16 April 2014

CLP MUST RESTORE FUNDING TO ALICE YOUTH SERVICES

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie has called on the CLP Government to immediately reinstate the Youth Street Outreach Service (YSOS) in Alice Springs.

Ms Lawrie said the YSOS was scrapped by Chief Minister Adam Giles in February and youth-related crime and anti-social behaviour in the town had immediately worsened.

“Residents and business owners have been paying the price since the CLP Government made their short sighted decision to pull youth workers off the streets and shut down support services,” Ms Lawrie said.

“There are reports of young children roaming the streets late at night, business owners have been attacked, property damaged and cars set alight.

“The CLP Government found $80million to pork barrel votes in Blain yet cut funding from services like the Congress Youth After Hours Drop In Centre and shut down the Alice Springs Youth Hub which gave a co-ordinated approach to youth services in the town and then scrapped YSOS.

“These services worked with Police to help prevent crime by ensuring young people were intercepted, taken to a place of safety and co-ordinated follow up services put in place.

“Adam Giles is showing yet again he has no real plans and no real ideas for Alice Springs.

“He can put out all the spin and expensive flyers he likes, people in Alice Springs aren’t being fooled.

“Minister for Children and Families John Elferink must reassure the Alice Springs Town Council today that youth services will be restored and that he is willing to work with the community and local expertise to get real solutions in place.

“Adam Giles and John Elferink have to stop denying there is a problem in Alice Springs, admit they’ve made a mistake and fix it.”

Media contact: Kieran Phillips 0438 272 839