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Experts reject Giles on forced adoptions

The CLP Chief Minister needs to scrap his forced adoption policy and focus instead on delivering real support to assist children and families at risk, Shadow Minister for Child Protection Natasha Fyles said today.

“Over recent days we have seen child safety experts tell Adam Giles his policy of forced adoptions is not the way to go. It’s time for him to admit he was wrong and instead focus on delivering real services and support to children, instead of cutting them,” Ms Fyles said today.

The NT Children’s Commissioner Dr Howard Bath spoke out last week to say a better alternative to forced adoptions is long term guardianship and our Chief Magistrate has highlighted children are not being identified as being at risk when they come from an Aboriginal community.

“The problem identified by the Chief Magistrate cannot be ignored. Failing to identify children as being at risk as there are no follow up services available to deal with the notification is just unacceptable,” Ms Fyles said.

“In their first budget the Giles Government shamefully cut funds to child protection and raised to 6,000 the number of investigations that simply won’t be done.

“It’s about time Adam Giles started focusing on the real work of protecting children instead of headline chasing. All of the experts at the coalface are saying what he is ignoring. It’s time for him to admit he got it wrong and return to real efforts being made in the ‘Growing them Strong together’ plan to improve child protection and family support, which the CLP have scrapped.

“No Government can say they are listening to Territorians or delivering for all when they target the most needy and vulnerable in our community. It’s time for a change of heart from Chief Minister Giles.”

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