MEDIA RELEASE
LORAIN Braham MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR BRAINTLING

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NEXT YEAR IS TOO LONG TO WAIT

Claims the NT Government is leading the nation in the fight against petrol sniffing seem shallow when the Minister admits that the necessary guidelines and regulations will not be ready until early next year.

Loraine Braham, Independent Member for Braitling, said the current coronial inquest at Mutijulu has highlighted many issues about the Government’s new petrol sniffing law that needed to be addressed, such as:

- Who can be an authorised person to apprehend sniffers?
- What training and powers will be required by these authorised persons?
- Why couldn’t the Magistrate take the petrol off the sniffer who entered the inquest hearing?
- What happens if someone other than an authorised person takes petrol off a sniffer?
- When will the urban facility in Alice Springs be identified?
- Will Aranda House - a facility now lying idle - be used?
- Why promote opal fuel across regions that, like alcohol restrictions, will push the problem into towns?

"The solution to this problem lies in Aboriginal parents, elders, and community leaders being empowered to act swiftly on petrol sniffers", said Mrs Braham. "Early intervention is crucial and the Government has an obligation to ensure there are support mechanisms".

"Only when Aboriginal people can take an early intervention approach will the scourge of petrol sniffing really be addressed".

Contact Loraine Braham: ph Alice Springs 89524177; Darwin 89461476; mob 0419861467