MEDIA RELEASE

A BLOW TO LABOR’S CREDIBILITY

February 15th, 2012

Member for Macdonnell, Alison Anderson, said the publication of transcripts from the Second Intervention consultations is a significant moment for Indigenous Territorians.

In August, Ms Anderson called for minutes from the consultations to be returned to the communities because Indigenous people didn’t trust the Labor Government to accurately represent their views.

“Residents were concerned that what they said wouldn’t be accurately reflected to the Minister,” Ms Anderson said.

“They were not convinced that the bureaucrats would do the right thing with the information they were given – and it appears these concerns have been justified.

“Former Family Court judge, Alastair Nicholson, has struck a blow against the scheming machinations of the Labor Government in favour of Indigenous Territorians.

“His decision to publish transcripts from the consultations shows a transparency and accountability that is completely alien to the Australian Labor Party.

“His assertion that a High Court challenge against Stronger Futures would be ‘a fair chance’ to get up because the proposed measures don’t comply with the Racial Discrimination Act is a terrible hit to the Labor Party’s integrity.

“Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has to detail exactly how much she knew about this deception.

“The credibility of her Territory counterpart, Malarndirri McCarthy, is also on the line.

“The Labor Government has an obligation to talk honestly and openly to Aboriginal people instead of putting up a curtain and excluding the outside world.

“Labor claims to be the party that represents the interests of Indigenous Australians but the events of Australia Day shone a light on the nastiness and ugliness that comes from the top of the ALP.”

Further comment: Alison Anderson 0448 885 178