

Thursday, 22 July 2010

HOW CAN VICKIE GET IT SO WRONG – AGAIN?

Disability Minister Jennifer Rankine today attacked opposition spokesperson Vickie Chapman for deliberately misleading the South Australian disability sector.

In a press release issued following Question Time today, Ms Chapman said the Labor Government had failed in its election commitment by allegedly failing to spend by June 30, money allocated to help clear the equipment waiting list.

Her comments come despite Labor policy clearly stating that the money was available in the 2009/2010 financial year but would be spent over six to 12 months to allow for specialist equipment to be purchased.

“The clear facts are Cabinet has approved the money, the Department for Families and Communities is spending the money and Novita are paying staff with the money,” Ms Rankine said.

“I’m sure it must be frustrating for Ms Chapman to not be allowed to ask questions from the backbench in Parliament but there is no excuse for this blatant attempt to scare families of people with disabilities.”

The Labor Party press release also clearly states that “a re-elected Rann Labor Government will inject an immediate \$7.7 million.”

“This is exactly what we have done,” Ms Rankine said.

“We have honoured our commitment to provide this funding and we will spend the money as quickly as we can.

“I am more than happy to compare this record to the Opposition’s pathetic commitment to provide \$2.5m a year for all disability services.

“As I said in Parliament today, the opposition are a disgrace.”