



**Syd Stirling**

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5 June 2006

## **STORY TIME FOR STUDENTS AT TIMBER CREEK AND YARRALIN**

Children at Timber Creek and Yarralin schools have had the joy of reading reinforced, with the Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling donating a set of reading and reference books during a visit today.

The sets include two copies of a World Atlas, John Brock's Top End Native Plants and Dr Seuss reading books.

"I am pleased to hand over these valuable learning tools to students at Yarralin and Timber Creek," said Mr Stirling. "Literacy and numeracy for all Territory students remains a key priority for the Territory Government. They are the key building blocks for a quality education."

"We are committed to achieving the National Literacy and Numeracy Goal : that every child leaving school should be numerate, and be able to read, write and spell at an appropriate level."

"Early in its first term, the Martin Government mandated two hours of literacy, teaching and learning each day.

"We also led a trial of the National Accelerated Literacy Program, which now extends to 27 schools, 3300 students, 150 classes and training 220 teachers," said Mr Stirling.

"This pilot program showed significant literacy improvements for targeted students in both urban and remote areas.

"The Territory Government has spent \$8.2 million dollars on Accelerated Literacy since 2001, the outcomes to date are very encouraging."

The donation took place during a tour of the schools by the Minister and Member for Daly, Robert Knight, who are in the Timber Creek area for the Community Cabinet program.

Mr Knight, said the books would be a small but well received boost to students' reading and learning materials.

"This is another display of the Martin Government's commitment to literacy," said Mr Knight.

"We are proud to be delivering the best possible education to bush schools, and ensuring students have quality resources and every opportunity to achieve."

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