MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR FAIL ON SIHIP PAYMENT CRISIS

Friday July 27th, 2012

The Labor Government must take charge and fix the mess around non-payment of SIHIP workers in Central Australia.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy, Adam Giles, said the decision by about 40 SIHIP employees to walk off the job today shows Labor’s efforts to resolve the payment crisis have failed.

“Last week Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Jenny Macklin, told media the Northern Territory Government was ‘working through some of the issues’ relating to worker non-payment.

“If today’s walk off is any guide, the Henderson Labor Government’s dispute resolution processes have been a great big fail.

“It is appalling that, through no fault of their own, workers are not being paid.

“This is hurting workers, families and households and a resolution is needed now.

“The SIHIP scheme has become a blue-print for incompetence since Labor took the reins back in 2007.

“Administrative blow-outs, lack of transparency, value for money shortfalls and shoddy workmanship have been a feature of the $1.8billion scheme.

“Government needs to explain whether the scheme has run out of money before its targets have been met.

“This is the same Labor Government that is trying to foist on Territorians an un-tested $50million home loan scheme that has been roundly condemned by independent commentators.
“Labor lacks the capacity to deliver housing programs for Territorians.

“It has shown it is capable of wasting millions-of-dollars of Territory taxpayer money with precious little outcome at the end point.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118