

Thursday 25 February 2010

PLAN TO REDUCE KNIFE THREAT

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government would introduce a number of tough measures to reduce Victoria's disturbing knife threat.

Labor has ignored repeated calls by the Coalition and victims of crime to increase police numbers and do more to stop Victorians using knives, following an alarming growth in knife attacks in Melbourne.

John Brumby has not delivered on his key anti-knife promises from eleven years ago.

Labor's broken promises on knives from 1999 include banning the sale of all knives to children under 16 and penalising parents and carers who allow children to carry knives.

John Brumby claims a '*phenomenon*' now exists with young people carrying knives, yet Labor was warned about these problems years ago and did virtually nothing.

Now after the latest spate of stabbings in Melbourne, John Brumby is claiming he is tough on knife crime after he stood by for years while the knife threat grew.

A Victorian Coalition Government would reduce knife crimes by:

- removing Labor's seven-day notice period for random knife searches;
- prohibiting the sale of knives to minors;
- ensuring a knife amnesty program is extended and promoted into schools; and
- enforcing mandatory reporting by hospitals of stabbings while protecting doctors from liability.

It should not be the norm on a Monday morning to hear about victims being bashed, stabbed or worse over the weekend.

Despite record levels of violent crime, Victoria continues to spend the least of any state in Australia on police resources per person and has the fewest police per person of any state.

A Coalition Government will protect Victorians by taking the necessary action to turn around the knife threat.