SOCIAL ENGINEERING FAILURE

March 28th, 2012

The Henderson Government has been seriously embarrassed by today’s announcement that the Commonwealth will continue to fund Northern Territory outstations and homelands.

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Policy, Adam Giles, said the Commonwealth’s commitment effectively shreds Territory Labor’s policy to abandon outstations and homelands.

"Under its Growth Towns policy, the Territory Government wanted to strangle outstations and homelands by withholding funding for maintenance and repairs," Mr Giles said.

"This approach by Labor was social engineering designed to force people off their land and onto the streets of our urban centres via the Growth Towns.

"The Henderson Labor Government social engineering compounds urban drift into areas with insufficient housing solutions resulting in large scale homelessness, drunkenness and anti social behaviour.

"It is also contributing to our overcrowded jails.

"Once again the Commonwealth Government has had to step in because the Henderson Government has failed to do its job.

"The Territory Government’s uselessness and irrelevance in the fulfilment of Indigenous policy is summed up in the final paragraph of Federal Minister Jenny Macklin’s media release, when she says:

‘The Australian Government is committed to working with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.’

"That sentence shows the extent to which the Commonwealth has totally bypassed the Territory Government from management of Indigenous policy."
“This is hardly a surprise given the Henderson Government’s paltry $1.5million a year contribution over 10 years to outstations and homelands.

“The Country Liberals will do better.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118