



**LIA FINOCCHIARO
DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER**

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For immediate circulation

Child protection crisis is worsening

The latest reports involving children in Tennant Creek reinforce the Opposition's concerns about a lack of immediate action to ensure that the safety of children is the absolute priority of all decision making and government focus.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Lia Finocchiaro today acknowledged that generational change is important, but this latest reported incident, alleged to involve two children under 10 years old, also reinforces that there must be more focus on short term, immediate solutions as well.

"The age of the children involved in this recent assault highlights the need for immediate support to at-risk families and better coordination between government agencies.

"Despite the additional resources and focus on Tennant Creek, terrible incidents continue to occur.

"The priority of any government is to keep people safe, and the safety of children must be at the centre of all decision making.

"We continue our call for the Labor government to ensure all frontline services are resourced as a priority, including child protection and youth workers, education, health and police officers and that they are working together and not in silos.

"It is one thing for the Chief Minister to take responsibility for the assaults, it is another for him as the Chief Minister to do whatever he has to, to put a halt to this continuing and horrendous series of assaults," said Ms Finocchiaro.

ENDS

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