BUDGET FOCUS ON FRONTLINE SERVICES

The focus of Budget 2007 will be to support frontline services and to boost the Territory’s infrastructure.

Treasurer, Syd Stirling, said the Government is determined to focus expenditure in these areas to improve the efficiency of the public service.

“That means we will be working to ensure that non-service delivery and executive positions are trimmed back,” said Mr Stirling.

“There will be a gradual reduction in these roles as the focus is placed on new positions in frontline services such as doctors, nurses, teachers and police.”

The Treasurer said that he would be applying an “efficiency dividend” of 1% to all agency budgets except Health and Community Services, Police and Education, which would attract a lower dividend of 0.25%.

“This efficiency dividend is to apply to staffing in non-service areas,” said Mr Stirling. “It will mean that over three years positions in these areas will be reduced by around 240.”

“With around 3500 people per year retiring or leaving the public service this will be managed easily. There will be no forced redundancies,” he said.

“We will not take the slash and burn approach of CLP Government’s of the 1990s. They didn’t achieve their goals and they caused unnecessary concern to workers,” Mr Stirling said.

“These measures to improve efficiency will ensure that the Martin Government can fund more services and infrastructure into the future, and continue its excellent management of the Budget and economy.”

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