ALISON ANDERSON MLA | Member for NAMATJIRA

Minister for Children and Families

DELIA’S BACK TO BAD HABITS

16 May 2013

Former Labor Treasurer Delia Lawrie couldn’t help but play politics when she wrongly accused the Country Liberals Government of slashing the Office of Children and Families budget by $9 million.

The Opposition Leader asked Chief Minister Adam Giles in question time on Tuesday:

“Your budget papers show that you are slashing child protection funding. Page 253 of Budget Paper No 3 shows you are making a real budget cut of nearly $9m to the Office of Children and Families. Why are you ripping $9m out of the child protection budget?”

- Delia Lawrie 14/05/2013

Delia Lawrie has used old tricks from her days as treasurer and fudge budget figures to support her grandstanding, see below:

Office of Children and Families

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Output Group/Output</th>
<th>2012-13 Estimate</th>
<th>2013-14 Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children and Families</td>
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<td>$000</td>
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<tr>
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- 2013/14 NT Budget, budget paper 3, p253

Minister for Children and Families, Alison Anderson, said it’s un-believable that after being Treasurer for almost six years, Delia Lawrie still cannot read a budget paper.

“It’s no wonder the Territory’s finances were left in such a mess when the former Treasurer still struggles to understand basic financial documents,” Ms Anderson said.

“Former Children and Families adviser and now Member for Nightcliff, Natasha Fyles has, in sheep-like fashion, bleated Delia’s mistake in a motion to Parliament.

“In my response to the motion I outlined the process this Government has undertaken to improve the Office of Children and Families by shifting the focus to frontline service, not a top-heavy bureaucracy.

“When the Government restructured the Office of Children and Families to become a standalone agency, the overall office budget was reduced by around $2 million.

“However $19 million in responsibilities has been transferred to other departments meaning there has been a net gain of around $17 million which we have entirely redirected to frontline services where it’s needed most.”

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