Fay Miller
Shadow Minister for Tourism, Housing, and Youth

$50 000 for Barunga Festival but nothing for our school kids

24 March 2004

Why can the Territory Government find $50 000 to stop grog being sold at the Barunga Sport and Cultural Festival yet it won't find the funds so that 2000 kids from 62 schools across the Territory can attend this year's youth and culture Croc Festival, CLP member for Katherine Fay Miller said today.

Mrs Miller has called on the Martin Government to stop its penny pinching and to get its priorities right.

“It is a disgrace. How does the Martin Government make a decision to find the money to cover alcohol profits yet decides it can't find the money to cover the cost of this festival for Territory school kids,” Mrs Miller said.

“On the one hand the Martin Government is happy to reach into its bulging pockets and guarantee the Barunga Festival if it doesn't sell alcohol and on the other it says it can't find $50 a student for this year's festival.

“It is hypocritical for Chief Minister Clare Martin's Deputy Syd Stirling to laud the Festival for ” bringing together indigenous and non-indigenous young Australians in a vibrant environment,” but then refuse to support it.

“Once again the Chief Minister Clare Martin is punishing Katherine.

“The Chief Minister promised the people of Katherine the world when she wanted their vote at the Katherine by-election. Now the Chief Minister isn't interested in them.


“The Croc Festival was considered worthwhile by the Chief Minister when held in the Labor seats of Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek. What's changed? Certainly not the value of the Croc Festival.”

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