

Direct learning program can work in NT: Minister

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Delwyn Gothachalkenin, 11, taking part in a literacy lesson that happens twice a day in the direct learning program at the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy Aurukun Campus. Source: News Corp Australia

PARENTS and the greater Cape York Peninsula community are learning from the Direct Instruction method of teaching the NT Government is considering for its own -remote schools.

Aurukun's Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy campus focuses on the five C's: Class (literacy and numeracy), Club (sport and the arts), Culture (traditional language), Community (getting parents involved) and Childhood (preparation for school).

Direct Instruction classes for students in Prep to Year 7 are scripted and strictly adhere to a routine which includes longer school hours from 8.30am to 4pm and two literacy periods each day.

Education Minister Peter Chandler saw classes operating at Aurukun as he and other department officials sought advice on the school's success with primary teaching.

Aurukun community teacher Maryann Kerindun said allowing parents to watch what their kids were learning was key to academic success.

“The school and community need to be together as one ... all things come from making good choices,” she said.

“Otherwise what can we teach anyone? I want to see them (students) get better jobs, and it’s a reality with Direct Instruction because kids are here every day learning and parents see it.”

Mr Chandler said Direct Instruction and getting involved was a model that worked.

“This model doesn’t allow them to fall through the cracks; teachers are making sure kids understand what they’re taught before the lesson’s over,” he said.

Source: **Herald Sun**, April 24, 2014

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/direct-learning-program-can-work-in-nt-minister/story-fnk1w5y0-1226894772518?sv=a28b6fcc894add3dc53ef15a132d4358>