MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR’S ALCOHOL FAILURES

The Labor Government continues to fail the people of Alice Springs, with alcohol restrictions not curbing alcoholism or alcohol-related crime, say the 3 Alice Springs based members of the Country Liberals, Jodeen Carney, Matt Conlan, and Adam Giles.

“The Henderson Government admits that 65.5% of assaults in the town last year were alcohol-related, which just highlights its failed policies,” Ms Carney says.

“There are numerous alcohol restrictions in Alice Springs, yet the number of drunks going in and out of protective custody increased by 91% in 2008/09.

“It’s estimated that to date this year around 13,000 people have been taken into protective custody.

“Alcohol Courts have failed, with only 8 people successfully completing a Court ordered treatment program in the first 18 months of operation, and embarrassingly low numbers since then.

“Declaring town camps ‘dry areas’ has also failed, with residents in many town camps openly drinking,” says Matt Conlan.

“Despite saying it wants to reduce the number of take-away licences in Alice Springs, the Henderson Government has done nothing. There have been no ‘buy backs’ of liquor licences’.

“Alice Springs residents must produce identification when buying alcohol yet the entrenched problems remain undiminished.

“The list of Labor’s failures in the area of alcohol and law and order is a long one, yet, it continues to unfairly impose its policies on the people of Alice Springs.

“The ban on alcohol sales before 2.00pm and the restriction on the sale of fortified wines until 6.00pm just transfer the problems to a later time.
“Those who abuse grog get drunk later in the day, making it harder for Police and security personnel to deal with at night.”

“Some alcoholics are drinking Listerine and cooking essence while they wait to top up with grog later in the day”, says Adam Giles.

“Earlier this year, the Responsible Drinkers Lobby of Alice Springs published a report recommending that sales of take-away alcohol return to 10.00am. Along with the Lobby, we believe the proposal has widespread support.

“There have been a range of positive outcomes in Port Augusta following ‘dry area’ changes, and take-away alcohol is sold there from 9.00am.

“Labor polled less than 20% of the primary vote in Alice Springs at the last election because residents see through the spin. We know what’s happening in our town.”

‘We look forward to debating this area as part of a motion calling on Government to improve law and order in Alice Springs’, say Ms Carney, Mr Conlan, and Mr Giles.

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