



Syd Stirling

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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GOVERNMENT ENDORSES MIDDLE YEARS FRAMEWORK

The Martin Labor Government has endorsed the report for Stage One of the *Making the Most of the Middle Years* consultation, paving the way for further discussions on how best to implement changes to education for students in Years 7 – 9 in the Northern Territory.

The Middle Years consultation is part of Government's \$42 million four-year plan to build better schools and improve secondary education in the Territory. It follows on from extensive consultation held last year on the Secondary Education Report.

"The Territory Government is working with, and listening too, the community to ensure we provide the best educational environment for local students," he said.

"The consultation involved principals, teachers, parents, students and representatives of key education groups participating in workshops and forums focussing on teaching and learning for students in the middle years.

"It included written responses from individual and online surveys. Of the 315 individual survey responses received, 24.8 per cent were from parents and 75.2 per cent were from teachers/educators, principals and assistant principals."

Socom Pty Ltd, the company that is coordinating the community consultation, has presented Government with the Stage One report titled *Making the Most of the Middle Years – A report on the community consultation for the Principles and Policy framework for the Middle Years of Education Stage 1*.

"There was overwhelming support for Year 7 to be included in the 'middle years', with 99.1 per cent of survey respondents and 100 per cent of school/website respondents in favour of such a change," he said.

"Stage One report recommends that the middle years are a distinctive group comprising Years 7 – 9; Year 10 is a transition into the senior years (and is not part of middle years); and Years 5 and 6 would benefit from some educational elements of a middle years approach.

"The Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) will now develop a formal Middle Years Policy, based on the report's findings, which will be used in Stage Two of the consultation process, which begins in early 2006.

"The Stage Two consultation process will identify how best to implement a middle years approach in NT Schools."

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