5th May 2008

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING TO BE ASSESSED BY AUDITOR GENERAL

The Territory Opposition has written to the Auditor General requesting a ruling on whether Government advertising relating to the Youth Justice Bill is misleading.

“I believe the Territory Government has used taxpayer’s money in a misleading and deceptive manner,” says Ms Carney, Shadow Attorney General.

“The guidelines for Public Information Programs funded by Government Agencies require that such communications must be based on ‘accurate and verifiable facts’ to ‘achieve awareness of a new or amended law’.

“The political propaganda on the Youth Justice Bill the Government is funding from taxpayer’s money fails the test imposed by its own guidelines.

“It is wrong for politicians to mislead the public; it’s the hight of cynicism to use the public’s money to aid that deceit.

“It is also gross hypocrisy for this Government to cry poor in its pay negotiations with police and teachers whilst abusing taxpayer’s money to further its re-election chances.

“The principle beneficiary of this taxpayer funded advertising blitz is the Labor Party.

“The Labor Party should refund the taxpayer’s money used in its misleading advertising blitz.

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 9928