



PETER CHANDLER MLA | Member for BRENNAN

MEDIA RELEASE

PETER CHANDLER - MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

60 YEARS OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATORS

13 November 2013

The first Indigenous Assistant Teachers were employed in Territory schools 60 years ago and have made an immeasurable contribution to education over that time.

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, has celebrated with many Indigenous Educators and other senior figures within the education sector at an event at the Northern Territory Library.

To mark this milestone three commemorative resources have been developed:

- A 60 –year record of Indigenous Assistant Teachers in the Northern Territory
 - o *A comprehensive record on the Education Mob Website consisting of photos and personal experiences of former assistant teachers, teachers and principals.*
- Indigenous Educator community stories
 - o *Stories from long-term Indigenous educators who continue to teach in remote communities, also on the Education Mob website.*
- A *Strong Teachers* book and *Strong Teachers* online resource
 - o *These resources highlight the experiences, knowledge and skills of graduates of the Indigenous Teacher Upgrade Program, where Indigenous teachers add a year to their teaching qualifications.*

“It was wonderful to spend time with some of the most influential Indigenous educators of the last 60 years as they shared their experiences with me,” Mr Chandler said.

“These educators have helped create highly productive relationships between schools and communities. They have been mentors, not only for the children in their communities, but for the many teachers from outside the community that have come and gone over time.

“The Department of Education in conjunction with the Bachelor Institute and the NT Library have done an outstanding job collaborating these experiences to develop resources that can be freely accessed by all.

“Education is the key increasing opportunities in our remote communities and that is why I have some much respect for those who have been on the ground, working in these communities.

“I’m keen to see what recommendations to come back from the current review into Indigenous education so this government can determine how to work better with communities to achieve better attendance and better educational outcomes.”

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