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### **Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Bill – Referral to Committee**

**Mr WOOD to CHIEF MINISTER**

Your government is holding an inquiry into hydraulic fracturing and political reform, and years ago the CLP set up an inquiry in euthanasia. Your government has established the Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People. Two recommendations stated that the committee proposes that referral of bills to a committee be the norm. It will strengthen the Assembly's ability to have conversations with the people it represents and to give detailed consideration to vital public issues.

In keeping with your government's policy, the government's abortion bill, read out today, should be sent to a committee. It is a vital public issue. Abortion is permitted at the moment, but this new bill scraps that law and brings in wholesale changes far beyond what is permitted in the existing bill. Will you send this bill to a committee so members of parliament, who have a conscience vote on this issue, and the public are fully informed about the implications of these changes and can participate in the debate through the committee process?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I understand this has been a passionate issue for him for a very long time, as it has been for many. As a member of parliament in the previous term—we had a brief exchange about this previously, Member for Nelson, as you are aware. This was a topic of much debate in the last parliament; it has been a topic of debate for a long time. It came up during the election process. It was part of the NT Council of Social Service debate.

I promised, as the Leader of the Opposition then and now as the Chief Minister, that this would be a matter of conscience. Unlike the government in the previous term, where no effort was provided to help the Member for Goyder in drafting that bill—it did not go through the formal Cabinet processes that provide greater rigor and the level of detail that we went through during this term. We will give this legislation extra help in the way of robustness when comes to the floor of parliament.

This has been discussed for a long time. It is not a new debate. We are the only jurisdiction where the procedure is only surgical and takes place in a hospital. We are debating the ability for doctors to prescribe RU486 and have treatment plans for their patients.

There will be a consideration in detail stage of the bill, as always. A question for the parliament is whether it will go to a committee. As the Chief Minister the promise I made to Territorians, going into the last election, was that we would recognise that this option for women has been lacking in the Northern Territory for a very long time and that we would deal with it promptly. Maybe that is not the right word, but we will deal with it seriously and urgently.

We recognise the overdue nature of this debate in the Northern Territory. It came up last term but was not dealt with. The issues in this bill are not new to Territorians. The Attorney-General will introduce the legislation. It will be dealt with as a vote of conscience. We will introduce it and put it to parliament for passage. It is not our intention to send it to a committee.

I think this is important for us, as a parliament, to consider urgently. It was left over from the last term. The Member for Goyder did her best to get it before this parliament, and we are now doing the same.

### **Renewable Energy**

**Mr HIGGINS to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Gunner Labor government is spending at least \$700 000 per year on a report that will outline how the government can deliver on Labor's preselection commitment of 50% renewable energy by 2030, just 12 years from now. Given that even Western Australian Labor has realised this target is economically dangerous, will the Gunner Labor government finally see sense and scrap this target to help ease the burden on Territorians' back pockets?

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**DISTINGUISHED VISITOR**  
**Marion Scrymgour**

**Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I welcome to the gallery our previous Deputy Chief Minister, Marion Scrymgour.

**Members:** Hear, hear!

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**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his important question about renewables. It is incredibly brave for this government to say we support what Territorians expect. We are a government that is bold enough to look at renewable energy.

Territorians expect us to start looking at these new, cleaner ways of producing energy that do not have as big an impact on our environment. I am more than happy to talk about this because I think Territorians expect us to take a much stronger view and action on renewable energy than the former government, which had no interest in this area whatsoever.

We went to the election on a very strong platform of environmental reform and sustainable water use. The Chief Minister is exceptionally passionate about renewable energy targets.

**Ms Fyles:** Look at the weather last weekend.

**Ms MOSS:** Yes, look at the weather last weekend.

We are proud as a government. Every member of our team is proud to stand behind the target we have put on renewable energy in the Territory. Thank goodness we have a government that is bold enough to do that. Territorians expect it.

We will be guided by the experts on the panel. I talked about this a lot yesterday. We will consult and make sure we make the right decisions so we can put the right energy solutions in place. This is the way other jurisdictions and other countries are going. We do not want to be left behind in the push for renewable energy. We do not want to be the dinosaurs that are not making inroads into this important area.

I support the target that has been set. As a government we have a strong platform around the environment. I look forward to updating the House on our achievements against a range of milestones on environmental reform, as will the Chief Minister and others—in the area of renewable energy targets. We stand behind it proudly, and we will continue to do so.

When I go out in my electorate, as with when other government members do, I hear people talking about renewable energy. People are pleased it is on the agenda. I am really pleased that we will continue to push that.

