BIG SPENDING GILES HIDES THE SPIN COSTS

Shadow Minister for Government Accountability, Ken Vowles has called on the Chief Minister Adam Giles to admit the full costs of his spin machine and promotions.

“Of 81 questions asked by Shadow Ministers and Independents at Estimates, so far the Government has seen fit to answer just 20,” Mr Vowles said.

“Many of these questions would normally have been answered on the day they were asked or within 24 hours but eight days on public information is still being withheld.

“What does Adam Giles have to hide?” Mr Vowles asked.

Among the many questions unanswered was the cost of the Developing the North and Festivals NT promotion campaigns.

"Add these to the Territory Day campaign and we have a huge Government spin campaign but no explanation of costs.

“While the Government takes the axe to Police, Education and Health funding, Adam Giles is going on a promotional spending spree after he increased the Department of Chief Minister budget by $33 million.

“Another question unanswered is the cost of the Chief Minister's spin machine. Just how much is his media and communications unit costing taxpayers?”

Mr Vowles said while Territorians were outraged at the $90,000 charter flight Adam Giles took to return from Vietnam for a photo opportunity with the Prime Minister, what most people did not know was that $30,000 worth of Commercial flight tickets were left abandoned as a result.

“That $30,000 can now be added to the cost of the charter,” Mr Vowles said.

“The $120,000 Adam Giles flight that he demanded is the most expensive political photo opportunity in Territory history.”

Media Contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667
Michael Gleeson 0400 096 924