Commentary by Labor Member Rob Knight targeting the children involved in Friday’s flag burning incident in Canberra are misplaced and inflammatory.

Shadow Minister for Young Territorians, Peter Styles, said instead of attacking the young people involved in Friday’s protest, Rob Knight’s focus should have been on the adults who were present and setting the example.

“In an interview on morning radio, Rob Knight described the children involved in the protest as ‘little pricks’,” Mr Styles said.

“These children were only there because of the involvement of the adults who they had accompanied to the Parliament House protest.

“While the behaviour of these young people was unacceptable, instead of rounding on them Rob Knight should have directed his criticisms at those adults who saw fit to bring their children to the protest and allowed them to participate in burning and spitting on the flag.

“Rob Knight has shown himself not to understand the nature of the problem and his comments lack judgement. Kids will only conduct themselves in this way if egged on by an adult.

“While nobody condones the Australian flag being disrespected, Rob Knight would add more to the debate by tempering his language and targeting the protest ringleaders, not children.”

Further comment: Peter Styles 0411 640 660