**Heat Testing – Darwin CBD**

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER**

In your 'year ahead' speech you announced that an advisory team is working with a world-renowned professor on a heat test for the CBD. You said that there can be a seven to nine degree difference between built-up concrete areas and green space. Are you expecting businesses to believe that lowering the temperature of the CBD by installing plants, grass and reflective paving is the solution to the CBD's structural and economic woes? How much will this advisory team and world-renowned professor cost taxpayers?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. This is a very important area, while she has picked out a very small element of it.

We want a vibrant Darwin CBD; that is essential for the confidence and certainty of traders in the Darwin CBD. We are being asked about it and we are working with the Darwin City Council, as well as the Property Council and others. We are reinvigorating the Capital City Committee. I also flagged a series of discussion papers with the public in advance of making this investment, leading up to a decision around November, in recognition of the importance of bringing the community with you.

I think we will all remember the debate that occurred during the last term regarding a Darwin City Council decision on a roundabout—that is something that can fire people up. People of Darwin are very passionate about and invested in their CBD, so we will take an approach to linking people.

One of many issues we need to consider is the issue of heat and liveability. It will come through the economic summits process. It is no surprise that people raise the issue of heat; Darwin is, by nature, a hot place. There are things we can do to make Darwin a more liveable, walkable place. We are being asked to do this by traders, the council and others in regard to the approach we take to making the CBD vibrant—the great, tropical northern capital ...

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110: relevance. It is a very simple question; how much will the advisory team and your world-renowned professor cost Territorians?

**Madam SPEAKER:** The Chief Minister has time to answer the question.

**Mr GUNNER:** We are led by the Government Architect, Lawrence Nield, who is working with locals as well as people with expertise in this space. He is working on what we can do to make the Darwin CBD function better so it properly reflects the capital city of northern Australia—not only the NT, but the northern Australia region. We need a very clear, directed, strategic focus on how we invest and plan for the CBD. This also relates to the events we run in the CBD. I welcomed the announcement on the weekend from the Minister for Tourism and Culture regarding the Darwin Festival, which was put at risk by the previous government.

These are the things we need to do to make our CBD thrive and be vibrant, which is currently not happening. We witnessed decisions by the previous government which took attention away from the CBD. It lacked focus on how to make the CBD connect—that is something we do.

In regard to the professor working with the government architect, I am happy to get some advice about him. This is a large body of work we are taking on as a government in response to the demands of traders who want to see clear strategic direction and have a sense of certainty and confidence about how we will deal with the Darwin CBD. That will not be isolated to Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and other places. We have a clear idea on all of it.

### **Bilingual Education**

#### **Mr GUYULA to MINISTER for EDUCATION**

The Bruce Wilson report on Indigenous education did not consider bilingual programs in its perimeters of investigation. This is despite the United Nations identifying the absence of mother tongue instruction as one of the most relevant causes of poor attendance. The other issues are conflict or war, child labour, gender and poverty. When will the Wilson report be reviewed?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Nhulunbuy for the question. It is very timely. The very short answer is that the Wilson report is being reviewed now. The Indigenous Education Strategy was always going to be cyclical. It is a key position now to be reviewed.

Like you, I do not necessarily agree 100% with a number of things in the original report—things to do with secondary education and education on homelands. I am a firm believer in families having choice in educating their children in their home communities.

On the issue of bilingual education, there is a number of points I would like to make. There continues to be nine schools that are fully funded in the bilingual model. Yirrkala School is one of them. This is about those schools having a choice.

This government is talking about community-led schools and schools having a say in the programs they run. For too long we, the Education department and us in government, have been telling communities how we want schools to run and what programs we want them to run. Now is the time to turn that around and let the communities have a say on the education provision of programs in their schools.

There are schools that want bilingual programs and Yirrkala is one of them. In the homelands there is a focus on both ways. To be clear about that, there is a very formal step bilingual program of 10% in English and 90% in language in Transition and Year 1, moving to 20% and 80%, then 30% and 70%. That is the formal step bilingual approach we see in those nine schools. But all our remote community schools have some sort of bilingual approach. I prefer to call that a two-way model, where they have the Indigenous teacher assistants and the non-Indigenous teachers working together in the classrooms.

New concepts introduced by the teacher, who, more often than not, is non-Indigenous—the teacher can explain the new maths concepts, and the Indigenous teacher assistant can translate and make sure the children understand. The instructions go to the students in language. Although there are only nine formal bilingual schools, all schools in our remote communities have the additional support of Indigenous teacher assistants.

