Government Muddled over Middle Schools

During question time today the Minister for Education admitted to being wrong about the timeframes for Middle School outcomes for students and admitted that he would be a ‘target’ if he went to a consultation meeting. He then said ‘...everywhere I go I get overwhelming support.’

“The Minister refused to explain how, on the one hand, was a ‘target’ and on the other hand he had ‘overwhelming support’. This is incredible!

Nevertheless, the Chief Minister has stood by her Education Minister saying that she supported him fully and that Government was ‘...listening to our community’, and ‘...currently assessing what those views are.’, but also said, ‘There is no need to slow down.’

“The Government is all over the shop on this issue.” Opposition Leader Jodeen Carney said today.

“He also was asked about the time frames that he had put on the anticipated improvements in outcomes for students. His response was to admit that he’d got it wrong saying, ‘I said it, but I don’t think I was right.’”

The Chief Minister was also confusing. When asked about the consultation, she told Territorians that she was still assessing what those views were.

“If she is unable to understand what those views are then she’s proven herself to be a particularly poor listener.

“The fact is the accelerated upheaval created by Minister’s unrelenting decision to implement Middle Schools by 2007 is a fait accompli and this Government is proceeding in spite of its own confusion.

“Government isn’t listening and will press on so they can get this out of the way early in the electoral cycle.

“The problem is by pressing on they are going to hurt those who are most vulnerable in the whole story and that is the students themselves.”