Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie says the CLP’s scrapping of the Family Group Conferencing programs in Alice Springs shows they have no commitment to child protection.

“The claim by the Chief Minister that the changes originated with the previous Government are not true,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Full funding for the program was allocated in the budget, the CLP have now scrapped it effective October 1.

“This is yet another case of the CLP being dishonest with Territorians and attempting to secretly cut vital programs. Once again it has taken a Whistleblower to draw attention to the CLP’s secret plans.

“The establishment of the Family Group Conferencing programs was a direct response to the Child Protection Board of Inquiry’s recommendation 31 which states “That an Aboriginal family group conferencing and/or other culturally appropriate decision making models be developed and progressively implemented to cover all key service regions in the Northern Territory”.


“In the last year, 40 referrals have been accepted for Family Group Conferencing, 150 Aboriginal family members have directly participated in conferences, and upwards of 15 Aboriginal children have been returned to safe family placements and others re-engaged with their culture and family members.

“All the experts agree - this program is helping to protect children. Why would the CLP scrap it?” Ms Lawrie asked.

“Minister for Child Protection Robyn Lambley, must come clean on which other Board of Inquiry recommendations she intends to scrap.

“Robyn Lambley has already made it clear she does not respect child protection experts and thinks she knows better,” Ms Lawrie said.
“The scrapping of the Family Group Conferencing programs shows it is very clear that the CLP will return to the days where child abuse and protection was ignored.”

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