FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY DISAGREEMENT

The Government’s tough pre-election talk on how it would tackle youth crime was as hollow as a log – and somewhat less useful.

Shadow Child Protection Minister, Jodeen Carney, said the much hyped Family Responsibility initiative was a great big flop.

“The Minister, Kon Vatskalis, admitted as much during today’s Estimates Committee Hearings,” Ms Carney said.

“This Government’s so-called ‘comprehensive’ plan to tackle youth crime appears anything but.

“So far during the 2009-10 financial year only 12 Family Responsibility Agreements have been struck – that’s just six more than last year and a woefully inadequate number.

“But the supposed heavy hitter in the Government’s youth crime armoury, the Family Responsibility Orders, was even more pathetic.

“The Minister became defensive when he had to admit that zero such orders had been issued this financial year and that no goods – such as plasma televisions – had been seized as was hyped when the FROs were introduced.

“The Minister shouldn’t be defensive just because this Government’s over-blown rhetoric in the lead-up to the last election has been shown to be a sham.

“What he should in fact be doing is apologising to Territorians not just for the broken promise, but for the $73,378 dollars his Government spent on advertising this dodgy scheme in the weeks leading up to last election.

“The 2008 election result showed Territorians were rapidly losing patience with the Henderson Government’s lies.

“The failed family responsibility scheme and the porkies told during its implementation will only serve to confirm that distrust.”

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 992