

THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

N.T NEWS SPECIAL FEAT

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Educators get together

Educators are in Darwin today for the inaugural conference of the Association of Independent Schools of the NT. Attending the meeting are, from left, Mr John Legg, executive director AISNT, chairman Dr Peter Harris, Ms Mary Lovett, Schools Programs, DEET, Canberra and NT Education Minister Mr Shane Stone.



Boarding in Darwin like being at home

Boarding in Darwin is like being at home according to Stephen Brinkworth of Jabiru.

At the start of the year he enrolled at a boarding school in southern Queensland intending to finish his senior secondary studies there.

Climate was a problem

but the greatest difficulty was the sense of isolation that came with being so far from home.

Midway through the year Stephen transferred to St Johns in Darwin as a Year 10 boarder.

Knowing the family is just a few hours away by road removes the barrier

of isolation that Stephen found so difficult.

Stephen is an above average student and finds the academic demands of NT education quite challenging.

Impact

Headmaster of St Johns, Brother Paul Brooks, said that in his experience over many years in charge of boarding at major southern schools, he had seen at first hand the impact of distance on students.

He also said that it could not be solved just by technology. Telephones are a great means of communication but they cannot replace the

more frequent access that being educated locally brings.

He said all three independent boarding colleges in the Territory — St Phillip's, Kormilda and St Johns — were committed to quality pastoral care of the students in their community.

Brother Brookes commended the NT Government action in assisting in the provision of boarding places which has seen about 600 being available.

There are spare places but more would be needed when parents came to appreciate the value of education in the Territory.