



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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Funds better spent on cutting re-offending than half-baked think-tank

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins, has today criticised the ill-conceived priorities of the Labor Government, when they are dramatically cutting funds to prisoner rehabilitation, and yet spending another \$5 million for an energy think-tank, the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy (ICFE).

“One day, Labor is gutting services to prisoners which focus on stopping reoffending, and the next day they spend \$5 million on a half-baked centre for future energy.

“The Labor Government’s announcement makes it clear that they have no plan what they will get for the money and no plan for how to implement it.

“The Labor Government has announced \$5 million for three years’ funding for the think-tank. Is this a three-year centre or will there be more ongoing funding afterwards?

“Does Labor know how much ‘knowledge infrastructure’ they will get with a \$5 million pricetag?

“Alice Springs would be better served by that money going into stopping reoffending and cutting crime.

“Alternatively, that money could be going into real, actual infrastructure in Alice Springs like roads, bridges and hospitals, rather than the ‘knowledge infrastructure’ to which the government refers.

“The Government needs to make sure that when they spend millions of dollars that it is responsible and necessary, and not just for a feel-good announcement,” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

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