Parenting Payments Tied to School Attendance

CLP Candidate for Lingiari, Adam Giles, has welcomed Labor's belated pledge to link welfare payments with school attendance.

“I've proposed a similar policy in my Fundamental Economic Welfare Reform platform, although linking welfare payments with school attendance is only part of the solution,” says Mr Giles.

“The next step is for the Martin Government to liaise with the Federal Government to enable welfare funds to be directly channelled into the school system to provide lunch and dinner programmes.

“The first task is to get the kids to school and once there, ensure they've had enough to eat - hungry children don't learn.

'We need to take care of the basics if the kids are to going to fulfil their potential.

‘To achieve that the money withheld needs to be transferred to the school.

“We also need education and training programmes such as literacy for the parents in these communities.

“Will Ms Martin now realise that putting money into such practical measures is of enormous benefit to the whole community?

“I'm calling on the Chief Minister to put some flesh on a proposal that was noticeably thin in detail.

Mr Giles said that he hoped Ms Martin's 'sudden interest' in this matter wasn't just because the report into violence in Aboriginal communities is due soon.

“I want to see real progress amongst the disadvantaged in our community.

“That will require the kids being washed, fed, clothed and educated.”

Contact: Adam Giles 0421 588 118

Adam Giles - Lingiari@bigpond.com 0421558118 or PO Box 339 Alice Springs NT 0871