



MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT IGNORES SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS

The Australian Education Union today called on the Territory Government to urgently address the shortage of teachers across primary and secondary schools. If we are serious about improving literacy and numeracy, we need more ESL, Technical Studies, VET learning, Maths and Sciences teachers.

“With the increase in student enrolments across the Territory, the simultaneous introduction of Middle Years commencing in 2008 means we are in need more not less teachers now,” Ms Williams, President of AEU NT said.

In an attack on the staffing and retention strategy of the Department of Education, the AEU claims, “there are over 100 teachers in schools now facing termination of their temporary contracts at the end of the school year.”

“We are calling on the Territory Government to increase their target of extra staff and school infrastructure needed for remote schools affected by rising numbers and offer permanent positions to contract teachers in current positions. If we are going to “Close the Gap” of Indigenous educational disadvantage and introduce quality middle years programs we must have a stable permanent teaching workforce.”

Australia is facing a national teacher shortage. We cannot afford the current employment practices of the Department of Education if we want a quality education system.

Ms Williams said the AEU NT alerted the Territory Government in July to the dangers of having too many classroom teachers employed on short term contracts – there were approximately 600 at that time. “This is poor management of the most valuable resource in our education system.”

If there are budget constraints on increasing the teaching workforce, let’s address them now – before it’s too late.

For further information:

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