



## Candidate responses to 2016 NT Election Asks

26 August 2016

### Country Liberal Party

#### ASK 1: Aboriginal Justice Agreement

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will await the outcomes of the newly announced Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection; so as not to pre-empt or exclude anything that might be recommended by the Royal Commission

#### ASK 2: Specialist and therapeutic courts

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will undertake further discussions with a range of stakeholders including the Chief Judge of the Local Court, service providers and victim's groups to consider this ask.

#### ASK 3: Rehabilitation and reintegration

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will undertake further discussions with a range of stakeholders including the Chief Judge of the Local Court, service providers and victim's groups to consider this ask.

#### ASK 4: Reduce the number of young people being locked up

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will undertake further discussions with a range of stakeholders including the Chief Judge of the Local Court, service providers and victim's groups to consider this ask.

#### ASK 5: Abolish Mandatory Sentencing

Mandatory sentencing in its current forms is the policy of the Country Liberals Government. There are no plans to change the policy.

#### ASK 6: A comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol

The Country Liberals Government have a comprehensive alcohol policy for the Northern Territory that is based upon the *Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act*, the *Alcohol Protection Orders Act*, the *Liquor Act* and other pieces of complimentary legislation and programs.

There are no plans to abolish paperless arrests, Alcohol Protection Orders or the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Scheme.

### Delia Lawrie: Independent / Karama

#### ASK 1: Aboriginal Justice Agreement

Supports Aboriginal Justice Agreement. How will this happen?

#### ASK 2: Specialist and therapeutic courts

Consider problem solving courts.

#### ASK 3: Rehabilitation and reintegration

Consider Enough is Enough package. Include outreach, rehabilitation, post release support. Train GPs to respond to AOD issues, involve AMSANT. AOD specialists in all remote clinics and ED. Consider AOD tribunal and treatment plans.

Place based rehabilitation in remote communities. People take different healing pathways. Aboriginal people know what works and we need to support that to happen.

There must be three-year funding and program evaluations, a legislative framework and program delivery. Implement reforms that are flexible and effective.

ASK 4: Reduce the number of young people being locked up

Yes. Including a resourced VET program and trade skills. Give young people options.

ASK 5: Abolish Mandatory Sentencing

Agree except in Domestic and Family Violence cases. What is the alternative in these cases?

ASK 6: A comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol

Agree, refer to the Enough is Enough package.

## **Gerry Wood: Independent / Nelson**

Support more investment into parenting as recommended by Howard Bath. Support early intervention programs in the first years of school – recognise from child's behaviour whether there are problems at home

Support taking people bush instead being locked up in town – Wildman River, Mataranka Station, Love Creek Boot Camp, Bushmob or any other programs that take kids away from the city and with the right people such as elders or trained leaders to work with them. Look at setting up a Families Responsibilities Commission as in North Queensland.

## **Kezia Purick: Independent / Goyder**

Thank you for your email letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 in regards to the NT General Election

As you may be aware, I am not a member of a political party so the views expressed here are my own and at times, reflective of the views and aspirations of my constituents.

Thank you for writing to me on these important issues and more so given recent media coverage of past activities in our correctional facilities.

Much of what you have contained in your papers is not familiar to me in my work in the rural area and as such, I do not feel comfortable responding to the requests and questions until I have spoken with people and groups who are familiar with these issues. Having said that, the one item I will comment on is the plan to deal with alcohol and I support the recommendations in the select committee report into foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) which include advocating a floor price for alcohol in the Northern Territory. It may be that the whole issue of alcohol supply, consumption, harm and detention due to associated crimes if referred to a select committee in the new government. Whatever the terms of reference are for such a committee, the new government needs to be committed to the select committee's recommendations and provide proper resources accordingly. Regrettably, this did not happen with the committee into FASD.

I trust this is of assistance and I would be pleased to talk with you after the election, which hopefully will be positive for me.

## **Phil Walcott: Independent / Braitling**

Below is clearly not as comprehensive or detailed as it can be, but, in summary:

### ASK 1: Aboriginal Justice Agreement

Absolutely. Whole-of-community approaches to justice issues can get the more support from the members of it. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have their own traditional law and justice systems that must be respected in combination with 'white-fella' laws that apply around a variety of jurisdictions in Australia.

### ASK 2: Specialist and therapeutic courts

Specialist and therapeutic courts are a better way to reflect the needs of young people (especially) and those who experience mental health compromise, addictions etc.

### ASK 3: Rehabilitation and reintegration

Rehabilitation is a crucial factor in people learning alternative reactions and behaviours. People only know what they know. Intergenerational abuse and neglect has taught some people some inappropriate behaviours in an attempt to survive. Teach those people to practice alternatives that enrich their lives and those of their families / general community.

### ASK 4: Reduce the number of young people being locked up

With regard to Priority 4, can you replace the term 'case' with 'care'? Only one letter but it does make a difference in the way those plans are generated and viewed. Language is powerful.

Keeping people in the general community should be the goal of any fair and just society. The 'lock 'em up' punitive mentality of this current government is reprehensible and the number of young people incarcerated is unacceptable. Carework programs that included restorative practices, family conferencing are far preferable. I particularly endorse Priority 2 & 3 as those ideas positively embrace my position on the 'babies in the belly' beginnings as part of the collective impact project being co-ordinated by Rebecca Glen (cc box) from the Desert Knowledge Australia precinct.

### ASK 5: Abolish Mandatory Sentencing

Yes

### ASK 6: A comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol

Totally support both of your Priorities.

## **Robyn Lambley: Independent / Araluen**

I have read the "asks" you have put forward for candidates to comment on. On the surface I have no fundamental objection to any of these. The intent of these "asks" appears to be caring, constructive and respectful.

Obviously before fully committing to any of these ideas I would need a broader explanation and comprehensive analysis. There is also always a cost implication for any Government initiative which needs to be carefully considered.

## **Territory Labor**

Territory Labor broadly supports the Making Justice Work campaign. Labor supports the development of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement with our community. It complements our approach to social policy and social justice of investing in children and young people's health, education and wellbeing, and investing in long term, place based solutions to complex social issues.

## **NT Greens**

No response

## **1 Territory**

No response