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Chief Minister Takes Up Dodson Challenge

Chief Minister and Education Minister Paul Henderson has congratulated Australian of the Year Mick Dodson for making education his focus for the next 12 months.

“Professor Dodson has set down a challenge to get every school-aged child in the country into a classroom by Australia Day next year,” Mr Henderson said.

“Even he admits his ambition is a naïve – but he say the country should have a crack at it.

“I rang him this morning and said the Territory will take up his challenge.

“Professor Dodson will spend the next year touring schools and I’ve invited him to make the Territory his first port of call.

“We are working out when he can come so we can visit a number of schools to kick-start this project.

“Improving school attendance is a top priority of this Government – and we’ll continue to do whatever it takes to get more kids in classrooms.

“The Territory’s attendance rates are nowhere near good enough – and I want to see a dramatic improvement.

“We may not get every child in a classroom, but it won’t be through lack of trying.

“Education can open the door of opportunities for our kids, especially our Indigenous children.”

“Earlier this year I announced a crackdown on kids wagging school, and schools now need to demonstrate attendance rates of at least 90%.

“We’ll support efforts to encourage students to attend school each day and we’ll take tough action if needed.”

Contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256