Member for Nhulunbuy, I hear loudly and clearly from you the importance of the communities having a say. I am a firm supporter of schools and communities having a say in the direction and programs they want if they want to get kids to schools and make sure they learn.

### **Central Australia**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER**

I congratulate your Minister for Territory Families on doing such a great job over the last few months, carrying your government through the stressful summer months singlehandedly in Central Australia. She is the only minister to have provided any leadership in Central Australia on the crime wave facing Alice Springs. In the absence of the Chief Minister, residents of Alice Springs have always looked to the minister for Central Australia for support, reassurance and leadership. Would you consider resurrecting the position of minister for Central Australia?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I join with her in commending the Minister for Territory Families on the work she is doing in Alice Springs. Central Australia has a number of strong advocates in addition to Dale. Scott and Chansey provide a very strong voice for the local area, as does the Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy, and that is not to forget you, Member for Araluen.

Sometimes it is an important prick to our conscience to remind us of the things that are happening in Central Australia. We always appreciate the contest of ideas, as can happen. That is something the Independents bring to the table as well as the CLP. Other members of my team have been to Alice Springs over the last few months. We discussed this the other day in Cabinet. There has essentially been a minister in Alice Springs every week, which is very good. I thank my team for that.

I was in the area during the Kintore floods, and unfortunately last week we had an incident where the plane—I will not name the carrier—broke down. We were still able to have our meeting, which was very important, with a number of people in Alice Springs who are passionate about law and order and crime issues in Alice Springs. It was good to have that conversation; it was the day we made the announcement of 52 youth justice workers and how they fit in with the 18 police—and the policies of government. It was a very good conversation.

I put a task to my team, that we are a government for all Territorians, including Central Australia, the Tiwi Islands, Katherine, Stuart—the whole lot. We have to be a government for all Territorians; that is something we ran very hard on during the campaign. I went to every seat during the campaign period. It killed my office in some ways, but I said I wanted to go to every seat during the campaign to send a message that we would be a government for all Territorians, and that I would be a Chief Minister who travels through the Territory.

We have made some changes to the portfolio titles. We more than halved the number of portfolio titles that existed. There is a clear focus from my government on Alice Springs, Central Australia, Tennant Creek,

Palmerston, Katherine and the Territory. We will maintain that focus; we will be a government for all Territorians. I am looking forward to my next trip to Alice Springs already.

**Mrs LAMBLEY:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110; will you resurrect the position of minister for Central Australia?

**Madam SPEAKER:** The Chief Minister has time.

**Mr GUNNER:** I believe I was answering that in saying we will be a government for all Territorians, focused on the whole Territory. It is a task I have put to my entire team. We all value Alice Springs and I expect every minister and member of my team to have a care for the whole Territory. It is why I brought back the community Cabinet. The Caucus often travels with us when we go to those regions.

Our whole team has been to Alice Springs. I have already had several Cabinet meetings there. When I was first elected I spent 10 days in Alice Springs soon after the election. We value Alice; we are a team tasked for the whole Territory.

### **Darwin CBD – Reinvigoration**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

The former Labor Chief Minister, Clare Martin, once said she would reinvigorate Darwin and that her vision of a renewed CBD would be modelled on Kuala Lumpur or Singapore. That was almost 15 years ago and progress seems to have been a little slow. We now hear the Chief Minister announce a new 10-year plan to renew the CBD to refresh amenities, encourage investment and increase jobs. Given Labor's record, why should Territorians believe your government's plan will be any more successful than that of the Martin Labor government?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. Darwin is a very important part of northern Australia and we want to ensure it is seen as the capital of northern Australia. We have some pretty hot competition biting at our heels. We have the Queenslanders thinking they can grab that title but, no. The logical and right place that we need to make it is Darwin.

I commend the former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory; she was visionary. She delivered for the Northern Territory. You only have to look around at the waterfront to see some of the vision and legacy of Clare Martin, who was a magnificent former Chief Minister of this place. As part of that vision the Labor government committed to making sure we have a beautiful, green, dynamic, modern city here in the Top End. We have made our commitments. We have an assistant minister for a vibrant Darwin CBD. We have a fantastic group at the City of Darwin, which wants to work hand-in-hand with government to see the improvements for the Darwin CBD that we need.

There will be extensive work done by this government. A lot of work has already commenced—working with the Government Architect through those visions and with the master plan. We have the Planning Commission embarking on a body of work around the Darwin periphery area plan and so forth.

There is a huge body of work, but it is important that we take Territorians with us on that journey. We need to make sure we are aligned on that vision. The Chief Minister very correctly stated that when you look at the passion and energy you can get out of residents about a roundabout—it is very important we are all on the same page there.

