17 August 2004
Carney Confused About Money Laundering Bill

The CLP’s Jodeen Carney simply doesn’t understand proposed new laws to make it more difficult for criminals to launder money.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne will introduce the Criminal Code (Money Laundering) Amendment Bill to the NT Parliament this week.

Dr Toyne said the Bill will make it an offence to deal with the proceeds of a crime or deal with property used to carry out a crime.

“Crime simply won’t pay under these laws,” Dr Toyne said.

Ms Carney has had a bob each way in response to the bill, on one hand she’s saying it’s a rehash of an old bill, and on the other she says it’s an admission the Government’s attempts to fight serious crime have failed.

She’s wrong on both counts.

The Bill reinforces the Criminal Forfeiture Act which has seized or restrained $2 million dollars since being introduced earlier this year.

It’s a reinforcement of the tough laws in place which have already been successful in fighting serious crime.

Unlike our CLP predecessors, this Government is serious about crime.

Property crime has dropped by 30 per cent across the Territory since the Martin Government was elected.

The figures speak for themselves.

In the last year of the bumbling attempts at crime control by the CLP there were 29,755 property offences.

Within 3 years that figure has dropped by more than 9,000 offences a year – that’s 9000 less victims of crime each year.

This has been achieved by targeting trouble spots, putting more police on the beat and the development of Crime Prevention Councils.

This new bill is just as focussed, the legal spotlight shining directly at criminals trying to launder money.

It’s part of a wide-ranging approach by the Government to crackdown on the proceeds of crime, following the introduction of the Criminal Proceeds Forfeiture Act.
It’s part of a national initiative to stem money laundering and organised crime networks.”

The offences to be inserted in the Criminal Code by this Bill follow the recommendations of the Joint Working Group on National Investigation Powers which have the support of all the State and Territory Attorneys-General.