CLP ADMITS FAILURE ON ALCOHOL POLICY

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy, Natasha Fyles, said the CLP’s continuing incompetence has led to the scrapping of Alcohol Mandatory Treatment (AMT) in Tennant Creek in an apparent admission of 3 years of wasteful mistakes.

“Just days after Territory Labor revealed that the CLP’s inability to govern was impacting on delivery of AMT, Minister Elferink has made the extraordinary announcement that the whole thing has been scrapped in Tennant Creek,” Ms Fyles said.

“We saw the CLP pass amendments to AMT on urgency nearly a year ago, but they were too busy infighting to sort out the regulations and allow health professionals to refer people onto the AMT program.

“Now they’ve wasted millions of dollars on a program that everyone said wouldn’t work from the start.

“Minister Elferink says that the AMT program will be reviewed, but there has still not been an announcement about the successful tenderer for an independent evaluation of the program.

“The unworkable AMT policy has been scandal-ridden from the start. It’s our understanding that there have been zero referrals to the Darwin AMT centre for some time – is that going to be scrapped next?

“One has to wonder how John Elferink even keeps his job. In the past few months we’ve seen:

- His wildly offensive comments directed at Seniors, during Seniors month;
- His unacceptable bullying behaviour in threatening violence against female MLAs, which saw him disendorsed as a White Ribbon Ambassador;
- Continuing turmoil in our Corrections system, including his callous dismissal of serious allegations from Human Rights groups about the treatment of youth in detention; and
- The utterly unbelievable debacle of the Palmerston hospital concrete pour, which would be laughable if it wasn’t so serious.

“The CLP are unable to govern. They are blinded by bad politics and bad policies.

“By contrast, NT Labor’s comprehensive response to alcohol substance abuse, the Banned Drinker’s Register, is accepted by the community and accepted by health professionals and the police.

“A Territory Labor Government will put an end to “thought bubble” politics. We will listen and consult, gather evidence and then act.”

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