CLARIFICATION FROM ADAM GILES

Member for Braitling, Adam Giles, says comments he made in Parliament last night were an unfortunate slip of the tongue and in no way directed at the boat-load of Sri Lankan asylum seekers currently berthed off the Indonesian coast.

Mr Giles said his comments were directed at people smugglers and were couched in the same language used by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd earlier in the week.

Mr Giles’ said his comment that we are taking potential dongas off disabled kids in Alice Springs to house scum, asylum seekers should have read to house scum AND asylum seekers”.

The next sentence in his speech referred specifically to people traffickers, when he said: We cannot house Territorians, we cannot support a disabled kid, but we can give accommodation to people traffickers over in Christmas Island.

Earlier in his speech Mr Giles had referred to people smugglers as scum and the later comments were delivered in the same context.

“My comments in the Assembly last night were a slip of the tongue. I am sympathetic to the plight of the any people caught up in humanitarian crisis.

“The target of my attack was not the boat people, but the traffickers who profit from people smuggling.

“It's disappointing that the Henderson Labor Government would use my words for political capital given that the future of the Sri Lankan boat-people at the centre of the current humanitarian crisis is still under a cloud.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118