GENOCIDE IT ISN’T: FAILURE IT IS

The accusation of genocide levelled at the Labor Government by Tracker Tilmouth has been condemned by the Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister, Terry Mills.

“The use of the word genocide is as inappropriate as it is wrong,” says Mr Mills.

“Overblown rhetoric won’t help solve the deep seated problems that beset indigenous education in the Territory.

“That said, Tracker Tilmouth does have good reason for tackling the Martin Government in respect of outcomes in indigenous education in the Territory.

“While the Martin Labor Government made some initial gains in indigenous education outcomes, the trend is almost exclusively and alarmingly downward in the past two years.”

Indeed in two of the key performance benchmarks for indigenous students the results are actually worse than when the Martin Government was elected.

Year 3 writing achievement is now below its 2001 level for indigenous students in Government schools. Year 7 reading achievements have also gone backwards for indigenous kids.

“These results reflect directly on the Martin Government,” says Mr Mills.

“Given the vast increase in resources at the disposal of the Martin Government, for indigenous education to go backwards in two benchmark areas and be virtually stagnant in all others, is not good enough.

“While the Martin Labor Government make questionable boasts about spending, it is school results that speak far louder.

“A place to begin is actually getting the kids to go to school in the first place.

“For all the talk, school attendance rates remain alarmingly low.

“The measures the Martin Government is taking are obviously not working.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594