ALCOHOL COURTS ARE NOT THE FULL BOTTLE

The Northern Territory Government’s much vaunted Alcohol Courts are a monumental farce.

Shadow Justice Minister Jodeen Carney said Labor promised significant results when the courts were introduced – the outcomes, however, have been lamentable.

Ms Carney said between July 2006 and April 2009, an embarrassingly low 317 referrals had been made to the Courts.

“Of those, only 94 referrals had completed their treatments – which amount to just over 30 completions through the Alcohol Courts a year.

Between July 1, 2006 and April 30, 2009:

- 132 people fronted the Court in Alice Springs; 161 in Darwin
- 14 prohibition orders were made, all of those in Alice Springs
- 201 treatment orders were made Territory wide
- 83 were not completed

“On their own, these figures are tiny – but they appear absolutely minuscule when compared with the 30,000 drunks who were placed in protective custody by Northern Territory police last year.

Ms Carney said her frustration at the failure of the Alcohol Courts was compounded by the Government’s failure to act on the well-known problems with the Courts.
The Opposition opposed the Alcohol Courts February 2006 and warned they wouldn’t work.

“Justice Minister Delia Lawrie maintains that she’s happy with outcomes of the Alcohol Courts.

“She shouldn’t be!

“In February 2007 the Opposition alerted the Government to the Court’s obvious failings – and it did nothing.

“As a result, long-suffering taxpayers are funding a Government idea that is not dealing with the problems of alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory.”

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 992