MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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CLP CUTS HIT COMMUNITY SAFETY IN ALICE

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said today rising levels of violence and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs showed the CLP Government’s failure to deal with the real issues in the community.

“To have shop owners attacked in the Mall and police say they are too busy to attend shows how Chief Minister Adam Giles’ failure to live up to his promises is hurting Alice Springs,” Ms Lawrie said.

“In January he said Alice Springs was ‘completely cleaned up’ and crime wasn’t an issue. Just a few months later we are hearing about youths running amok in the CBD, vandalising property, throwing rocks and assaulting workers.

“The CLP Government shut down services that were working to reduce youth-related crime and antisocial behaviour and now Alice Springs is paying the price for their short sighted decisions.

“Under Adam Giles' watch we have seen funding cut from youth after hours services, forcing them to close.

“The Youth Street Outreach Service has been pulled, which was making a big difference in getting kids off the streets at night.

“He closed down the Alice Springs Youth Hub that was a providing an important co-ordination point and place for young people in the CBD.

“He promised a police call centre for Alice Springs but backflipped on this very quickly. He promised extra police on the beat but all we have is police standing outside bottle shops because of the CLP Government’s failure to deal with alcohol related crime.

“Adam Giles has been very good at blaming others for unacceptable levels of crime and antisocial behaviour but now it’s up to him, he buries his head in the sand and refuses to see there is a problem.

“The CLP Government needs to take a serious look at what has worked in curbing youth crime and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs, talk to workers on the frontline, take a bi-partisan approach and put services ahead of the spin.”

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