



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



25 January 2006

TOP MARKS FOR TERRITORY TEACHER NUMBERS

The start of the school year is still a week away, but education has already passed one its toughest tests with the Territory enjoying historically low teacher vacancy rates.

Chief Minister and Acting Education Minister Clare Martin said only 6 out of more than 2000 positions remain unfilled after a successful retention and recruitment campaign.

“We’re working hard to make the Territory a more attractive place to teach – which means we keep more of the teachers already here and find it easier to replace those who leave,” Ms Martin said.

Attending the final day of the annual three-day Teacher Orientation in Darwin the Chief Minister said the focus on teacher recruitment and retention is paying off.

“Since the end of last year we’ve recruited 115 new teachers.

“We’re also managed to keep more of the teachers we already had by making it worth their while to stay in the Territory.

“Teachers have been given improved professional learning opportunities, competitive pay and conditions, and laptop computers.

“Territory schools have become more flexible places to work, including the ‘teach for a term’ program and opportunities to live in remote communities.

“We are also producing more Territory trained teachers with over 40 Charles Darwin University graduates recruited to our schools.

“This low vacancy rate for teaching positions is great news for our 42,000 Territory students and a good sign for 2006,” Ms Martin said.

The Martin Government’s has committed \$42 million over four-years to implement a building better schools plan to improve secondary education in the Territory.

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