



LIA FINOCCHIARO DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

Policing in schools

Today's rebadged school based policing model is a welcome addition to the terrific work the Territory's police officers do in the community, and a measure we have been calling for since 2017. However, the Opposition is concerned that this is another task for the already overstretched and under resourced Northern Territory Police Force to complete without additional funding.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Police, Lia Finocchiaro welcomed today's program announcement but questioned the government's commitment given that there will be no additional funding or police officers put to the program.

"In what has become a trademark of this Labor government, the to-do list for our police is growing at the whim of Labor who can't keep crime under control or kids safe.

"I expect that these police will be properly resourced with vehicles, safety equipment and the support they need to do their important job.

"There is some 150 government schools across the Northern Territory and 33,000 children enrolled, so while 10 police working with school students is welcome, there are a lot of schools and Territory kids that will miss out, including in remote areas and those children at non-government schools.

"Contrary to Labor's rhetoric, the former CLP government did not scrap school-based constables, a fact that the Minister for Police confirmed under questioning from the Opposition in Parliament last year.

"Two years in government and overseeing a crime crisis, the Labor government needs to stop blaming former governments and just get on with the job of keeping Territorians safe," said Ms Finocchiaro.

ENDS

Edited excerpt from Hansard 11 May 2017

Youth Engagement – School-Based Constables

Mrs FINOCCHIARO to CHIEF MINISTER: *Youth engagement police officers, formerly known as school-based constables, build important relationships with school children across the Northern Territory. Under your watch, why have youth engagement police officers been taken from our schools, particularly when youth crime is such a huge concern to Territorians?*

ANSWER:

"...my understanding, from talking to the Police Commissioner, is the CLP did not scrap school-based constables but rebadged and reworked how the police were involved in the schools."

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