COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR PERPETUATES SIHIP DECEITS

John Elferink MLA

Date 3rd January 2011

The Government should immediately address the cost blow-outs that have plagued the SIHIP scheme.

Manager of Government Business, John Elferink, said the Government must clarify the cost of the scheme – in particular the cost to construct new houses.

“When it was first flagged, SIHIP was going to cost taxpayers $672million – now the final figure is expected to pass $1billion,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Government should detail exactly how much each new SIHIP home will cost and how it intends to rein in costs into the future.

“Claims it is meeting its housing targets ignore the fact that the housing type has been changed considerably since details of the plan were first released.

“It also ignores that up to $70 from the scheme cannot be accounted for.

“The figures used by Housing Minister Chris Burns are rubbery.

“In November, he said 93 SIHIP houses had been completed, while in the same breath saying he was confident 150 new houses would be built by the end of 2010.

“How many of the newly completed houses are occupied by Indigenous families?

“There are considerably more one-bedroom homes than originally planned, which suggests overcrowding in Indigenous communities will remain an issue.

“It’s troubling that people from within the SIHIP project are also concerned about its implementation.

“Former Territory Alliance manager, Alan Lobato, claimed up to 30% of the project’s budget is being spent on administration.

“This comment supports those made by SIHIP’s former director, Jim Davidson, who said the project’s targets were based on optimistic estimates and would significantly exceed budget.

“Jim Davidson was sacked – for telling the truth.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400