



MEDIA RELEASE

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INDIGENOUS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - CRISIS POINT

The AEU advised the Department of Education today that there is a looming crisis of current under supply of teachers and classrooms in some remote schools with more children attending.

Prescribed communities are already experiencing some steep increases in student numbers, particularly in pre-school and early childhood classes.

Nadine Williams, AEU NT President said today, "The Department of Education guaranteed an emergency response to steep increases in school numbers due to the Australian Government's intervention in the Territory. On the first report of over 50 in a preschool and 35 new students at a primary school, no action has been taken to support the education of these students. Indeed, some teachers are being asked to take double the number of students they taught last term."

"Where is Mal Brough and the Minister for Education in the Territory when little children need them? Schools cannot keep on taking little children and young teenagers in ever growing numbers without additional staff and resources. The lack of housing for much needed additional staff in at least 16 locations the AEU has been advised, is the main reason no extra teachers can be allocated."

While the protection of all children from abuse is the aim of the Australian Government's intervention, and the \$286million announced this week by Clare Martin - why is there no help for schools?

Ms Williams is calling for a crisis meeting between the AEU and Federal and Territory government officials from DEST and DEET to address the crisis unfolding in the bush.

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For Further Information

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