Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Govt deceit over sex laws continues

10 December 2003

The Attorney General has continued the Government's deceit over its new sex laws CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

Mr Mills said he was appalled that the Territory's first law officer would have to resort to making defamatory accusations in an attempt to deflect attention from the community division the Government has created with its new laws - a package of laws that as a whole need to be revisited.

"To claim that I condone sex between adult men and under-age girls is a lie and defamatory and reinforces the grubby depths Government has had to go to because of the mess it has made of it's new sex laws," Mr Mills said.

"I opposed the Government's new sex laws because I do not agree with changes the Chief Minister made to age of consent laws. As leader I will be looking to review that into the future.

"The facts are this: The Government has made a botch up of its new laws by the deceitful way it chose not to consult the people it most affects and the whole package needs to be re-assessed because of the flaws contained within it.

"The Government has angered the Greek community, the Filipino community, the Christian community, the Islamic community and now the Aboriginal community.

"Child abuse is not to be tolerated. I would have ensured changes Government intended to make affecting real customary law would have involved consultation first.

"This is not about child abuse it is about the Government forcing laws on people without consultation.

"We have extreme anger in the community because the Government has made it legal for adult men to have sex with 16 year old boys. Now the Aboriginal community says Government has interfered with its customary laws without consulting them.

"Any legislator worth their salt would recognise the community division is so deep it requires a Government to listen, consult and if necessary consider re-working the new laws."

Ends