Shadow Minister for Children and Families Lauren Moss said today the CLP Government has clearly dropped the ball on youth issues in Alice Springs.

"The Giles Government is not protecting young people and it's failing to ensure the safety of the wider Alice Springs community," Ms Moss said.

"Pleas by the Alice Springs Town Council to the NT Government to take action on rising levels of crime and antisocial behaviour demonstrate just how urgent the situation has become this summer.

"The current situation shows that Family and Children’s Minister John Elferink was wrong when he cut funding to youth services because he claimed there was duplication.

"He cut the money to programs operating night youth services and there is a crisis in Alice Springs with young people out on the streets at all hours, putting themselves and others at risk.

"Pulling the late night services out of Alice Springs and putting the responsibility totally on to police is just not working.

"We have already seen a tragic event this summer in Alice Springs and the NT Government should be taking steps to make sure this doesn’t happen again.

"Youth services have been saying very clearly that the funding cuts have seen a rise in risky behaviour from young people in Alice Springs and the Town Council has now highlighted a serious decline in community safety.

"The four CLP MLAs who live in Alice Springs, including the Chief Minister, have all remained silent and are refusing to acknowledge there is a serious issue in town.

"The CLP Government must act immediately to work with the youth and family services sector, restore youth services that were out there engaging with and diverting young people on the streets at night, keeping kids and the community safe."

Contact: Mandy Taylor 0414 634159