The Henderson Government’s much vaunted, and much-publicised, plan to curb youth crime has turned into a farce.

Shadow Justice Minister Jodeen Carney said the Government’s policy for tackling youth crime had achieved almost negligible outcomes and worse, showed no sign of improving the well-being of hard-working Territory families.

“Last year, the Government announced what it called a ‘comprehensive’ plan to tackle youth crime,” Ms Carney said.

“Part of the plan involved entering parents whose children were consistently in trouble with the authorities into Family Responsibility Agreements in an effort to get them to make their kids toe the line.

“If those agreements weren’t followed, parents would then face a court imposed Family Responsibility Order that, if breached, carried fines of up to $2200, asset seizures and community service.

“It was revealed in the Estimates hearing today that the plan is in disarray.

“Just short of 12 months since the laws took effect, only six (6) Family Responsibility Agreements have been entered into.
“It’s noteworthy, given the tiny number of agreements struck, that juvenile crime and youth violence continues to be a very serious issue in Alice Springs, Darwin and the regions.

“Territorians who live within the law deserve more than this tokenistic attempt to reign in the behaviour of young offenders.

“So far, only one (1) Family Responsibility Order has been issued – and there have been no asset confiscations or Community Service Orders.

“The Government deludes itself into thinking it can use spin, glossy brochures and over-blown announcements to reduce youth crime. It can’t.

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