MEDIA RELEASE

CHILD CARE DISGRACE

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Misplaced priorities and terrible planning by the Federal and Territory governments around the provision of child care facilities in the Northern Territory are hurting Alice Springs, says Shadow Minister for Children and Families, Robyn Lambley.

“The Federal Government invested $2.4million to construct a Child Care Centre in Palmerston which has sat empty for a year,” Ms Lambley said.

“Meanwhile, approximately 100 children in Alice Springs and about 30 in Tennant Creek cannot find a child care space because of waiting list blow-outs.

“In Parliament last week, Education Minister Chris Burns admitted the Government’s failure to open the Palmerston child care centre was unfortunate and disappointing.

“He could describe the failure to help end the shortfall of places in Central Australia as an absolute disgrace.

“People are leaving Alice Springs and Tennant Creek because of the shortage of child care places, but the Territory Government has refused to act to resolve the problem.

“And now Government has made child care more expensive through its support for national legislation aimed at homogenising the industry.”

Further comment: Robyn Lambley 0428 040 693