MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR METES OUT THE PUNISHMENT

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Slightly more than a dozen inmates in the Territory’s prison system completed education and training courses, according to the Government.

During Estimates Committee hearings, Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy today admitted that of the 652 commencements, only 13 inmates completed prescribed courses within the Territory prison system.

“This figure reflects the failure in the Henderson Government’s implementation of training and rehabilitation programs in the Territory,” says Shadow Justice Minister, John Elferink.

“In the nine months to March 31:

- 10 inmates completed anger management awareness and treatment programs
- 24 inmates completed Indigenous family violence programs
- 8 completed illicit drugs programs
- 82 completed alcohol awareness and treatment programs
- 0 completed cannabis awareness and treatment programs

“Given that there are almost 1200 inmates in the Darwin and Alice Springs prisons, these numbers are disturbingly low.

“Less than one in 10 offenders undertook violence and substance abuse or anger management programs.

“The Labor Government pays lip service to rehabilitation but the talk isn’t supported by the facts.

“Only through sustained and on-going programs of rehabilitation will prisoners be able to break the cycle of crime when they are released.

“The number of alcohol treatment program completions speaks volumes for Labor’s approach to tackling crime.

“Instead of trying to reduce alcohol demand by compelling prisoners undertake mandatory rehabilitation, the Labor Government prefers to penalise all Territorians with grog bans and showing a license to drink.”

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