Housing Minister, Dr Chris Burns today said that the Country Liberals were wrong again, and trying to undermine SIHIP by deliberately misrepresenting the number of completed houses built at Gunbalanya under the SIHIP program.

Dr Burns also said that yesterday’s media release by Adam Giles, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy was simply untrue.

“The facts are:

- there are 6 complete houses at Gunbalanya;
- Alliance staff weren’t constructing these houses when Mr Giles said he visited Gunbalanya. Mr Giles would have seen cleaners getting the houses ready for handover;
- people will be housed in them within the next week.
- transitional housing is important – it provides accommodation for people while houses are being rebuilt or refurbished and other new houses are being built;
- these houses are a significant step in achieving our targets in Gunbalanya of 62 new houses, 10 rebuilds, and 50 refurbishments;
- the training and employment of Indigenous people is an important part of SIHIP;
- a target of 20 percent Indigenous employment has been set and the program is currently exceeding this. Over 35 percent of the workforce is Indigenous and gaining valuable skills and experience.

“Adam Giles is throwing dust in the air to avoid answering two crucial questions: is the Federal Opposition committed to a 10-year Indigenous housing program; and are they committed to spending $1.7 billion over the period on this program?

“The only person misleading Territorians is Adam Giles and he needs to tell us what his Federal Opposition colleagues intend to do about SIHIP because he is reported as saying that they are going to abolish it.”

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