



Paul Henderson
CHIEF MINISTER



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Australian of the Year Visits Successful NT Schools

The Australian of the Year Mick Dodson is visiting Northern Territory schools this week as part of a national tour to get every Australian child in school by next year.

The Northern Territory took up Professor Dodson's challenge and the Chief Minister Paul Henderson invited him to see some of the Territory's successful education programs.

The pair today visited Millner Primary School.

"Millner is a great example of an innovative program to get students to school, get them engaged and keep them in school," Mr Henderson said.

"I want to ensure that every Territory child receives the best education possible. That can only happen if we're getting those kids to attend school.

"My Government is very focused on improving attendance rates because we know that education opens up a raft of opportunities and benefits."

Millner Primary School offers a specifically tailored program that caters for children from town camps with a focus on literacy and numeracy, life skills and nutrition through family group engagement.

Mr Henderson said Professor Dodson's target is an ambitious one but one the Territory is keen to try and achieve.

"We have innovative programs in place such as those at Millner and we will continue to explore other initiatives to improve educational outcomes.

The Territory Government announced a crackdown earlier this year on kids who wag school – schools now need to demonstrate attendance rates of at least 90%.

"As of March this year, NT Government schools were achieving attendance rates of just over 82%," Mr Henderson.

"We know getting all Territory kids into school by next year is ambitious but it's a challenge my Government is certainly working towards,"

The Chief Minister and Professor Dodson will visit Katherine High School and Ngukurr School on Wednesday.

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