MEDIA RELEASE

Lynne Walker
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S POLICY

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SENATE BACKS REINSTATEMENT OF BANNED DRINKERS REGISTER

The CLP Government should implement the findings of a Senate Inquiry and immediately reintroduce the Banned Drinkers Register to protect women and children from domestic and family violence, Shadow Women’s Policy Minister Lynne Walker said today.

Ms Walker said the Senate Inquiry sitting in Darwin last week heard compelling evidence from witnesses that the BDR worked to reduce alcohol-related violence against women.

“The Inquiry’s interim report has recommended the BDR be reinstated after hearing horrific stories from frontline services dealing with the Territory’s appalling rates of violence.

“We know the BDR was effective at tackling alcohol-related domestic and family violence.

“The fact is that Temporary Beat Locations provide a false sense of security when it comes to reducing domestic and family violence,” Ms Walker said.

“TBLs aren’t a permanent solution and there is growing anecdotal evidence of black market sales in towns like Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

“Anecdotal evidence suggests hardcore drinkers are also being pushed up the track into Darwin and Palmerston.

“We need to be looking at a suite of complementary measures to make women and children safer and I call on CLP Minister Bess Price to take up the Senate Inquiry recommendations.

“If Minister Price is serious about making Territory women and children safer, and not just talking about it, she should be lobbying the Federal Government hard to restore funding to housing and homeless services, legal aid and increasing the capacity of services.

“And she should be going straight to the Chief Minister and telling him to reinstate the BDR.

“The women and children of the Northern Territory deserve to live in safety and the Senate Inquiry recommendations give Minister Price a clear path to make it happen.”

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