MEDIA RELEASE
LORAINE BRAHAM MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR BRAINTLING

Date: 30 April 2008

PRISONER REHABILITATION STARTS WITH HOME REPATRIATION

"The policy Correctional Services has in relation to repatriation of prisoners back to their communities should be implemented in Alice Springs and not just Darwin" says Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling.

Mrs Braham explained that at the moment, prisoners released from Berrimah Gaol are sent back to their communities but this is not the case for prisoners released from Alice Springs prison.

"Prisoners' travel should be arranged to make sure they are not left high and dry in town where they may fall back into the behaviour that landed them in gaol in the first place".

"The Minister has admitted that this needs to be addressed and the department has given an assurance that the situation will change".

"I certainly hope so".

Mrs Braham said there are bus runs that could be used to transport people back home.

"Let us give these ex-prisoners a chance to reunite and rehabilitate with their family and community in the best possible way".

"I also urge the Minister to set up a supervised halfway house in Alice Springs so that the readjustment to civilian life is handled with support and planning".

"Too often we see prisoners on release flounder but transport and planned re-introduction will only work with government support and the right programs.

Contact Loraine Braham: ph Darwin 89461476 mobile 0419 861 467