



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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Labor caught red handed – almost nine months later

The Territory Labor government has been caught red handed contradicting its own rhetoric, not disclosing a prisoner escape in Alice Springs that occurred nearly nine months ago, in April 2017.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that despite the Gunner government’s ongoing statements on being open and transparent with Territorians, the Chief Minister and Attorney-General have clearly covered up this escape and car theft incident, that put the safety of Territorians at risk.

“The question must be asked, why did the Labor government not tell Territorians and the media about the incident in April 2017?”

“Despite ordering a ‘critical incident review,’ this government seemingly did what it could to conceal the issue and it is time for the Minister responsible to explain herself and apologise to Territorians.

“This is the same Labor government who has slashed the budget for the successful Sentenced to a Job program and cut \$8 million from the most recent budget for Alcohol and Other Drugs funding.

“The question has to be asked whether this government is serious about corrections, serious about rehabilitation and serious about the safety of Territorians.

“It is simply not good enough to pass the blame on to public servants.

“The Attorney-General needs to take responsibility for this serious breach of Territorian’s trust, apologise and explain herself immediately.

“I call on the Chief Minister to outline the ramifications for his cabinet colleagues involved in this cover up,” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

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