

School vandalism is an increasing problem and we will take steps to alleviate the substantial community cost of vandalism.

We will continue to support school based constables as important stakeholders in our schools.

Holiday Programs will be enhanced

Holiday and After-School care programs across the Territory will be enhanced and will be affordable.
Education: Building bridges to the future

We will introduce a Code of Conduct for students

This will set clear minimum standards for required behaviour and spell out the consequences for breaking the rules. We will strengthen the capacity of teachers to deal with disruptive, unruly and bullying students at schools.

Discretionary Budget for School Principals

We will introduce a separate budget arrangements for school principals on a school student attendance based formula to be used at his/her discretion.

We will strengthen the ability of the Charles Darwin University to increase its contribution to the social and academic fabric of the Territory community

We will promote strong governance of the University, with an interdependent but separate governance of vocational training.

We will enhance the academic strength of the Charles Darwin University through use of its staff for government consultancies in place of southern consultants.

We will provide incentives for Australian students to study at the Charles Darwin University through the payment of HECS fees in exchange for each year of employment with the Northern Territory Government. This will be targeted at those areas where shortages are prevalent such as nursing.

We will set aside a number of full time paid leave positions for Territory teachers and administrators to undertake specialist postgraduate study at Charles Darwin University to assist them in their career development.

We will create the position of Professor of Architecture at Charles Darwin University

We will work with Charles Darwin University to establish a Professorial Chair of Architecture to assist in maintaining and promoting appropriate designs for the varied climate of the Territory.