Puppies desperate for a loving family home

THE CLP’s Member for Arnhem, Larisa Lee (pictured, right), is facing allegations of covering up corruption and misappropriating money from the Katherine-based Jawoyn Association for her own personal use and towards her election campaign.

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie said Chief Minister Terry Mills must immediately stand down Ms Lee in light of the serious allegations.

“It is alleged that Ms Lee received thousands of dollars that was meant to go towards emergency assistance for people without food or clothing. “It is hard to think of a more serious allegation than to siphon off money that was meant to be directed towards helping people living in poverty,” Ms Lawrie said.

It is further alleged that a Jawoyn consultant who was paid a thousand dollars a day worked predominately on Larisa Lee’s election campaign.

“Terry Mills has no choice. He must stand Larisa Lee down immediately until such time as these serious allegations are fully investigated and dealt with,” Ms Lawrie said.

Late last week Ms Lee categorically denied any wrong doing relating to her dealings with the Jawoyn Association.

“The highly-defamatory allegations being made against me are based on groundless rumours and will be revealed as lies when the current official investigation into the association is completed,” Ms Lee said.

“All my dealings with the Jawoyn Association have been lawful and above board,” Ms Lee said.

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC), an official Federal Government organisation, is conducting an investigation into the affairs of the Jawoyn Association.

“Preston has indicated he is willingly working hand-in-hand with the ORIC investigation and has assured me that he has absolutely nothing to fear,” Ms Lee said.

“If people have allegations to make against my brother Preston, then they must take those issues up with him.”

“The totality of my election assistance as support from the Jawoyn Association, was the use of a fuelled motor vehicle and a mobile phone for travel around my vast electorate. “These items were returned to the Jawoyn Association immediately following the election.”

Ms Lee said she would not comment further on the matters until the official investigation had been completed and made public.

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie has called on Chief Minister Terry Mills to show leadership and ensure his colleague Ms Lee immediately provides a full explanation to Territorians.

“Ms Lee is now a Member of Parliament and it is important that she is open and accountable about the serious allegations that have been made regarding when she was on a co-chair of Jawoyn Association.” Ms Lawrie called on Ms Lee to make a full public explanation.

“It is important that she is open and accountable on the serious allegations that have been made regarding when she was on a co-chair of Jawoyn Association,” Ms Lawrie said.

The Katherine times contacted Preston Lee several times in the past weeks, however he did not answer or return any phone calls.