There will be an extensive body of work done on Barneson Boulevard, a game changer for this city. Some great consultations have taken place on that already.

We are committed to having a vibrant Darwin CBD to ensure we are the capital of northern Australia, to build on tourism and business opportunities, and to make sure we are a dynamic, wonderful, modern, vibrant capital of this wonderful part of northern Australia.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, your time has expired.

## Crime

### Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Last week you announced a bunch of slow-burn measures that you said would stop crime in the Territory. This week there have been reports of a bus being stolen at a childcare centre, hotels raided for alcohol, cars stolen, shops and restaurants vandalised, and a school raided. Recent events highlight that your crime measures are not having any immediate effect. What will you do to combat crime now?

### ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question on a very important topic. Territorians have the right to be safe at work and at home. This requires urgent action.

Measures that the CLP describe as slow burning are things we are doing now. Police are doing work now. The Police Commissioner has advised today of the spate of crime during December and January. Any crime is too much crime; we recognise that. The crime that has occurred in February is too much.

The police have said there is a comedown off the December and January peak from the hard work they are doing. I thank the police for their work. We have very professional, competent, flexible and nimble police. We have seen them adjust their practices to what has been occurring over December and January—that is urgent and swift action taken by police now to get on top of this problem. Operation Sonoma, Strike Force Trident, operation Winx—how can police work better, strategically and tactically to tackle the problems that Territorians are facing?

We have to have an honest conversation about how we gotten to where we are. The current and former members of the CLP do not like hearing this, but cuts were made during the last term to the prevention of crime, which has led to this situation. We have to get on top of it. They do not like talking about the cuts they made in their first mini-budget and every budget after that, about tackling and preventing crime.

It has to be part of what you do. This is why we are taking action by recruiting 52 youth justice workers and 18 police to direct police resources and others to the early intervention and prevention of crime. This work was either not done or was stopped by the last government.

Territorians deserve better than that. That is why we are giving them better and taking urgent, swift action when it comes to tackling crime in the Territory to make sure Territorians are safe at home and at work. We must do better than the last mob—that is a low bar—when it comes to tackling crime in the Northern Territory.

We have provided certainty to police around their recruitment over the next four years, and we are honouring the CLP's broken promise of the additional 120 officers. That is why they could create the task force of 18 officers, because they know when the next recruit squad will start.

We have taken swift and urgent action about the tools and resources police have. We are a government that will listen to and act on Territorians' concerns. We will make sure we do everything we can in the early intervention and prevention space to stop people offending and reoffending.

I thank all my ministers, especially the Minister for Territory Families, who joined me for that announcement.

## Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Bill – Submissions

### Mr WOOD to MINISTER for HEALTH

In a briefing I had with the Health department in regard to changes to abortion laws in the Northern Territory I was told that there were 142 submissions in response to the so-called discussion paper. I was informed that the department had not released them as it was not mentioned in the discussion paper.

Will you please ask the department to contact submitters and ask if their submissions can be made public, as is done with all other inquiries? After all, how are members of this parliament, who are permitted to have a conscience vote on the new bill, to know what was in the submissions if they cannot read them and have an informed view when making their decision?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. As I outlined in extensive detail this morning to the House, the Department of Health has done a great deal of work on this topic.

You started this in the Northern Territory, Madam Speaker; the conversation has been taking place since the legislation was introduced, from a bipartisan approach, into our federal parliament over a decade ago. You brought the first bill on this into this House, Madam Speaker, and I acknowledge the work you did.

The Department of Health has undertaken extensive consultation. This was one of the tasks the Chief Minister, when I became Minister for Health, asked me to make sure was done properly, in depth, with the resources of the Department of Health. A clinical working group has been set up to look into this issue.

As the Member for Nelson has acknowledged, we just had a significant consultation period. We received 142 submissions from around the Northern Territory. There were numerous face-to-face briefings, and these will continue now that we have legislation before the House.

With regard to people's privacy, some people provided their submissions to the Department of Health and shared them publicly through different forums through the Internet. But other people want their privacy respected—they have provided a submission and let their point be known. The Department of Health has summarised those submissions and they will be on the website. I have asked for that to happen today. I will send a link to you, Member for Nelson. You wrote to me on this topic, so at lunch time I said we should send you the link so you can see the summary of submissions.

This topic is emotive; it causes a great deal of angst for some people. Other people are angry that the NT is so far behind other jurisdictions. As the Minister for Health I have taken this with a great deal of responsibility. I have met with Danila Dilba, AMSANT, Miwatj, church leaders within the NT and my own community, and stakeholders from both sides of this issue.

