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John Elferink

Opposition Whip, Shadow Minister for Community Development, Housing, Local Government, Sport & Recreation, Regional Development and Indigenous Affairs



More Support to Make Petrol Sniffing Illegal

3 February 2004

The Shadow Minister for Community Development Mr John Elferink says comments today from Mark Swindon, a Sport and Recreation Officer in the MacDonnell electorate calling for petrol sniffing to be made illegal, is support for common sense.

Mr Elferink said, "The CLP believes that petrol sniffing should be made illegal and that police must be given the powers to protect young sniffers from themselves.

"The Labor government prefers to create new bureaucracies and while it pussy-foots around, more young indigenous people are harming themselves.

"This morning's comments support the CLP's position that in making petrol sniffing illegal, the problem will become more manageable.

"It will give police the powers to act before young petrol sniffers commit other crimes. Currently, the police cannot intervene unless a crime is committed by the sniffer.

"The CLP believes that the Martin government is more worried about minor issues and niceties rather than adopting a more common sense approach of utilising the existing legal system".

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