OUT BROTHERS OUT

The Henderson Government has skewed the workplace balance in favour of the unions with the passage of its Work Health laws through the Territory Parliament last night, says the Territory Opposition.

The legislation grants unrestricted union access to every Territory workplace whether or not they have a union member on site.

“Under the guise of workplace safety, the Henderson Government has opened the door for unions to trawl for members on worksites across the Territory,” says Terry Mills, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“The Territory will be the only jurisdiction in Australia that allows union officials to enter a worksite without notice and without reasonable suspicion of a breach of Occupational Health and Safety rules.

“Currently, unions require permission from the employer to enter a worksite – once this legislation is passed all the union official will need is potential members at the site and OHS training to gain unrestricted access.

“Now if someone wants to join a union that is their right and I’ll defend their right to do so.

“What I cannot support is the implementation of a belligerent pro-union intrusion into the Territory that will significantly change the culture of the Territory workplace.

“This change will result in an aggressive workplace recruitment drive by unions. It needs to be remembered that the Labor Party will financially benefit from increased union membership.

When introducing the Bill the Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, stated:

*It is fair to say that the main areas canvassed in the various submissions focussed on the consultation processes between employers and employees, particularly with regard to health and safety representatives and authorised union OHS representatives.

*In drafting this legislation, Government has taken into account the various positions of stakeholders on these issues and has ensured the appropriate checks and balances are in place to address the expressed concerns.

“With the Territory Construction Association, