MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Vowles
SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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END OF FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR TERRITORY SERVICES

National Partnership Agreements (NPAs) between the Northern Territory and Federal Government’s expire today and the CLP Government has not indicated how this funding void will be filled said Shadow Minister for Government Accountability, Ken Vowles.

“Today, with the end of the financial year, is also the end of major National Partnership Agreements between the Territory and Federal Government,” Mr Vowles said.

“NPAs are important funding agreements for essential services such as health, education, skills and workforce development, community services, affordable housing and infrastructure among others.

“According to the CLP Government’s budget papers 19 of these agreements expire today.”

Mr Vowles said three education NPAs expire today that will have a direct impact on Territory students.

“NPAs to improve literacy and numeracy empower local schools and improving Indigenous education will expire today,” Mr Vowles said.

“These funding agreements ensured the Federal and Territory Governments worked in partnership to achieve goals in these areas.

“Without the coordination and joint funding provided by these NPAs, as well as the drastic cuts to the Territory’s education system under the CLP Government Territory students will suffer.”

Mr Vowles also said of the expiring agreements the expiry of the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement was of concern as 15 of the 29 remote towns provided for in this agreement are in the Territory.

“The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement provided coordination between all levels of Government and Territorians to ensure investment met local needs and priorities in remote areas,” Mr Vowles said.

“Funding was targeted to achieve measurable progress against the COAG closing the gap building blocks i.e. Early Childhood, Schooling, Health,
Economic Participation, Healthy Homes, Safe Communities, Governance and Leadership.

“What measures has the CLP Government put in place to maintain the coordination and service delivery for these remote areas?”

Mr Vowles said that the CLP Government has failed to lobby their Federal counterparts to ensure the Territory is disadvantaged by Federal Budget cuts.

“The Territory is reliant on funding from the Federal Government for the provision of essential services like health and education to Territorians,” Mr Vowles said.

“As the CLP Government’s own budget papers state “if Commonwealth funding is ceased, then additional demands may be placed on state finances”.

“Where will the CLP Government find the funding to ensure the current level of service is provided at the end of National Partnership Agreements?

“What impact will the cessation of these agreements have on service delivery in the Territory?”

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667