Issues
The parties agree the key issues to be addressed are:

• Improving literacy outcomes for all target students, by trialling successful and promising approaches
• Developing capacity for systematic evaluation and cost benefit assessment
• Creating a clearinghouse for evidence based solutions relevant to northern and regional Australia

Background
Accelerated Literacy is one of the few interventions capable of yielding demonstrable improvements in Indigenous literacy. Accelerated Literacy is a specific English literacy teaching approach. The approach aims to improve literacy levels for all students who are currently not achieving national benchmarks.

Literacy, particularly in English, is a fundamental capability required by all students to progress through the education system and is the basis for gaining productive employment. Current statistics show that failure to achieve adequate levels of literacy by students, particularly Indigenous students, is a primary reason for their lack of achievement in the education system.

Combined funding from the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments will contribute to efforts to lift the Accelerated Literacy Program out of its status as a pilot program and move it into mainstream activity available nationally, with Charles Darwin University becoming the access point for this teaching approach. The funds will build the foundations for long term sustainability and widespread expansion through research, courses and professional development for teachers: resource development, ongoing evaluation of student progress and support of system rollout.

Charles Darwin University is leading a team responsible for systematising the Accelerated Literacy methodology, in partnership with NT DEET who undertook to implement the Accelerated Literacy intervention across the NT jurisdiction with the aim of including 10,000 students in 100 schools across the NT by 2008. All existing sites in WA, SA and Qld using the program with Dr Brian Gray and Ms Wendy Cowey prior to 2004 were included in the National Program and have become partners with the University and NT DEET in implementing a national literacy intervention.

Project Objective
The primary objective of the NALP project is to expand and systematise Accelerated Literacy, making it into a sustainable teaching methodology supported by comprehensive research, an extensive professional development program for teachers and a system wide strategy of support for schools.

The scope of the project is for the University and NT DEET to work collaboratively to systematise AL such that it can be implemented and expanded successfully and sustainably across schools in the Northern Territory and in existing sites outside of the NT and then into other Australian jurisdictions.
2004/2005 Goals and Target
The following are the goals for 2004/05:

1. Establish a national steering committee.
2. Develop a Professional Workforce Training Plan for the NT.
3. Get sign off for the National Accelerated Literacy Project Plan and Memorandum of Agreement between partners.
4. Ongoing development of professional development courses.
5. Provide a Graduate Certificate course in 2005.
6. Produce AL teaching and theoretical materials as specified through University and DEET AL related contracts.
7. Develop a public website for the AL teaching and theoretical materials and other resources and to provide general information about the approach, and the program.
8. Develop a data base to monitor student outcomes.
10. Develop a risk assessment strategy.
12. Finalise branding and marketing.
13. Establish policy and ethics guidelines for the use of information within the project.
14. Continue to include new schools.
15. Provide effective professional development support and training to new and existing schools and to schools in other jurisdictions.
16. Prepare the evaluation and costing project.

Outputs/Performance Measures
The NALP project is working on the establishment of nationally consistent performance indicators for student outcomes. These will be reviewed by the National Steering Committee and endorsed by each of the partners in the program.