MEDIA RELEASE

Delia Lawrie
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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CLP TURNS THEIR BACK ON ALICE YOUTH

Opposition Leader, Delia Lawrie, said today she was shocked to learn of the CLP Government’s short sighted decision to shut down the Alice Springs Youth Hub.

Ms Lawrie said the Youth Hub was set up as part of a bipartisan approach to youth issues in Alice Springs with support from the community and youth sector non-government organisations (NGOs).

“One of the issues the Alice Springs community identified was the need to have a co-ordinated approach from the different youth sector agencies to ensure young people weren’t falling through the gaps,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Youth Hub was a central youth-friendly space where services were co-located, providing an integrated supported approach to youth issues – a one-stop shop.

“Under the previous Labor Government programs such as the Youth Outreach Service, Family Support Centre, the Youth At Risk team, Youth Co-ordination services, youth recreation and activities, events, Incite Youth Arts, Create, NTCOSS and alternative education programs all operated from the Hub.

“This partnership approach was working and supported by the youth sector.

“We’ve just seen the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, open a new multimillion dollar facility at the Alice Springs Youth Centre, right next door to the Hub.

“Moving services away from spaces where kids are makes no sense and does nothing to make sure services are targeting those who need them most.

“But the CLP Government’s approach seems to be making sure our juvenile detention facilities and jails are full, rather than focusing on approaches that might keep kids out of the criminal justice system.”

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667