LABOR REJECTS SCRUTINY

Adam Giles MLA

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The Henderson Government’s disregard for fiscal scrutiny reached a new low today, when Labor voted down dual motions designed to shine a light on Indigenous spending across the Territory.

The two motions would have seen an additional ‘book’ added to the stack on Budget day and a Standing Committee formed to inquire into all areas of Indigenous expenditure – including allocations from both the Territory and Federal governments.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy, Adam Giles, said the Government’s refusal to accept both amendments is another illustration it’s allergic to transparency and scrutiny-phobic.

“The Government frequently claims 52.4% of the Territory budget is allocated to Indigenous policy, but when an opportunity arises to support that figure with facts, Labor goes to jelly,” Mr Giles said.

“With a Territory budget of over $4billion, approximately $2billion is allocated to Indigenous policy.

“These motions would have provided scrutiny of poor outcomes in a range of services provided by Government including housing, roads, education, substance abuse and economic development.

“The Labor Party made no plausible explanation as to why they opposed these motions – apart from the fact they believe they’re behaving responsibility with monies allocated for Indigenous people.

“Others beg to differ. The welfare lobby and academia have repeatedly questioned whether Commonwealth money earmarked for Indigenous spending is reaching its intended targets.”

Mr Giles said Indigenous Territorians and others with an interest in Indigenous issues will continue to question the Government’s spending priorities until there is an adequate level of scrutiny applied.

“The Henderson Government should be condemned for its failure to support these very important motions.”

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