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My Schools website shows school attendance is vital

The new My School 2.0 website went live today giving Territory parents more access to information about their children’s education and school.

Minister for Education and Training, Chris Burns, said My School clearly shows that children that go to school every day get better results.

“My School shows that Territory kids with good attendance records will do just as well as children from any other part of the country,” Dr Burns said.

“We are still seeing that in many cases students in remote schools with poor attendance are less likely to reach benchmarks.

“But it is good to see examples like Minyerri School where attendance is strong and the student results particularly in reading are much better.

“The Territory Government’s Every Child, Every Day strategy is aiming to increase attendance and see more children getting better results at school.

“We have seen improvements in the 2010 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), but there is much more to do, especially in the bush.

“The Territory did achieve some of the biggest average test result improvements in 11 of the 15 categories for students doing NAPLAN for the second time and we will work to continue this trend,” Dr Burns said.

This is the second My School website and it now includes financial data about cost per child to deliver education at each school.

“My School is giving parents access to more transparent information about their child and their school,” Dr Burns said.

“The financial data includes costs such as staffing, infrastructure upgrades, fees, government funding and special program delivery.

“It clearly shows that delivering education in the bush costs more than urban areas.”

Dr Burns said the Territory Government will continue making education a top priority and is delivering more programs to improve literacy, numeracy and attendance.

“The Literacy and Numeracy Taskforce is in place and Professor Geoff Masters from the Australian Council of Education Research is working with our schools to improve results.

“The Every Child, Every Day attendance strategy is also place with a range of new programs.”

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