24 HOURS FROM HOPE OR DESPAIR

The next 24 hours will be crucial for the next generation of kids in Alice Springs’ town camps says Dr Richard Lim, Shadow Minister for Central Australia.

“The Federal Government’s offer of $60 million for the town camps could break the cycle of poverty, violence and deprivation that awaits the next generation of town campers if nothing changes,” says Dr Richard Lim, Shadow Minister for Central Australia.

“Now isn’t a time for muddled thinking regarding the offer from the Federal Government.

“I have every reason to believe that if the decision from the camps is ‘No’ to the $60 million – the opportunity won’t come again from the current Federal Government.

“This point needs to be stressed in the lead up to any decision being made.

“As does the fact that by turning down the money the people of the camps prejudice their chances of receiving substantial assistance from future Governments.

“The days of Government pouring money into troubled communities in the hope that it will fix the problem have gone.

“Too much money has been spent with too little to show for it.

“Governments of all persuasions are adopting much stricter funding criteria for dysfunctional communities.

“A willingness for individuals to take on greater personal responsibility improving their situation will be important in determining where the money will go.

‘Knocking back the $60 million sends precisely the wrong message to future policy makers.

“I urge the Tangentyere Council to be visionary and change its position regarding this offer. It is not a matter whether the Tangentyere Council wants the money.

“Town camps need it. Alice Springs needs it.”

Contact: Dr Richard Lim 04188 97688