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Manager Opposition Business
Media Release

13th March 2009

QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR UNSAFE BUILDINGS

The Territory Opposition has written to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs alerting them to the chaos in the building certification system in the Territory.

“A massive federally-funded building program in Territory schools and Indigenous housing is proposed to get underway in the next couple of years, right at the moment the Territory Government has placed a two year moratorium on the need for certifying buildings safe,” says John Elferink, Manager of Opposition Business.

“I doubt the Federal Government will be willing to provide funding for school buildings and houses that won’t be certified safe before use.

“I would be very surprised if the Federal Government was willing to permit a lower safety standard for federally-funded buildings in the Territory than in other parts of Australia.

“For the Federal Government to fund buildings that won’t be certified safe before occupancy may very well open up the Federal Government for liability for poor building construction.

“I imagine the Federal Government will also be alarmed to learn of the possibility that buildings currently occupied by Federal public servants have not have been certified safe.

“There needs to be a complete audit of all buildings in the Territory to ascertain how many have not been certified safe for occupancy.

“The fact is the Territory Government has confined its audit to Tennant Creek to conceal the extent of the problem.

“The disgraceful attempt to hide just how deep this problem places people at risk.

“The Minister for Planning has a duty of care to Territorians to ensure they are not placed at risk for shoddy construction standards.

“She must alert Territorians if they are working or living in a building that hasn’t been certified safe.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400