FEDERAL LABOR FAILS TO RESTRICT ALCOHOL SUPPLY

The Federal Labor Government is failing Territorians by refusing to allow welfare quarantining provisions that would restrict supply for problem drinkers after Alcohol Mandatory Treatment.

Health Minister, Robyn Lambley, said the Commonwealth’s decision is political, will hurt vulnerable Territorians and fails families and communities.

“The Commonwealth has given problem drinkers a license to drink after Alcohol Mandatory Treatment,” Mrs Lambley said.

“They have said it’s okay for problem drinkers to spend their Centrelink money on alcohol, rather than essentials like food and their children’s education.

“Instead of supporting the Territory’s innovative, treatment-based approach to dealing with problem drinkers, the Prime Minister has chosen to put politics ahead of health outcomes.

“Claiming the focus should be on restricting supply, the Prime Minister wants to turn on the tap for problem drinkers leaving treatment.

“The hypocrisy of Labor is unmissable.

“Delia Lawrie and the Labor Government had welfare quarantining as a component of its failed Banned Drinker Register – but the Gillard Labor Government says ‘no’ when a non-Labor party is in power.

“The Territory Government will continue to implement Alcohol Mandatory Treatment and the positive benefits it will deliver to problem drinkers.

“I will continue to engage with the Commonwealth to have this regrettable decision overturned.”

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