IAS cuts crippling our youth programs

Territory Labor is listening to Indigenous organisations and supporting them in their calls to have IAS funding decisions reviewed, Opposition Minister for Young Territorians Lauren Moss said

“What we are hearing is that Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) cuts could cripple some of our vital and successful programs right across the Territory: from Alice Springs to Manigrida and Tennant Creek to Katherine,” Ms Moss said.

“The Chief Minister says he’s heard stories about front line job losses but no evidence, an extraordinary claim from a man who claims to be the NT Indigenous Affairs Minister.

“The Barkly Regional Council has had its youth development shattered and 27 Indigenous jobs are on the line.

“Katherine YMCA has had its funding decimated and the future of many of its successful young programs in uncertain.

“Central Desert Regional Council says it hasn’t been funded to meet the real costs of service delivery with cuts to its youth services and essential school nutrition programs.

“He is not listening to the Macdonnell Regional Council who will lose 51 Indigenous jobs from remote communities. Youth development services are decimated, with the Council only receiving 8 per cent of its current funding.

“Adam Giles is not listening to the Youth Service at Maningrida which has built up a suite of services keeping young people engaged and off the streets, but is now facing an uncertain future because of IAS cuts.

“20 per cent of Amity’s funding has been cut, resulting in Indigenous jobs losses and a reduction in programs working with young people and dealing with volatile substance abuse.

“If Adam Giles doesn’t believe these cuts will impact on the frontline that shows he’s really not listening.

“Adam Giles must ask his CLP colleague Nigel Scullion to release a full list of the organisations he’s de-funded, the list of organisations that have had severe cuts and explain his rationale about why he has savaged proven and successful programs.

“The Chief Minister should also be calling on Senator Scullion to free up the rumoured $200 million kept aside as “demand driven activity grants” to meet the shortfalls in funding.
Lauren Moss
SHADOW MINISTER FOR YOUNG TERRITORIANS

“We’re also asking what the ‘demand driven’ funding is aimed at and seeking reassurances this is not going to be used to fund pork barrelling exercises going into elections.

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