Canberra’s raw deal for NTU

Well, Territorians, those of you who are interested in tertiary education and the NTU, we have had the first touch of the new Federal Government upon our institution since the election.

We thought he had come to save, instead he came to apply sophistry and sap. Dr Brendan Nelson, the new Minister of Education, Science and Training, made a whiskiestop tour of the NTU.

His refusal to come up with much needed funding for the NTU is, in the words of Benjamin McKay, president of the NTU Postgraduate Students Association, more than regrettable.

Mr McKay said: “Dr Nelson’s assertion that this university ought to explore further avenues in the private sector and elsewhere to gain funding only highlights his ignorance in regard to the size, nature and level of diversity of the Northern Territory economy.

“The fact that the minister did not attempt to contact or speak with any representatives of the student population as he breezed through the university only makes his trip here a complete waste of taxpayers’ money.”

Such comment only adds to the charade of interest in the NT by Federal Government ministers.

Mr Tollner and Senator Scullion will have their work cut out for them to get the Howard Government to recognise that the NT deserves better treatment from the Federal Government.

The other blow, is Mr Ruddock, Minister for Immigration. The kindest thing I can say of him is that your photographer Dani Gawlik (February 2) deserves a Walkley Award for managing to capture his likeness in the same manner as the still photography of the terrible Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins). Brrrr!

Ted Dunstan Karama