

NT black schools all bad: teacher

Every Aboriginal school in the Northern Territory was substandard and in need of immediate attention, the general secretary of the Northern Territory Commonwealth Teachers' Federation (Mr. M. J. Grimes) said in Darwin yesterday.

He was commenting on a Federal Government survey of school buildings in Aboriginal communities, published in "The Age" yesterday.

The survey showed 49 Aboriginal schools needed replacement, 10 needed rebuilding and seven needed improvements.

Mr. Grimes said this

meant every school needed attention, as there were only 66 Aboriginal schools in the Territory.

It was the federation's policy that all substandard schools and accommodation be upgraded before the beginning of the school year.

He was pleased that the study had been made, but was not sure its findings would be implemented.

Mr. Grimes said the federation learned yesterday that the Government planned to spend \$6 million on upgrading the schools, but the survey had recommended spending of \$96 million.

"We don't know what is going on. Is the whole of

the money to be spent?" he said.

He said the federation had sent a telegram to the then Acting Minister for Education (Mr. Bowen) on November 22, but had received no reply.

After Governments made decisions to spend money it was usually six months before any work began.

"In most of the schools, we haven't got six months," he said.

"If these schools were found elsewhere in Australia they would have been bulldozed 10 years ago.

"There is not enough of anything for teachers to do their job properly."