Labor Leader Launches Palmerston Candidates

Territory Labor leader Michael Gunner today announced candidates for the Palmerston seats of Brennan, Drysdale and the new seat of Spillett.

"I’m proud to announce today that Eva Lawler will be our candidate in Drysdale, Tony Sievers will be our candidate in Brennan and Phil Tilbrook will be our first ever candidate in the new seat of Spillett," Mr Gunner said.

“Today’s announcement completes Territory Labor’s Palmerston team, who along with Damian Hale for Blain will actively engage with and listen to Territorians and hold the CLP to account over their litany of failures in Palmerston.

“Eva Lawler brings a wealth of experience as a long term Territory teacher and Principal. Eva and her husband, Tommy, have lived in the Territory all their lives. More recently, Eva has been working to bring high level sports events to the Territory.

“Tony Sievers works within health deploying firsthand experience of delivering quality community services to support families impacted by Alcohol and Other Drugs.

“Phil Tilbrook works in the Corrections system and represents the prison officers as the President of the NT Prison Officers’ Association. Phil has long campaigned for better living conditions and wages for hard working Territorians throughout his life - not only inside his current employment but alongside anyone who believes in equality and fairness.

"I’m really proud of this Palmerston team and I’ve asked them to continue listening to and talking with the people of Palmerston. This will be a government based on listening to Territorians and ensuring genuine consultation takes place.

"The CLP have taken Palmerston for granted for too long, and the people have lost their voice.

“They've hiked up power prices by 30 per cent when they first got into Government, breaking the trust of Territorians and their election promise to reduce the cost of living if elected. Adam
Giles and the CLP now expect Territorians to be grateful they cut power by 5 per cent, but it’s too little too late and the damage and hurt has already been done.

“Youth crime is out of control, house break-ins are up and it’s all been under the CLP’s watch.

“The CLP have taken an axe to the jobs and services of the people of Palmerston. We’ve seen massive cuts to education, with the schools in Palmerston being some of the hardest hit in terms of reduced staffing numbers.

“The utter farce of the Palmerston Hospital hole stunt was like a slap in the face for Palmerston residents – enough mucking around. We just need to get on and build the hospital.

Ms Lawler said "Territory Labor has a proven track record in its commitment to education in the Territory. We know that engagement in education and sports is one of the best ways to stop kids going off the track and into criminal activity."

Mr Sievers said that, having seen firsthand the devastation that alcohol and other drugs have on families, he was positive that Territory Labor’s early childhood policy would make a difference for the future of the Territory.

"A Territory Labor government will put children at the centre of government decision making. I’m proud to join a team with such a long term vision to improve the Territory’s future,” Mr Sievers said.

Mr Tilbrook said he was inspired to get involved by Michael’s vision to restore trust and integrity to government.

“Territorians deserve representatives who have a loud, strong voice when needed but also those who will consult widely and who will act in the best interest of everyone in the NT,” Mr Tilbrook said.

**Biographies for Eva Lawler, Tony Sievers and Phil Tilbrook are attached.**

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