

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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*For immediate circulation*

### **Country Liberal Government will deliver improved education outcomes for Territory kids**

A Country Liberal Government will deliver a broad plan to improve education for our kids across the Territory. The plan will focus on targeted funding and infrastructure, improved school attendance, behaviour management, empowering local decision making and recognising the importance of early learning, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

“I want all Territory kids to get the best possible start they can. That means having a great education. There are a range of issues a new Country Liberal Government will address to ensure more kids get the start they need,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will focus on key areas to improve education outcomes, including:

**Targeted funding and infrastructure** – We will direct funding towards schools with high projected growth and those with the most need. We will fast track planned infrastructure, including building a new school at Ali-Curung and work with schools like Katherine High School, Yuendumu School and Tennant Creek High School to develop strategic and master plans.

**Improving attendance** – Under Labor, average attendance rates have fallen 7 per cent, which represents 2300 extra students missing school. We will bring back truancy officers that Labor scrapped, empower schools to develop attendance strategies and deliver a primary school transitioning policy. We will also support the Commonwealth extension of the Remote School Attendance Strategy.

**Early learning as building blocks** – Getting the basic skills right is critical, because too many Territory kids are struggling to read and write, let alone meet national benchmarks. We will declutter the curriculum to focus on language, literacy and numeracy in early years. We will start a phonics trial to boost literacy, support the continued rollout of the Families as First Teachers Program and develop a strategic direction to address hearing difficulties in schools.

**Student Wellbeing** – To address behaviour we will continue school based policing, support wellbeing initiatives and social and emotional learning programs, consider additional services to support the shortage of school counsellors, supply sports vouchers and work to have allied health professionals more accessible for early intervention.

Leader of the Opposition  
**LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA**

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**Local decision making** – We will work with communities, parents, teachers and principals to have community driven solutions, strengthen school councils, support schools that want to become Independent Public Schools and support choices for parents, including a strong non-government school sector.

**Teaching and learning** – We will promote merit based teacher selection and professional development opportunities, improve attraction and retention of high quality teachers and principals and increase job security through more permanent positions.

**Tertiary education and training** – We will partner with industry to ensure vocational education is driven by economic development priorities, incentivise businesses to take on apprentices and trainees and support CDU's request for additional Commonwealth Supported Places to grow the University.

These plans come in addition to our initiatives in international education, where a CLP Government will refocus Study NT to help make the Territory a more attractive destination for international students.

"A quality education is the best start for anyone in life and a CLP Government will work to have everything possible in place to make sure Territory kids get one," Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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