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CLP COVER UP ON ALCOHOL POLICY FAILURE

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today called on the NT Government to drop the wall of secrecy and let police and health professionals tell a Federal Parliamentary inquiry about the effects of alcohol abuse in Territory communities.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP Government was so desperate to hide the failure of their alcohol policies they were banning public servants from talking.

"I challenge the CLP to stop the culture of cover up and let frontline workers tell the truth about alcohol policy tools in the Territory," Ms Lawrie said.

“The failure of the CLP Government’s approach to dealing with alcohol was highlighted at yesterday’s hearing in Alice Springs, with many of those giving evidence calling for the reinstatement of the Banned Drinkers Register.

“It was revealed yesterday that Alice Springs has effectively been under a takeaway ‘lockdown’ for the past five weeks.

“Police have had a blanket presence at bottle shops in Alice, asking customers to show identification and explain where they intend to drink their purchases.

“What Chief Minister Adam Giles has had in place in Alice for the past five weeks is a more intrusive, less effective BDR – one based on where people live rather than a simple ID check at point of sale applied to all.

“The Giles BDR is causing a lot of tension in Alice Springs with many Indigenous people feeling targeted.

“The head of the Federal Inquiry, Liberal MP Dr Sharman Stone, expressed concerns at yesterday’s hearing about the discriminatory nature of the CLP’s alcohol policies.

“Adam Giles needs to listen to the evidence of people at the front line dealing with alcohol abuse issues, police and health workers, and reinstate a BDR that doesn’t rely on police checks and that works by turning off the tap to problem drinkers.”

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