



**Syd Stirling**

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING

25 July 2006

## **COMPULSORY SCHOOL UNIFORMS UP FOR DISCUSSION AS STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL**

The Territory Government is inviting parents to comment on its proposal to introduce compulsory school uniforms for students in the Primary and Middle years, said Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Syd Stirling.

Coinciding with the start of Second Semester, school communities right across the Territory are being surveyed about compulsory school uniforms.

“Letters have been sent to School Councils who are in turn consulting with parents in their local area,” said Mr Stirling. “This is a great opportunity for our community to voice their opinions on compulsory school uniforms,” said Mr Stirling.

“The Territory Government believes that school uniforms instil pride, respect and a sense of belonging to a community.”

Mr Stirling said during his time as Education Minister he had heard many concerns from parents about what students wear to school, and the cost of those clothes.

“I am seeking a response from the school community to our proposal for compulsory school uniforms in time to make the necessary legislative changes by 2008.”

The Territory Government has been helping parents to pay for school uniforms since 2006, when it introduced the \$50 *Back to School payment*.

The announcement of community consultation coincided with the return to school of some 42 000 Territory students, with some transition students beginning school for the first time.

“I welcome all new students – and those returning for Second Semester,” said Mr Stirling. “May you have a great remainder of the school year.”

*Contact Minister Stirling's Office: 08 8901 4053*