Embarrassed by the surge in highly paid executives, the Henderson Government has resorted to sleight of hand to make the problem disappear.

"The Government admitted during Estimates hearings that it changed the public service classification from Executive Officer 1 to Senior Administrative Officer for 127 Northern Territory bureaucrats.

"While Labor can now claim to have fewer EO level staff, the SAOs are being handsomely rewarded at higher levels for the same work.

"Executive positions have exploded under Labor and this can only be seen as an attempt to manipulate figures that have embarrassed the Government.

"So rather than reducing the number of executive level bureaucrats, Labor has merely changed the name.

"The Government would have you believe that if you call an elephant a mouse, it will squeak and eat cheese.

"This is a predictable outcome from a dishonest and deceptive Government.

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