Northern Territory Country Liberals Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Adam Giles today thanked out-going Willowra Government Business Manager Ralph Dein for his attempts to respond to the needs of the Northern Territory intervention.

Mr Dein was a Government Business Manager for the communities of Mt Liebig and most recently Willowra.

’He was the first Government Business Manager who lifted the lid on SIHIP failures’ said Mr Giles.

In responding to a request from Departmental superiors for SIHIP ‘good news stories’ Mr Dein spelt out what was happening with the program. He exposed the differences between expenditure that was spent with standard conditions using NT local suppliers and contractors and what the same work using Alliance contracting under SIHIP would have cost:

In 2008 six houses became vacant in Willowra:

“Eventually it was decided between the Central Desert Shire and Territory Housing that these houses should become inhabited but before this happened they should be refurbished. The houses were in a state of disrepair, as you may well imagine after 12 months unoccupied on a community. Territory Housing discussed a Special Release of SIHIP funds to the Central Desert Shire to get the work done on these houses and they would then re allocate them to other community members = Good Idea!” Mr Dein wrote.

He went on further to say

"6 x houses. Electrics checked and all faults rectified and new fans installed. Pressure Cleaned. Wet areas made safe and retiled if necessary and faulty equipment relaced. New stainless Steel kitchen sinks and benches installed. All windows replaced if necessary. Aluminium Security fitted to all windows. All doors repaired / replaced. All houses painted internally and externally.

Now under SIHIP this should have cost @$75k each = $450,000"

“[To complete all of the above refurbishments, including administration costs by the Shire, Superannuation paid by the employer, wages, purchase of materials, wages, transport to the community and WHATEVER the amount released from the Territory Housing was.....] $148,000 (ish)"

“Mr Dein’s work demonstrates clearly what should be achieved under the SIHIP program with the hundreds of millions of dollars available for refurbishments.

’He was being honest and truthful and his termination as a Government Business Manager flies in the face of all principles of providing frank and fearless advice’ said Mr Giles.

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118