MEDIA RELEASE

Lynne Walker
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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CLP CUTS PLUNGE CHILD PROTECTION INTO CRISIS

Shadow Minister for Children and Families, Lynne Walker, today said the current state of child protection in the Territory is a tragedy of the CLP Government’s own making.

“Labor took child protection seriously. We commissioned a Board of Inquiry report, “Growing them Strong Together”, made a commitment to implement all the recommendations and allocated $130 million over five years to implement major reform and make a real difference.

“Labor established the office of the independent Children’s Commissioner, Dr Howard Bath, who said in estimates this year “there has been a dramatic increase in investment in Child Protection services that has made a difference”.

“But the CLP cuts to child protection services, particularly in early intervention and prevention has created a new crisis."

Ms Walker said the CLP Government is mishandling child protection in the Territory.

“There have been three CLP Ministers having carriage of the portfolio in less than two years and the CLP Government has ripped $8 million out of the Department of Children and Families.

“Workers are dealing with higher than acceptable caseloads - increasing the risk of kids at risk slipping through the cracks.

“The CLP Government has abandoned many of the preventative measures recommended in the Growing Them Strong Together report.

"A fool ignored expert advice and it is our children left to suffer the consequence."

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