An expensive farce rammed through parliament

An arrogant CLP rammed alcohol laws that no one supports through parliament in the early hours of this morning, Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said.

"The debate on the CLP’s discredited alcohol laws descended into chaos as the CLP made it up as they went along," Ms Lawrie said.

"CLP arrogance was on full display as they mounted personal attacks against the critics of their laws including doctors and police.

"It was not possible to credibly defend their legislation so CLP members resorted to personal attacks." Ms Lawrie said in a debate full of confusion and backflips it was clear that not even the Minister Robyn Lambley believed her legislation would work.

"The CLP proposed 43 amendments to try and patch up their flawed legislation but then dropped one of them on the floor of parliament as they realised they couldn’t justify or even explain it," Ms Lawrie said.

"In farcical scenes Minister Lambley even admitted that if a bed wasn’t available then someone ordered into mandatory treatment could just get up and leave.

"The legislation is due to start Monday but nothing is ready. The facilities and the beds aren’t available, staff aren’t recruited or trained, and none of the operating guidelines or regulations required by the legislation have been produced."

Ms Lawrie pointed out that the staff working in these facilities are going to be required to provide health care and administer drugs against people’s will. The guidelines are essential for their legal protection and they aren’t available yet despite all this starting Monday.

It was confirmed in debate that all the legislation that provides for the Banned Drinker Register remains in place.
“It is clear the CLP knows it worked, they just aren’t big enough yet to swallow their pride and reinstall it,” Ms Lawrie said.

Ms Lawrie said the debate confirmed that next year $45 million will be spent to treat 480 people at a cost of $90 000 each.

"Meanwhile the other 2000 plus that were on the Banned Drinker Register are free to drink as much as they like," Ms Lawrie said.

"The complete chaos of the CLP was on full display yesterday when Adam Giles backflipped and announced a Alcohol Management Plan for Alice Springs, having attacked the Commonwealth Government for even suggesting the idea only three weeks ago."

Ms Lawrie said that she was disappointed that CLP bush members who know the legislation is flawed supported it last night.

"It was noticeable that Bess Price, Larisa Lee and Alison Anderson all refused to speak in support of the legislation but then under the cover of 3am voted for it," Ms Lawrie said.

"The CLP have tried to claim that this legislation is about helping indigenous people and protecting indigenous women. It is strange then that their indigenous women all refused to talk about it.

"Larisa Lee has said that this legislation was forcing her to choose between her people and her Government. Last night she voted against her people and for her Government.

"At the election the CLP promised to immediately remove drunks from the streets. Ten months later all we have is an expensive revolving door."

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