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**MEDIA RELEASE**

# When is it our turn premier?

Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Dale Last, has renewed his calls the three Townsville based MP's, Scott Stewart, Coralee O'Rourke, Aaron Harper to guarantee funding for repairs to the Townsville Women's Shelter while accusing the Premier and Treasurer of playing politics with vulnerable women.

The calls come following announcements of funding for similar services in Mackay and Cooktown in the lead up to the State Budget.

"It's great news for the women of Mackay and Cooktown but what about the women of North Queensland?" Mr Last said.

"We have the Townsville Women's Shelter having to rely on kind-hearted volunteers to raise funds to make their building safe but the local Townsville Labor members still can't secure funding."

"Domestic and Family Violence is an issue that should be above politics but the Premier and the Treasurer either don't listen to the Townsville members or the Townsville members just don't care."

"The Labor State Government can find money for important services in Mackay and Cooktown, money for Cross River Rail in Brisbane, money for an Art Gallery in Rockhampton but Townsville and North Queensland in general are consistently ignored."

Mr Last is also calling for increase funding for women's shelters and services throughout the Burdekin Electorate.

The two recent announcements are for electorates currently held by Labor members of parliament and Mr Last is concerned that victims in electorates held by the LNP are being ignored.

"Here we are in the middle of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and the funding announcements are all in Labor seats." Mr Last said. "Meanwhile in places like Moranbah, Ayr and Bowen victims have only one option and that is to transfer to their closest metropolitan centre."

"Money just seems to flow for projects in the South East and in Labor held seats but North Queensland gets ignored and it's just not good enough for these women and children who have already endured so much."

"You have countless victims in North Queensland that are being ignored in favour of Car Parks in Brisbane and that is just an insult."

"To rub salt in the wound you have three Labor members in Townsville who are unable to secure funding the Townsville Women's Shelter from their own government so you really have to question their effectiveness."

**ENDS**

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