Recoil at apparent lack of class

By KATINA VANGOPULOUS

THE Australian Education Union’s Territory branches will today respond to targeted condemnation from the organisation’s federal leadership.

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Mr Cranitch’s decision to run in the Blain by-election has been condemned, with the national body to discuss Monday’s nationwide resolution that opposes NT president Matthew Chandler’s decision to run in the Blain by-election.

More than 100 written submissions were lodged by Sunday’s official closure of the consultation period, and more are still to come with an extension ending today.

The recommendations of the draft report, to be made final and presented to the Northern Territory Government next month, were made after Mr Wilson visited communities throughout a six-month period.

The report focuses on issues like literacy in primary schools, the delivery of secondary education, the structure of the department and community involvement.

"Many of the findings and recommendations have been strongly endorsed," he said.

"There has been overwhelming support for the development of a long-term strategic plan.

"The strongest responses have concerned the teaching of English in primary schools and the proposal to progressively offer secondary education in towns rather than very remote communities."

Mr Chandler said listening to the ideas of people in their communities had been the most important part of the process.

"A key objective of this review was to consult everyone about how they feel education can be improved – because I know that if you don't have community buy-in, reforms will never work," he said.

PROTECTION can be the difference between a quick escape and serious harm in an unprovoked street attack.

The best way comes in the confident knowledge of self-defence, something instructor Peter Lockhart says is more important than ever.

"I lived near Jill Meagher when she was a girl in Perth... when she was killed I took it pretty hard and decided to teach women self-defence in the hope that I may make a difference," he said.

Mr Lockhart offers free classes that teach basic but realistic techniques from a number of practices including karate and boxing.

"This is something for all levels – I’ve had a black belt in karate join in with her daughters," she said.

The NT News yesterday (right) reported that nurse Georgia Kitchen, 25, was attacked by another woman on the weekend.

Natalie Lovegrove attended Mr Lockhart’s class and said there were too many females like Ms Kitchen becoming targets.

"You read about it all the time. I have two daughters... you know I am really important," she said.

Mr Lockhart’s classes run on Tuesdays at Anula Primary School from 5.30-6.30pm.

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INDEPENDENT education expert Bruce Wilson says debate on the recommendations in his draft report of the Indigenous Education Review has been promising.

Education Minister Peter Chandler agreed, saying the interest from various communities and stakeholders during consultations has been encouraging.

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