During question time today the Chief Minister said that public drunkenness in the Territory was the product of "150 to 200" people. In response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition the Chief Minister said,

"When we have the Opposition saying there are 22,000 drunks and putting out press releases saying 'thousands of drunks across the Territory is rubbish. It is rubbish. We know that our serious problem is on of small group, of which we are talking about 150 to 200 repeat offenders."

The Leader of the Opposition, Jodeen Carney expressed her astonishment at these claims.

“If the 22,000 arrests made last year were caused by 200 people then each of those people were arrested 110 times each.

“This is the problem we’re sick of. Where else in the world would a community tolerate a person who was arrested once every three days?

“If what the Chief Minister says is true then she has admitted that with the whole of the resources of government and a police force of over 1000 members have not been able to control 200 drunks in five years.

“Those comments are an astonishing admission of failure of Government policy.

“Government has tried the softly softly approach and spent millions on improving services to itinerants in our major centres.

“That has had the effect of increasing the number of people coming into the major centres and I can tell you there are more than just 200 people making mischief and causing problems for law abiding Territory families.

“We know that Territorians are sick of drunks ruining their life styles and our Safe Streets package will directly target those people who ruin our communities.

“If there are only 200 drunks around then under the CLP we will deal with them quick smart.”

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