$100 MILLION SIHIP RED TAPE

The Territory Opposition is calling on the Henderson Government to cut through the red tape that is strangling the delivery of Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

“It is totally unacceptable that 2 years after the announcement of a massive injection of Federal funding to overcome chronic overcrowding in indigenous communities not a single house has been built,” says Adam Giles, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

“It is equally outrageous that 15% or around $100 million of the SIHIP funding will be chewed up in administrative costs.

“A new, leaner more efficient administrative model is needed if remote indigenous communities are ever going to see the full value from government money.

“If a house costs $500,000, the $100 million in administrative costs equates to 200 houses.

“Given the Northern Territory Government already has bureaucratic structures in place to support a remote housing program the 15% set aside for administering SIHIP seems very high.

“The failures identified in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report by the Productivity Commission have again highlighted the need for much better service delivery to indigenous communities.

“The appalling rates of child abuse, terrible outcomes in literacy and numeracy, poor training and employment outcomes are just some of the areas where a new determination is needed.

“Last time we saw such a damaging report it was the Little Children Are Sacred Report, a report where the NT Government failed to react to the appalling scourge of child abuse.
“The latest figures are worse and overcrowded housing is consistently cited as a major contributing factor to the very high rates of child abuse in Indigenous communities.

“Let us not forget that this agreement was signed off in April 2008, a couple of months after the historic ‘Sorry’ statement in federal Parliament?

“Let's make that sentiment mean something.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118