CLP ALCOHOL POLICIES RAISE TENSIONS IN ALICE SPRINGS

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy today called on Chief Minister Adam Giles to admit the CLP Government’s alcohol policies are putting undue strain on the community of Alice Springs.

Mr Gunner said it was clear the CLP Government’s failed alcohol polices had seen alcohol related crime and alcohol related hospital admissions rise significantly across the Territory since August 2012.

“The latest crime statistics show over the last 12 months assault is up 9.5%, domestic violence related assault is up 13.3% and alcohol related assault is up 11.8% in Alice Springs,” Mr Gunner said.

“Coupled with the fact that alcohol related admissions to Alice Springs Hospital have increased by 86% since August 2012, it’s clear that Alice Springs is paying a heavy price for the CLP Government’s failure to heed the warnings of experts that its policies would be a disaster.

“Alice Springs indigenous leaders are now calling for the CLP to scrap their Alcohol Protection Order (APO) legislation which they view as unfairly targeting indigenous Territorians and have organised a protest march tomorrow.

“It’s simply unacceptable that the Chief Minister has put Territory Police in the middle of this conflict by forcing them to act as door men outside liquor outlets to enforce his nonsensical APO laws.

“Our Territory police do a fantastic job but their resources are currently being drained by being forced to clean up the Chief Minister’s failed alcohol policies.

“It’s beyond time that the Chief Minister listen to the residents of Alice Springs, admit that his polices have been a failure, let our police force focus on fighting crime and heed the advice of experts in creating alcohol policies that actually work.”

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