MEDIA RELEASE

TRAMPLING ON OUR RIGHTS

November 24th, 2011

The Territory Labor Government has again ceded its sovereignty to the Commonwealth as a direct result of its failure to bring about improvements in living conditions on Aboriginal communities.

Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister, Adam Giles, said the Commonwealth’s second Intervention tramples on Territory laws and shines a light on the Territory Government’s lack of competence and capacity.

“Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Jenny Macklin, delivered a damning critique of Territory Labor’s performance when she released details of the second intervention,” Mr Giles said.

“And the Government has just rolled over and accepted laws that ‘allow regulations to be made to modify particular laws of the Northern Territory’.

“Under Labor’s second intervention, southern bureaucrats will effectively have the power to shut down any pub or bottle shop that is seen to adversely affect Indigenous Territorians.

“It also means that any shop that sells food could be required to submit to a draconian set of Commonwealth rules.

“It should be an embarrassment to this Government that its sovereignty has been ceded to the Commonwealth.

“In 2007, the same Labor Government was furious when the Emergency Response was announced. Now the Chief Minister’s falling over himself to support the second Intervention.”

Mr Giles said the Territory is being poorly served by Indigenous Affairs and Statehood Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy.

“In her capacity as Statehood Minister, she took part in a motion that congratulated:

‘... both houses of the federal Parliament in Canberra for the successful passage of legislation which increases the rights of Territorians.’

“But as Indigenous Affairs Minister, she’s happy to hand over the Territory’s rights to the Commonwealth because her Government can’t cope.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118