JODEEN CARNEY
MEMBER FOR ARALUEN

MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR ISN’T WORKING

The Henderson Government’s refusal to support an Opposition motion to improve law and order in Alice Springs was an admission it has dropped the ball when it comes to improving safety and reducing violence in the town.

Member for Araluen, Jodeen Carney, said a key feature of the Opposition’s motion – the creation of crime reduction targets – deserved the support of the Henderson Government.

“The Country Liberals proposed a crime reduction target of 20% in the first year,” Ms Carney said.

“We know when we do win Government we’ll inherit a terrible mess from the Labor Party, but against that back-drop we’re prepared to challenge ourselves to bring about real change.

“Among the measures we plan to adopt is the introduction of mandatory rehabilitation for habitual drunks and putting more police on the beat.

“It seems only reasonable that Government would set targets to achieve key goals in areas such as crime – but the Henderson Government has squibbed it.”

Ms Carney said it was typical of Labor’s on-going neglect of Alice Springs that the Henderson Government would oppose the establishment of a Police Citizens Youth Club in the Larapinta area, a part of town that has been particularly hard hit by a lack of Government services,” Ms Carney said.

“It beggars belief that an initiative to provide opportunities for the youth of the town could be opposed by the Government but then again, nothing this Government does would come as a surprise.”

Ms Carney said in the two years since the Parental Responsibility Agreements were introduced as a desperate election ploy by the Henderson Government, only a handful have actually been issued.
“They’re a sham, and our motion proposed a strengthening of the Act so that more Parental Responsibility Agreements can be made.

“No doubt in the lead-up to the next election the Chief Minister will issue another glossy brochure about tackling youth crime – unfortunately he lacks the guts to seriously tackle the issue.”

The Government’s refusal to change the hours that takeaway alcohol can be bought is hardly surprising given the language coming from the Henderson Government over the past few days.

“The fact is, the Government’s grog laws have failed to make a difference to violence and anti-social behaviour in Alice Springs,” Ms Carney said.

“The Government’s statistics relating to violence reduction and alcohol consumption are dodgy and the Chief Minister arrogantly refuses to release for public inspection the figures used in a newspaper advertisement last Friday.

“Instead, he just expects Alice Springs residents to trust him.

“During 8 years of Labor Government neglect, the Alice Springs community has learnt not to trust the Chief Minister.

“In short, members of the Alice Springs community don’t trust Paul Henderson and Labor and for obvious reasons, that isn’t likely to change any time soon.”

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 992