MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Gunner
Shadow Minister for Police

22 February 2013

CLP have no credibility on crime

Shadow Minister for Police, Michael Gunner, said the CLP’s spin that crime, anti-social behavior and drunkenness are down is completely out of touch.

Mr Gunner said that at 180 days into the CLP’s 100 day plan, the CLP have broken their promise to immediately remove drunks from our streets.

“Territory Police, the director of public prosecutions, Supreme Court judges, Magistrates, nurses, doctors, frontline service workers, aboriginal health organisations – everyone involved in the carnage caused by alcohol said the BDR should not have been scrapped,” Mr Gunner said.

“The CLP can claim victory over drunks all they want, but Territory locals and small business owners can see there are more drunks since the BDR was scrapped.

“Crime statistics can be affected by a number of variables. Under the BDR, police had extra powers to charge someone for being drunk and put them on the BDR, which is why police said it was the best tool they had at fighting crime.

“With the scrapping of the BDR, police lost their most effective tool at fighting alcohol related crime, and if you’re not tackling alcohol, you’re not tackling crime.

“The CLP Health Minister, Dave Tollner, said on Monday 18 February 2013 that emergency department wait times are rising because Police are increasingly taking drunken people to the hospital.”

Mr Gunner said that all the experts agree that comparing one quarter of crime stats with another is ineffective, and that is especially true in a small population like the Territory.

“For example, it only takes a police crackdown on domestic violence in a particular area for crime statistics to be significantly increased over a quarter. It is for that reason that crime statistics were changed to annual reporting, bringing them into line with the rest of the country,” Mr Gunner said.

Media Contact: 0401 119 794