

MEDIA RELEASE

THE NATS CAN'T BE TRUSTED ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

“When it comes to indigenous affairs, the Nats can't be trusted. Nigel Scullion's appearance in Mildura late last week merely highlights their hypocrisy”, according to Candidate for Mallee, Jason Modica.

“Either candidate Anne Webster is unaware of that hypocrisy or she doesn't care. The facts are that Mr Scullion gave hundreds of thousands of dollars, earmarked for alleviating Indigenous disadvantage, to industry lobby groups.

“Of the 1000 applications to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy fund only 500 actually went to indigenous groups. I think that information might make some indigenous people quite angry.

“Nigel Scullion made false and misleading claims about aboriginal deaths in custody and the epidemic of indigenous incarceration in an effort to save face. Mr Scullion made laughable statements about Vegemite Moonshine, saying “it was a precursor to misery”.

“When told of allegations of abuse within the Northern Territory juvenile detention system, Mr Scullion said he was unaware of the allegations because they had not “piqued his interest”. It has since been shown through Freedom of Information documents that he had a number of briefings on those cases.

“By standing next to him in that context Dr Webster gives tacit support to his actions; the syphoning away of money from our most vulnerable community members to satisfy the interests of big business.

“Not only can the Nats not be trusted on indigenous affairs, but they can't be trusted to deliver beyond the May election. The pundits are predicting a decisive Coalition loss at the upcoming election, which would place their candidate – and our whole electorate – on an opposition backbench for at least 3 years, probably 6.

“After 70 years of interrupted power in the Mallee, the Nats have had their turn. The only way to put Mallee on the Federal political map is to vote for a strong independent voice with a record of sincerity and consistency on the big issues of our time: people, power, water, health. I can deliver on that promise.”

- END: 11 March 2019 -