I am very proud of the bill that was presented to this House this morning. It is based on evidence and has a clinical team behind it. I am confident that every member of this House will take time over the next month to talk to their community about how they will vote. It is a conscience vote. This is something people need to land on for themselves.

I am confident as the Minister for Health that I have brought the strongest possible bill into this parliament for the Northern Territory. Over the next month I will continue to travel around the NT to make sure people can communicate with me, and every member will undertake that.

The Department of Health and my office will provide additional briefings as required.

### **Buy Local Scheme – Policing the Policy**

#### **Mr MILLS to CHIEF MINISTER**

In August 2016 your government came to office with a much-welcomed buy local policy, with the important addition of the capacity to police the policy. In October I asked the Deputy Chief Minister for an update and I was advised that the government was working very hard on the project. Last Thursday, in your address to NT industry, you said you were working with industry on a model. Good news.

When will this model be completed? Will the policing and oversight role of this policy rest with the private sector or with government?

## **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. This is a matter of great interest to Territory businesses and it all goes to how we can maximise the \$3bn we spend as a government each year with locals. We are doing a number of things to make that happen.

One of the very recent changes is about value for the Territory so it is not just about a shortlisting on price. It is about making sure local content is better taken into account when that weighting issue is considered. All we are doing in this space around buy local policies—we made changes that include 30% across tenders in the first week after the election, and we strengthened it again the week before last in regard to



how we maximise returns to Territory business. All of that will be better implemented with independent monitoring.

There is a local board, a procurement panel, that looks at this on tenders above \$5m. It is not that there is nothing happening in this space; I think we can do it better and have it more independent than what it currently is. The CLP had a policy around \$5m; we will move to essentially giving it a threshold of zero so the independent monitor can look at the procurement contracts it needs to look at.

Industry was torn on the model. Going into the last election there were some in the industry, the Manufacturers Council for example, who were advocating for an independent advocate, like they have in South Australia. That was not a uniform opinion at that stage so we were still considering the board model and improving and strengthening the way the board works.

The industry has come to a much more uniform position of wanting the advocate. Sometimes when you listen to the community it means taking a bit more time to get it right, based off what advice they are giving you. There is now a much more uniform position from industry about having that advocate model. We have met with the South Australian industry advocate to receive a briefing on how their scheme works. We cannot just adopt it neatly because we have other policies; it requires some tweaking.

I note Stuart Kenny from the Chamber of Commerce is in the gallery, someone we have been speaking to. Stuart Kenny has taken a more active approach in the Chamber as to how we do this. We are getting close but, essentially, where we are at is based off the advice from industry and how it has now firmed up its position around having an advocate model. It is on the work plan for this year. We take Buy Local seriously; we made those changes in the first week after the election and we strengthened it again two weeks ago.

There is a much better, stronger, more rigorous policy around making sure things go local and the 'value for Territory' change is really important in making that happen. We are very close to getting the advocate model set. It is about making sure we have the industry buy-in on the approach we are taking. This is what industry is asking of us at the moment.

### **Indigenous Incarceration Rates**

#### **Mr GUYULA to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER for JUSTICE**

What is the government planning to do to reduce the very bad imprisonment rate of Indigenous Territorians?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his very important question. The Northern Territory's rates of incarceration for Indigenous Territorians are at unacceptably high levels. We need to do things differently and we need to bring community with us on that journey. We need to work with leaders in the Indigenous community around what we can do to drive down the rate of imprisonment.

Our rates of Indigenous incarceration are unacceptably high. We have offenders on low-range offences. There is a lack of support in regard to providing programs in communities, and this government is committed to changing that. We are committed to making justice work, making sure when we look through the prism of the justice system we acknowledge the extremely high rate of incarceration of Indigenous Territorians.

We need to make sure we have programs so when people do the wrong thing, commit an offence, they understand the consequences of their behaviour and are provided with a pathway of rehabilitation. We need to take into account all the varying factors, and that is something we are committed to.

I note that the previous government established, under the strong leadership of my colleague, the Member for Barkly, the Barkly work camp—a different model, something outside the box—rather than simply locking people up.

Under the previous government we saw cuts to the programs within our correctional facilities. If people do the crime they need to serve the time, but we need to make sure it is constructive and that we have a long-term plan to reduce the high rate of Indigenous incarceration.

The previous Labor government had plans around a facility in the Katherine region. I think this is a model we need to look towards. We need to make sure the correctional facilities are appropriate so people can serve the sentence issued to them by the court and we can stop the revolving door of people being incarcerated at unacceptably high rates. I am happy to provide a briefing in my office for further detail.

