



# JUSTINE DAVIS MEMBER FOR JOHNSTON

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## Media Release

### IEPS Fraud Scandal: Where is the Accountability?

Monday, 3 February 2025

Justine Davis MLA:

“The Northern Territory Government’s failure to investigate and recover millions lost in the IEPS fraud scandal is a disgrace. This scandal exposes a damning lack of transparency, accountability, and financial oversight. While small operators have been prosecuted, major companies and key figures appear to have escaped scrutiny entirely, undermining public trust in the Government’s ability to manage taxpayer funds responsibly.

Territorians deserve a full and public accounting of how much was lost, what was recovered, and who will be held responsible. According to Minister Yan, \$59.9 million has not, and will not, be recovered.

This Government claims to prioritise accountability for crimes committed. But they are only prioritising accountability for some crimes and appear willing to let businesses defraud NT taxpayers of almost \$60 million without consequence.

The failure to properly manage this program spans both sides of Government. A program initially designed and set up by the CLP was mismanaged under Labor, and now the CLP is attempting to wash its hands of the issue, when a proper investigation is required. This is simply not good enough.

A program set up to benefit Aboriginal communities through employment and infrastructure has instead benefitted fraudulent businesses. The Treasurer himself has acknowledged that it is “disappointing when these funds are misappropriated from their intended benefit of increasing employment and training opportunities for Indigenous Territorians.”

The Government doesn’t have to settle for disappointment – they can take action. It is not acceptable to simply say, ‘let’s move on’ – this money belongs to the NT community. I will be referring this matter to the Parliament for a full inquiry.”

Justine Davis

*Independent Member for Johnston*

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