

# WRITTEN QUESTIONS

## 7th Assembly

12/02/1996

96. Retention of Teachers in Rural Areas

Mr. STIRLING to MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING

### QUESTION

1. Has the retention of teachers in rural and remote areas of the Northern Territory been identified as a problem by the Northern Territory Government; if so, what strategies have been put in place to overcome this problem.

### ANSWER

Answered on 14/03/96

Historically the Department has found it more difficult to recruit and retain suitably qualified teachers to work in remote - as opposed to urban - schools.

In recognition of this the Government currently has in place a range of allowances and incentives for employees required to work in designated remote Northern Territory localities. The package includes:

- . rental assistance
- . payment of Fares Out of Isolated Localities (FOIL)
- . free electricity and water supply
- . limited private use of departmental vehicle
- . special teaching allowance
- . priority transfer scheme
- . special leave study entitlements
- . accelerated incremental advancement
- . payment for family to accompany employee once a year whilst attending a professional development inservice
- . payment of freight allowance on perishable goods

As part of the general Public Sector Enterprise Bargaining Agreement the parties have agreed to review the existing package by the end of March 1996. Unfortunately the Australian Education Union (NT Branch), representing the largest single category of public sector employees in remote localities, had refused to participate in the review until late February 1996 but has now agreed to become involved.