



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Country Liberals' race-based questions demand answers

15 June 2010

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive Mr Kim Hill has demanded the Territory Opposition outline its reasons for asking race-based questions in today's estimates hearings in Darwin.

The Country Liberals Member for Brainting, Adam Giles, asked for a breakdown on how much sick leave was taken by indigenous staff.

Mr Hill described this line of questioning as being "highly offensive to Indigenous Territorians".

"What is the Opposition trying to achieve with this absurd approach?" he asked.

"It's clearly inappropriate to ask for a breakdown of the amount of sick leave taken by employees from a specific race."

Mr Hill said Indigenous employees are highly valued within the Northern Territory public service and that the questions raised by the Country Liberals cast serious dispersions on their work ethic.

"This unhealthy interest in Indigenous employees raises questions about how a future Country Liberals Government would view Indigenous public servants," he said.

"Clearly, the Country Liberals have demonstrated a lack of trust towards Indigenous public servants and a great deal of suspicion."