



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

Tennant Creek highlights crisis in our Territory

The Territory is in crisis and the child protection system continues to fail.

In the wake of a horrendous incident in Tennant Creek and a community crying out for help, Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins today called for an immediate explanation from the Minister for Territory Families as to what is happening today, right now, so that the Territory's children are protected.

"The safety of children and our most vulnerable Territorians should be the priority of any government.

"An intergenerational and long term approach is paramount but should occur alongside measures implemented as soon as possible.

"In line with the Tennant Creek community's calls for help, today I call for:

- Immediate relocation of additional public service resources to be allocated to Tennant Creek to deal with what is clearly a community in crisis
- Immediate appointment of licensing inspectors to ensure Police Officers can be on the beat keeping the community safe
- Resources allocated to stem the supply of secondary alcohol into communities like Tennant Creek
- An independent review to be conducted by the Office of the Children's Commissioner to be extended to a review of the Territory Families department, in line with recommendations from the Royal Commission. The government must ensure that the Office of the Children's Commissioner is resourced accordingly

"This incident is a sad reflection on the Northern Territory, and we must all do what we can to ensure this never happens again," said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

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