



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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[REDACTED]
Friends of Bilingual Learning
email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2012 to the Chief Minister regarding bilingual learning. As this matter falls within my portfolio, I am responding on the Chief Minister's behalf.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to the delivery of quality programs for all students with a home language other than English. While ensuring an explicit focus on the teaching and learning of Standard Australian English, the home language is seen as a distinct and important area of learning in itself, as well as a valuable resource to support the learning of English and learning in all other subject areas.

To improve delivery of best-practice English as an Additional Language teaching, we have established the English as an Additional Language Unit. As part of its work, the Unit - including Indigenous language linguists - will be supporting remote schools to plan, deliver, monitor and assess bilingual and bi-literacy programs as agreed with local communities.

Improving schooling and wellbeing outcomes for Indigenous learners and increasing their options for further study or employment is a long-term and multi-faceted challenge and is a priority for the Department of Education and Children's Services. Please be assured that the department is working towards ensuring these challenges are met. If you would like to discuss further please contact Ms Vicki Baylis, General Manager, Teaching, Learning and Inclusion, Department of Education and Children's Services on telephone (08) 8944 9234 or at vicki.baylis@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

ROBYN LAMBLEY

06 DEC 2012