Labor, what do you really think about Temporary Beat Locations?

21 April 2015

Labor’s disunity has been on show for all to see with conflicting opinions about the Government’s hugely successful policy of placing Police outside bottleshops.

Member for Nightcliff, Natasha Fyles told ABC radio today that an elected Labor government will replace the successful Temporary Beat Locations with the failed Banned Drinker Register or BDR.

Justice Minister John Elferink said the BDR didn’t work when Delia Lawrie introduced it back when she was in Government and Michael Gunner has proven his inexperience by deciding to go back down the same path.

“Different captain same sinking ship and same failed alcohol policy,” Mr Elferink said.

“It is bizarre that Michael Gunner would promise to scrap something that even his own team admits is working and then resurrect a failed Labor initiative in its place.

“The BDR didn’t work. We had more people drinking than ever before. Under our suite of alcohol measures, including placing Police at bottleshops and Alcohol Mandatory Treatment, we have seen alcohol consumption drop to its lowest levels since the 1990’s.

“We support initiatives that change people’s lives and help them kick the habit. The BDR never produced the kind of results we are seeing now.

“It’s time for Labor to acknowledge that the Country Liberals’ approach is delivering superior results and to bury its Banned Drinker Register once and for all.”

Since the introduction of TBLs, total assaults in Tennant Creek have more than halved, in Alice Springs alcohol related assaults are down 32 per cent and in Katherine they’re down 17 per cent.

“TBLs have proven successful in driving down alcohol-related assaults and we make no apology for spending money on this policy when it is saving hundreds of women and children from the violence associated with alcohol abuse,” Mr Elferink said.

“How will the people of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine in particular feel about this successful policy being axed?”
The success of TBLs has the Labor party divided and confused with some members taking to Parliament and media releases to voice their own conflicting opinions.

**Member for Nightcliff, Natasha Fyles,** has had a punt both way.

- She said in Parliament on 24 February 2015: *“Where Temporary Beat Locations are in place, alcohol-related crime data is down.”*

- But then this morning on ABC Radio suggested that Labor would scrap TBLs in Government: *“REPORTER: So Temporary Beats would go, be replaced by a BDR...? FYLES: Absolutely...”*

**Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker,** has been on both sides of the fence.

- She said in a media release on 20 February 2015: *“Temporary Beat Locations have been a success in lowering crime statistics.”*

- In Parliament on 24 March 2015 she also admitted: *“TBLs are making a dent on crime in Alice Springs.”*

- But on 20 March in a press release she said: *“The fact is that Temporary Beat Locations provide a false sense of security when it comes to reducing domestic and family violence.”*

**Member for Karama, Delia Lawrie,** has also flip flopped on the issue.

- In Parliament on 24 February 2015 she conceded: *“There has been some success in reduction of alcohol consumption.”*

- But on ABC Radio in 23 April last year she said TBLs are a *“stupid policy move as far as the Opposition is concerned.”*

“I know Labor members don’t communicate with each other, as Michael Gunner has openly admitted, but on a matter this important you would hope the opposition could stop this flip flopping and put the safety of our community first,” Mr Elferink said.

“They clearly don’t know what they think.”

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