Jodeen Carney
Shadow Attorney-General,
Shadow Minister for Justice, and Women's Policy

**Review risks 'dumbing down' some Correctional standards and confusion**

16 April 2004

The Shadow Minister for Justice, Jodeen Carney, has expressed fears that elements of this week's correctional review could lower the standards of jails in the Northern Territory and has called on the Government to reassure Territorians of their safety.

"Revelations that future prison guards will have their entry criteria reduced to attract more indigenous staff and that the review has recommended no real increase in staff numbers have already angered prison guards,' Ms Carney said today.

It is interesting that Dr Toyne has said that the “softening of the entrants criteria would apply to indigenous and non-indigenous applicants”.

"That's not what the review says and Peter Toyne needs to get his lines right. Only days ago he said he accepted the recommendations of the report. Within days he's apparently changing the recommendations. Whether future employees with criminal records will be indigenous or non-indigenous, there is wide spread concern about criminals guarding criminals”. Ms Carney said.

“Prison officers are worried about the effects of the review already, and now they are worried about the Minister changing things within the space of a few days. What else will change”? Ms Carney said.

“The news that the review recommends a higher percentage of minimum-security beds means many current prisoners will have their security standards down-graded, putting them in areas from where it will easier to escape, is also a concern.

“Many people are worried that Labor Government is so willing to potentially put the safety of Territorians at risk and my phone has been ringing hot”. Ms Carney said.

‘The reduction in security is being justified on economic grounds, but this simply makes no sense, when the report itself identifies the Northern Territory as already having the lowest cost per inmate in Australia and in comparable jurisdictions such as New Zealand, England and Canada.

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