ELFERINK WIELDS THE KNIFE ON CHILD PROTECTION

Shadow Minister for Children and Families Lynne Walker said today a key agency in the NT’s child protection system had joined the long list of services cut by the CLP Government.

Ms Walker said the Strong Aboriginal Families Together peak body on child and family wellbeing has been informed that it will no longer receive NT Government funding.

“The establishment of SAFT was a key recommendation of the 2010 Board of Inquiry and has been the target of continual CLP cuts.

“The CLP Government initially cut $1 million in funding, money that was supposed to set up and operate the Aboriginal Child Care Agency – an urgent recommendation of the Board of Inquiry.

“Now SAFT has been told to wind up its operations entirely.”

Ms Walker said the CLP Government should be condemned for abandoning families at risk and slashing the child protection system.

“Since coming to power, the CLP have cut funding and ignored the years of work and expert advice that went into building our child protection system.

“The child protection system is in crisis, with more notifications than ever before, but fewer investigations.

“The Government would prefer to put kids in expensive placements with interstate commercial providers than here in the Territory, developing and supporting our own providers.

“Minister for Children and Families John Elferink should start taking responsibility rather than blaming others for the piecemeal approach to child protection that is failing families and children at risk.”

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