



Northern Territory

BUDGET 2004

Moving the Territory ahead... **less tax, more jobs, great lifestyle**

M E D I A R E L E A S E

18 May 2004

Syd Stirling

Minister for Employment, Education & Training

SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS WITH A BETTER DEAL AND MORE RESOURCES

Budget 2004 will see the Martin Labor Government continue its focus on the priority area of education by ensuring a better deal and the best possible resources for Territory teachers, Education Minister and Treasurer Syd Stirling said today.

A record \$540.6 million will be spent on education in Budget 2004, compared with \$530.3 million last year.

“Because education is so important in keeping the Territory moving ahead, the Government is committed to improving the resources available to teachers, as well as providing them with better living and working conditions,” he said.

“We want to enhance the value placed on the teaching profession, as well as attracting more quality teachers to the Territory.”

Budget 2004 continues the Martin Labor Government’s efforts to provide a better deal for teachers, with:

- \$4.9 million over the next four years to provide laptops for the 2200 classroom-based teachers working in Government schools
- \$2.9 million to recruit an additional 40 teachers. This finalises the Territory Government’s election commitment to employ an extra 100 teachers in its first term
- 11 of these new teachers to be allocated to specialist behaviour management programs to help teachers manage day-to-day in the classroom
- On-going commitment of five teaching positions providing alternative education opportunities for youth in Palmerston and Darwin’s northern suburbs
- \$750,000 more to help meet the housing furniture needs of teachers based in remote communities. This is on top of an extra \$1 million already allocated in February 2004
- \$1.2 million in 2004-05 and \$2.6 million ongoing for the continued employment of Aboriginal Islander Education Workers in urban schools, after Commonwealth funding for the program was cut
- \$270,000 extra taking to a total of \$760 000 funds for Student Teacher Bursaries for 80 teaching students from the Territory attending Charles Darwin University and other accredited NT training institutions
- \$285,000 ongoing towards establishment and operation of a Teacher Registration Board



- Establishment of a Teacher Support Unit in the Barkly to improve the standard of support and service to remote teachers
- Continuing enhancement of teacher recruitment strategies and professional development opportunities

“The Martin Labor Government is delivering on our election promise to recruit an extra 100 teachers in our first term, as well as providing teachers with a better deal and more resources,” Mr Stirling said.

