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MEDIA RELEASE

Victims must come before politics

Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Dale Last, has called on Scott Stewart, Coralee O'Rourke, Aaron Harper and Treasurer Jackie Trad to put vulnerable women ahead of politics in the upcoming state budget.

As the Labor State Government prepares to hand down its first budget since the state election, the former Police Officer said funding for repairs to the Townsville Women's Shelter must be included if the local members, the Treasurer and the Premier were to be taken seriously.

"One death from domestic violence is too many and the effects on survivors and their children are felt for years... we have to do more to address it," Mr Last said.

"The three Townsville-based members need to step up for their community and lobby the Treasurer and Premier for the necessary funds to fix this centre."

"Domestic Violence is an issue that is above politics and I know that not one LNP member would hesitate in supporting anything that gets this issue fixed and fixed quickly."

Townsville local Sky Jerome and her foundation have been at the forefront of fundraising for the repairs to the centre and should be congratulated for their efforts according to Mr Last.

The three local members, however, have been relatively silent and need to be held to account.

"As a police officer, I saw domestic violence, assaults, homelessness and poverty first hand and it is something that the community needs to work together on," Mr Last said.

"More than 10,000 people were supported by the Townsville Women's Shelter last year so if the three local members come back from parliament empty-handed that is 10,000 people they have abandoned."

"In 2108 vulnerable women should not have to suffer through third world conditions when they have already been through so much."

"The State Government can find millions of dollars for car parks in the South East Corner but we have no commitment to fix a vital service in North Queensland."

"It's Domestic Violence Awareness month and it's time the local members, the Treasurer and the Premier acted for victims in North Queensland instead of just looking after the South East."

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