



**Syd Stirling**

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6 January 2006

## **GOOD SIGNS FOR TERRITORY TEACHER NUMBERS IN 2006**

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling today said historically low Territory teacher vacancies at the end of the school year places us in a good recruitment position for 2006.

“At the end of the 2005 school year there were only three vacant teacher positions in the Territory - this historically low number puts us in a strong position for 2006 teacher recruitment and I am confident we will successfully attract people to stay on or come here to fill a position,” he said

Mr Stirling said Government’s strong focus on effective strategies for the recruitment and retention of teachers was continuing to pay off, helping to reduce teacher turnover and ensure vacant positions were filled quickly, leading to greater stability in the teaching force.

“This is an excellent result and proof that the Government’s strategies have seen greater stability in the Territory teaching force, which has helped recruitment and retention,” he said.

“This is highlighted by the fact that there were 418 new teachers recruited between 1 January and 22 November 2005 compared to 447 for the same period in 2004.”

Mr Stirling said that retention levels had been boosted by increased professional learning opportunities, competitive pay and conditions, provision of laptops to all teachers, scholarships and bursaries and enhanced incentives to work and live in remote communities.

*Teach for a Term* incentives attracted 16 interstate teachers for ‘hard to fill’ vacancies with over half staying on. Significantly, 41 graduates from Charles Darwin University were also recruited.

Mr Stirling said Department of Employment, Education and Training developed an effective marketing package to attract teachers here and encourage Territorians into the teaching profession.

One element of the campaign, the Teacher Recruitment Website, [www.teaching.nt.gov.au](http://www.teaching.nt.gov.au), was launched early last year and proved successful, attracting thousands of applications nationally.

“This has given principals and DEET recruitment and retention teams an unparalleled opportunity to pick and choose the very best teacher applicants for our schools when vacancies arise,” he said.

“The website has proved to be a highly effective promotional tool, giving prospective applicants information on the culture, environment and lifestyle of urban and remote areas of the Territory.

“There has also been ongoing advertising and promotions in national press and universities.”

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