MEDIA RELEASE

Nicole Manison
SHADOW MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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Annual Reports Highlights a CLP Government That Just Can’t Get Its Act Together

Department Annual Reports are highlighting a Government that is taking its eye off the ball and should be removed from office as soon as possible, according to Shadow Minister for Government Accountability Nicole Manison.

"The reports show gaps in delivery and loss of services to Territorians. Several Departments report loss of frontline jobs, reduction in services and poorer outcomes,” Ms Manison said.

"The Annual Reports of Health, Education, Corrections, Police, Children’s Commissioner and other areas all make for concerning reading.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Education
• A reduction in the number of indigenous students achieving a Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training;
• Across the board declines in outcomes of indigenous outcomes in NAPLAN; and
• Loss of 32 AO2 support positions, 12 assistant teachers, 60 classroom teachers and 16 senior teacher positions.

The Children’s Commissioner
• There are now 997 children in out of home care and there were 110 substantiated cases of children abused while in the care
• Priority 1 investigations, for children in danger, only commenced within 24 hours 89% of the time instead of 100%.
• Only 44% of investigations were completed within 28 days, and a further 25% not completed within 62 days; and
• The number of unresolved investigations as at 30 June was 1,301 an increase from 1,160 last year.

The Police
• Full time equivalent staff has decreased in the last financial year (1406 to 1397);
• The number of constables has decreased from 886 to 860;
• The number of remote sergeants has decreased from 41 to 20 FTE; and
• The number of police auxiliary has decreased from 129 to 118 FTE.
**Correctional Services**
- 17 breakouts for Youth Justice;
- Juvenile Justice only allocated $2.85 million towards diversion and rehabilitation grants instead of a budgeted $3.8 million – funds reallocated to operational expenditure;
- It was budgeted that 92 would complete youth boot camps, but only 52 did;
- Youth Justice Framework was signed off by Cabinet in May 2015 - but never released;
- Twelve breakouts for adult prisoners in one year; and
- Increase in the number of prisoners at 903 per 100,000, almost 5 times the national average and growing (847 in 13/14) – total prisoners 1,599 at 30 June 2015.

**Health**
- National target for ED presentations to depart within 4 hrs was 83% - this occurred for only 60% of patients in Top End Hospital emergency departments.
- Top End Hospitals did not meet any of their elective surgery targets, for categories 1, 2 and 3 as set by their Service Delivery Agreement – this means that people are waiting longer than their clinically appropriate time for treatment.

**Alcohol:**
- Alcohol mandatory treatment annual figures show an abject failure; with the Tennant Creek centre scrapped and only 482 referrals for treatment (budgeted for 800) of which 275 commenced. There are no figures available for those people that completed treatment.

“The ongoing division and political crisis created by this government has provided uncertainty for business and the community.

“It is now clearly affecting the delivery of services to Territorians.

“It’s time for an election,” Ms Manison said.

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