16th February 2007

MARTIN GOVERNMENT SLOPPY AND LAZY

The last 24 hours have produced an extraordinary series of elementary gaffs by Ministers in the Martin Government, say the Territory Opposition.

In quick succession it was revealed the Chief Minister, Clare Martin, didn’t know there are height restrictions in the Darwin plan; the Minister for Health, Chris Burns didn’t know basic recruitment and retention figures for nurses in the Territory; the Minister for Mines and Energy, Chris Natt, didn’t know the gas pipeline from PNG has fallen over; and the Minister for Workplace Relations, Paul Henderson, didn’t remember his Government spurned collective negotiations with the Nurses Federation.

“Never before have so many Ministers been exposed as knowing so little in so short a space of time,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“The context of the gaffs only makes the situation worse. The Chief Minister, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mines and Energy were all found wanting at media conferences called by them and the Minister for Workplace Relations made the WorkChoices his crusade yesterday.

“Not one of them could claim to have been ambushed.

“I think what this shows is that after five years in office and with a massive Parliamentary majority the Government has become lazy.

“Lazy Governments produce poor policy and poor outcomes for the electorate.

“The Martin Government needs to sharpen up its performance and fast.”

Further information: Greg Charter 04000 14 059