### **Alice Springs CBD – Revitalisation**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER**

Can you please provide the House with an update on your commitment to revitalising and upgrading the Alice Springs CBD, and when will I receive my invitation to be part of this exciting process, as you promised in parliament a few months ago?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Araluen for her question.

Arthur Townsend, who heads up the Department of the Chief Minister in Alice Springs, has been talking with the council—Damien Ryan, specifically—about the scope for this. We have an architect attached to that team who has been talking with locals there about how we build this up. The art gallery is very much a core part of what we do in Alice Springs.

I will talk with Arthur and make sure you have the invitation and will be a part of the conversation, Member for Araluen; there are no dramas about that. I talked with Arthur last week. I was meant to meet him in person but the plane broke down. We had a video conference and talked about where we are at with what is happening in the council, and about the other conversations that are being had.

The council had some old plans, which it is dusting off. Darwin, Palmerston and Katherine councils had living plans, so they were at a slight advantage to Alice Springs in being ready to go. I prefer to work with locals—and the previous consultation in Darwin, Katherine and Palmerston.

I had raised it with Damien, not as an election issue but in forums such as the LGANT AGM. I thought it was important for Alice Springs Town Council to have a plan like this. The council is now on board with this plan as well as the coordinated investment around the Alice Springs CBD. It is all coming together. It is in the earlier stages, in some respects, than other places because those councils had taken some earlier work—what they prepared, released and the consulted on.

It is active, interesting and engaging. I am very happy for Arthur to sit down with you and involve you in that process with Damien Ryan, Jamie De Brenni as the Deputy Mayor, and others in that area. I am happy to have you on board.

We love Alice; it is a place that we value. I see it as the inland capital but it has been stagnant. That is not an attack on Alice; we have just seen a plateau in the loss of an electoral seat, for example, as a measure of that.

With you and Dale as the two local reps—I know there are others of interest such as Chansey, Scott and Gerry, but as the two Alice Springs-based members, having lost that third, what can we do to invest in Alice and make it grow again? We want a strong Alice Springs; that makes the Territory strong. I would love to see a third electoral seat there. What is it we can do to get that back there, and how can we invest in it?

I am quite excited by it and I will make sure you get an invitation and are involved.

### **Youth Crime – Electronic Monitoring**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER for JUSTICE**

The youth crime overhaul announced last week did not include increased utilisation of electronic monitoring, which is cheaper and more effective than case workers or youth diversion workers. However, the government appears to have now seen sense and had a media conference this afternoon on introducing electronic monitoring technology, something that the opposition has been championing long and hard for.

If this is the case, we welcome your announcement, but you must explain to Territorians, in the face of this unprecedented crime wave, why it has taken your government so long to come to the realisation that electronic monitoring is part of this solution.

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for her question.

I spoke about electronic monitoring last night. We have seen it expand rapidly in the last six to 12 months in the Northern Territory. Today the Chief Minister looked at the electronic infrastructure for monitoring those who are currently under Community Corrections. The courts have had that in place for a period of time—I do not have the figures in front of me right now, but last night I spoke about it in the House and discussed the rapid expansion. This is something that the police and the minister for Police have been discussing and have identified as a resource for police to utilise, which will allow for early intervention.

We have been focused on this as a measure and a tool to give to the courts and police. We are delivering on that commitment. We need to make sure there are a range of measures so the court system and police can utilise them. There is no one solution that will solve this issue. The Minister for Territory Families has undertaken a huge body of work, as have police. We, as a government, are working across portfolios to make sure we deliver solutions and provide opportunities for pathways through the court and police so we can keep our community safe. There are people who are doing the wrong thing, and they need to understand the consequences of their behaviour; it is unacceptable to our community.

We all know police lacked the resources they needed under the CLP government. Through the minister for Police's commitment to training and recruitment programs, police now have the certainty to deliver different programs. We can start to focus on targeted interventions and deliver change.

We saw cuts in youth services. It was not just cuts to the NGOs or the youth services, but cuts to education. We need to have teachers in classrooms. The wraparound support services, teacher assistants and positions that try to get our most disengaged kids to school are what were cut. This is something we are treating as a government—right across the Cabinet we are looking through that prism.

Electronic monitoring has grown rapidly and we are committed to it. The Chief Minister's announcement today of providing that resource to police for an earlier intervention is an indication of that.

