HENDO’S DECEIT UNRAVELS
Adam Giles MLA
Date 18th June 2010

The web of deceit created by the Chief Minister surrounding SIHIP and the alliance construction model continues to unravel.

Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister, Adam Giles, said Paul Henderson’s claim in Estimates this week that the alliances were forced on the Territory by the Commonwealth was patently absurd.

In the process the Chief Minister misled the Parliament and misled Territorians.

“One of the men who was involved in the SIHIP process from the outset, former Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough, said that he was never in favour of an alliance model and first learned of its implementation in 2008 after the Coalition lost Government.”

Mr Brough says in today’s Australian newspaper:

‘Anyone that is saying that the Howard government foisted the alliance model upon the Territory – that is a total fabrication.’

“His comments also make a mockery of Labor Minister Chris Burns’ view that the Commonwealth held a gun to the Territory’s head to adopt an alliance model.”

Mr Giles said further proof the Chief Minister is deceiving Territorians about the level of control exercised by the Commonwealth is contained in the Memorandum of Understanding struck between the Commonwealth and Territory governments in September 2007.

“This document states very clearly that:

‘The Australian Government will have no further responsibility for the delivery of Indigenous housing, municipal, essential and infrastructure services in the Northern Territory from 1 July 2008’ (MOU attached).

“In other words, the delivery of SIHIP housing was always intended to be the responsibility of the NT Government, in whatever form.”

Mr Giles said around the time the Chief Minister claimed the Government was lobbying Canberra for a model other than SIHIP, Labor ministers were whole-heartedly supporting the alliance model.

“I’ve gone through Hansard and found examples of Henderson Government ministers supporting the alliance model,” he said.

“In May 2008 the then Deputy Chief Minister, Marion Scrymgour and senior Minister Kon Vatskalis heaped praise on alliancing.

“Ms Scrymgour said in Parliament that the alliance model ‘is being adopted to bring Aboriginal stakeholders, private enterprise and Government working together in this great social and economic enterprise. It is a model that is based on evidence’ (transcript attached).

“Mr Vatskalis said Alliance contracting ‘has a strong track record with large-scale projects that have a complex mix of objectives. It has been used successfully in Australia on the eastern seaboard and South Australia for nearly a decade’ (transcript attached).

“This effusive support from senior Labor Ministers shows why Paul Henderson failed to table documents to prove his claim the Labor Government fought the Commonwealth against the introduction of..."
Alliances.

“Had Territory Labor truly opposed Alliancing there would have been a paper trail. There isn’t. The Chief Minister has clearly misled the Parliament.

“History shows the Labor Government’s botched SIHIP, with $200 million spent over two-and-a-half years with just 11 houses built.

“And it didn’t take long for Federal Labor and Jenny Macklin to wrest control back.

“Aside from Paul Henderson’s failure to tell the truth, the real tragedy of SIHIP is that it was designed to protect children.

“It’s his inability to acknowledge his Government’s failure to deliver on this program that drove the Chief Minister to mislead the Parliament.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0418 833 594