MINISTER BROUGH – GIVE EVIDENCE TO POLICE

If Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has evidence of paedophile rings in Aboriginal communities he must take it to the Northern Territory Police.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said anyone who has this kind of information has to provide it to Police immediately under Territory’s laws.

“We’ve been urging all community members to stand up and be counted on cases of sex abuse – if it’s good enough for them it’s good enough for the Minister,” Ms Martin said.

“Anyone who fails to provide this information to Police immediately is breaking Territory law.

“Mr Brough has met with the Police Commissioner and me in recent weeks and I’m surprised he didn’t raise this issue then.

“The time for grandstanding is over – if he wants to make a serious contribution to solving these long-standing complex problems he has to start working with the Territory.

“If he wants to help he should convince his Treasurer to provide the money needed to reduce the housing backlog in remote communities.

“The Commonwealth should provide an extra $50 million a year over the next decade – that’s just a fraction of the Federal Government’s $10 billion budget surplus.

“The Martin Government is working hard to address child abuse in the Northern Territory.

We have quadrupled the budget for child protection from under $8 million to nearly $32 million.

“The Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget has increased by 55% and we’re on track to provide an extra 200 police officers by the end of this year.

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