### **Electoral Reform**

#### **Mr HIGGINS to CHIEF MINISTER**

In your government's review of the *Electoral Act*, why do you want to move away from one person, one vote? Are you disappointed that the Member for Katherine let the cat out of the bag when tweeting about the outcome of the federal redistribution when she said, 'Those should be considering land mass size and not population or enrolment numbers'? When will you come clean with Territorians about your secret plan?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I can guarantee that we do not have a secret plan for electoral reform in the Northern Territory. What may come as some surprise to the Leader of the Opposition is that within the existing legislation on redistributions there is a quota, or threshold, for movement so that they take in size as part of that question when they look at how many people are in an electorate. It is already part of the consideration for the independent redistribution committee. There is no secret plan for electoral reform.

We will have an enquiry into donations in the Northern Territory—a practical enquiry that will lead to practical reform. We have been public about the fact we want to improve the electoral system as part of bringing trust back to government and parliament, creating more confidence amongst the public in regard to how we conduct our business. That is our very public plan for reforming elections and parliament in the NT.

There is no secret plan around electoral reform, and our current boundaries are drawn from a great deal of common sense about how the quota works. We still have some very large electorates, as the Members for Stuart, Arafura, Namatjira and others can attest. We have a bit of a plus-minus threshold there.

As an inner city member, often during a term my enrolment numbers can grow quite spectacularly in regard to constituents in my electorate. That is why we have boundary changes, so we have a dynamic system to assess boundaries in the NT.

We have a public plan for fixing trust in the Northern Territory. We have the inquiry into political donations in the Northern Territory that will lead to reform in how we conduct our business. We have a strong agenda to restore trust to the NT. We also have the independent commission against corruption.

We have lots of measures to do with trust, because that is crucial to this term of government—repairing the trust deficit that was formed over the last term. We will be very public about how we do that.

### **Lockout Laws**

#### **Mr WOOD to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER for JUSTICE**

When the Chief Minister was away the Acting Deputy Chief Minister, Minister Fyles, said on Mix 104.9 that lockout laws for hotels will be considered as part of the review into alcohol in the NT. The Chief Minister then said in the *NT News*:

*There will be no lockout laws. It is not on my radar or Government's. We are committed to alcohol harm minimisation strategies, but this is not among them.*

Why has he overruled his Minister for Health's promise? Why has he ruled lockout laws out of a review? Without looking at lockout laws, is he not making his statement about being committed to alcohol harm minimisation and reducing crime just hollow rhetoric?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. The story in the *NT News* was based on a conversation, and the Member for Nelson was there at the time. We were talking about the huge issue of alcohol in the NT. It costs the NT taxpayer \$642m per year in alcohol-related accidents, emergencies and medicine. It is a huge issue in our community. We all know the statistics; we have over 500 takeaway alcohol outlets. That is one for every 350 adult Territorians. I spoke about this yesterday in the House; California has a minimum of 2500 people per outlet.

We need to tackle the issue of alcohol abuse. As the Minister for Health and Attorney-General, I am bringing forward a comprehensive range—we will bring back the Banned Drinker Register, something the CLP scrapped which led to 2500 problem drinkers having access to alcohol again.

In my community, working intensively with police and licensing, the BDR will be the tool to help deal with this issue.

**Mr WOOD:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 110: relevance. The question was about lockout laws and the Chief Minister saying he would not look at implementing them. What is the story?

**Madam SPEAKER:** The minister has one-and-a-half minutes to reply.

**Mr FYLES:** In regard to moving away from takeaway alcohol, especially around our entertainment precincts—Mitchell Street comes to mind—there are voluntary accords in place, which traders uphold. Working with police and receiving briefings and advice from the minister for Police—they provide information relating to what they think needs to be in place. The voluntary accord is in place at the moment.

In the lead-up to the election the Chief Minister ruled out lockout laws. We believe that we need balance. We need to allow people to use the entertainment precinct. These days I am in bed long before—but in years gone by I enjoyed it. We need to have balance in our community.

We need to make sure police have the resources and that we support traders with the responsible service of alcohol. Many of them take that responsibility seriously. They care about the patrons in their venues. They want safe venues because they know that attracts more people.

We have a huge issue with alcohol in the Northern Territory. This government is committed to starting long-term generational change with young people and putting in place practical measures so we can tackle the issue.

## **Indigenous Incarceration**

### **Mr GUYULA to CHIEF MINISTER**

To help reduce the destructive rates of Indigenous imprisonment, would you support legislating the Anunga Rules?

### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, during our last term we spoke about how we can involve traditional owners in the sentencing process in how they can provide advice to the judge. It happens, to a degree, in some remote communities now, but we wanted to work with the Chief Justice on how we can bring that forward so there is involvement at the point of sentencing.

