RETRAIN SACKED TIO WORKERS

The Henderson Government should ensure the 20 employees sacked by TIO should receive jobs retraining.

“The failure of the Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, to properly supervise TIO’s performance leaves the Henderson Government morally obliged to assist the sacked workers to find alternative employment,” says John Elferink, Shadow Treasurer.

When quizzed about TIO’s performance in the October sittings of Parliament the Treasurer stated:

*Regarding TIO, I have been very clear … TIO is very well placed. They have a government guarantee and they are travelling very strongly.*

“That statement indicates the Treasurer was totally oblivious to the growing problems now manifesting at TIO despite considerable evidence to the contrary,” says John Elferink.

“The Auditor General tabled a report indicating his concerns about TIO in the same sittings the Treasurer claimed TIO was travelling very strongly.

“The collapse in TIO’s profits should also have been of concern for the Treasurer. In 2008 TIO posted a profit of just $9.4 million, well down from the $63.1 million profit it achieved in 2007.

“The Treasurer’s statements regarding the strength of TIO are indicative of a Minister just not doing the job they are paid for.

“TIO is government owned and government guaranteed – the Treasurer must be highly vigilant concerning its performance.

“One area where I can see a potential for employment is for the sacked workers to be trained to assist Territory business to tender for the raft of projects to be funded by the Federal Government’s stimulus package.

“There will be a lot a work to be done in a very short time frame, and I’m sure businesses would welcome trained assistance in putting together tenders.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400