Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

CLP celebrates Seniors Week with Policy Pledge

4 August 2004

A future CLP Government will remove the six-month residency requirement for pensioners to qualify for the Northern Territory Pensioner Concession Scheme, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Mr Mills said the change was intended to encourage and reward seniors who are keen to make the Territory their home.

The Northern Territory Pensioner Concession Scheme allows specific members of the community to access goods and services at a concessional rate. Concessions apply on urban bus travel, spectacles, electricity, motor vehicle registration, drivers licences, council rates, sewerage and water rates, garbage rates and (after two years) interstate and overseas travel.

“The CLP is committed to supporting pensioners and senior Territorians which is why we legislated so that the Territory's Pensioner Concession Scheme would be non means tested for older Territorians,” Mr Mills said.

“The Northern Territory currently requires potential recipients of the scheme to serve a six months waiting period. This is counterproductive to the aim of attracting people to settle and retire in the Territory.

“The drain on population in the Territory needs to be reversed and this policy is intended to help that happen. Seniors make a valuable contribution to the economic, social and cultural fabric of our community and the CLP is actively encouraging more seniors to make their home here.”

Mr Mills said applicants for the Pensioner Concession Scheme will be able to demonstrate their intentions to settle in the Territory by a number of methods, including:

• Purchase of a residential property.
• The lease of a residential property.
• Electricity connection.
• Phone connection.
• NT drivers licence.
• Social Security documentation demonstrating an NT address.
• Post Office Box and or bank account details

Ends