Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition

**Territory lose 3,389 people in a year ended June 30, 2003**

28 April 2004

Today's ABS Migration figures show that for the year ended June 30, 2003, the Territory lost 3,389 people and the total population declined by 381.

The population turnover of the Northern Territory, was 19% (see page 77) of its resident population the ABS also reveals today in the latest statistics on Migration.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said today's Migration figures confirms what Territorians already know - more people are packing up and leaving the Territory than coming.

“More than 66 people a week are leaving to make somewhere else in Australia home and alarmingly the only reason the Territory's population has any growth is because of the birth rate rather than new people choosing to move to the Territory,” Mr Mills said.

“This is symptomatic of the economic malaise in the Territory.

“The year has started with an increase in bankruptcies and Territorians are finding it too hard to make a go of it and are leaving.

“And it's only going to get tougher for Territorians to remain with Government increasing power costs for business by 40% and Government refusing to rule out slugging households if re-elected.”

Ends