It is part of a theme where we want to make sure victims have a voice and people are involved in the system, and that there is an impact at the point of sentencing that goes towards an understanding of what they have done and a change of behaviour, which is crucial.

We are working on our Aboriginal justice agreement, which we committed to, going into the last election. It is one of the things I have raised in refreshing the Closing the Gap agenda and having justice targets. We will have them as a jurisdiction, but we need to add to the targets of the Closing the Gap strategy. For me it is very important, as it is for my government, for us to have a focus on rehabilitation and diversion, and an Aboriginal justice agreement that looks at how we can reinvest.

We must have community-led justice. We must put victims first. We must involve the community in the program. It is part of our broader policy on local decision-making—housing, education, health and others—that sentencing locally is important.

That may not be what you are after, Member for Nhulunbuy, in terms of the law, but we are looking at the involvement of elders in the system. I am happy to involve you, as we would the general community, in the conversation about the Aboriginal justice agreement and how it works in practice. We want it to be effective and community led. That is something we are working on. It is also part of a broader conversation about Closing the Gap and the targets we need to set—a mission for us, the Australian Government and other jurisdictions on the things we need to aim for and work on.

We have a lot of work to do, which has been said every year around closing the gap. If I was a remote Territorian I would be very frustrated. I think we have all heard that when we have visited remote communities. There is a great deal of frustration. We must do more, and urgently, but we must also be better in how we do it and recognise that it is better done locally; it is better done in a local community rather than in Darwin or Canberra.

That is at the heart of many of our policies; it is at the heart of our housing, education and health policies. We consider it as part of our Aboriginal justice agreement and how we approach sentencing so we can make a real difference to people's lives—the victims as much as the offenders—to stop reoffending.

## **PET Scanner and Cyclotron**

### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for HEALTH**

The Coalition government has committed \$15m for the delivery of a PET scanner and a cyclotron for Territorians. Your government committed another \$5m for the same purpose.

Madam Speaker, I seek leave to table a copy of the Minister for Health's media release outlining the government's \$5m extra funding for the delivery of a PET scanner and cyclotron for the Northern Territory.

Leave granted.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Territorians are sick of this government's poor judgment and half-baked promises. How is \$20m not enough to deliver a PET scanner and a cyclotron now for Territorians? Will you end the uncertainty and deliver this badly-needed medical equipment now for Territorians?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for this very important question. Every Territorian has the right to access the healthcare services they need, including patients who need to access essential cancer care treatment. Early diagnosis and treatment are vital to ensure that more Territorians survive cancer.

It was not long ago that we had no cancer care services in the Northern Territory. Over the last seven or eight years cancer care has grown rapidly. I acknowledge every government that has played a role in that, including federal and Territory.

Whatever political persuasion, we need to ensure that, as members of this House and government, particularly for me as Minister for Health, we deliver these services for Territorians. That is why this Labor government is committed to delivering a PET scanner for Territorians. We have committed an additional \$5m for the provision of extra chemotherapy chairs at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre. I acknowledge my colleagues who have supported me in ensuring the funding could come forward.

It is sad that we need additional services, but, at the same time, it is important. Every time Territorians have to get on a plane to go down south to receive services it makes their life harder.

The federal government committed \$15m as part of its election commitment. In fact, both sides of federal politics, during the election campaign last year, committed \$15m. I acknowledge the federal government for that commitment, and I have been working on delivering this project since I became the Minister for Health.

What did your government do over the last four years? Absolutely nothing. I am confident that we will deliver a PET scanner and a cyclotron to the Royal Darwin Hospital for the people of the Northern Territory.

I have spoken with the federal Minister for Regional Development. The federal government has committed those funds, but it has asked us to go through a regional grant application process. I have spoken to the federal minister, Fiona Nash, a number of times about this issue because, as a minister, I am not letting bureaucracy drive this. I am passionate about this being delivered and it will be delivered.

**Mrs Finocchiaro:** The money is there, waiting for you.

**Ms FYLES:** Perhaps if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would like to listen to the response instead of interjecting with points that are not correct, she will hear what is happening. I am committed to this project and I know that the federal ...

**Mrs Finocchiaro** interjecting.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Opposition Leader, I want to hear the answer. Please cease interjecting.

**Ms FYLES:** I am confident this project will be delivered for Territorians. As I have said, I have been working closely with the federal Minister for Regional Development. I have spoken to the federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, about this issue, and I look forward to updating the House.

**Ms FYLES (Leader of Government Business):** Madam Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.