"Attorney General, Delia Lawrie, needs to intervene to save WorkSafe," says Shadow Justice Minister John Elferink.

"WorkSafe is a dysfunctional organisation that needs to be pulled apart and put back together under new management.

"The agency has suffered from chronic management problems over recent years and it is now affecting the organisation's capacity to deliver core services, particularly away from the major centres of Alice Springs and Darwin.

"The removal of WorkSafe officers from Katherine is an example of how the organisation is failing to meet its duties to the Territory community.

"Every year in Katherine WorkSafe inspectors visited premises selling fireworks, but this year no fireworks vendors were inspected.

"Several years ago a review of the organisation was carried out but the Bellin Report's recommendations have been completely ignored in spite of assurances to Parliament they had been implemented.

"This report identified serious and sustained management problems within the organisation.

"Department of Justice officials gave false and misleading information to the Estimates committee recently, in an effort to deflect from the Bellin Report's findings.

"The Department was unable to provide a straight answer to the most straightforward questions – even claiming it had acted on the 13 recommendations contained in the Bellin Report. In fact there were 17 recommendations.

"The Department of Justice should be above question when giving evidence before a committee, so for information to be sanitised and dishonest answers given is disappointing.

"WorkSafe has had a massive staff turn-over in recent years and I have been contacted by many former staff members telling me the organisation is in disarray.

"The Attorney General must step in and fix WorkSafe in the interests of worker and community safety in the Territory."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400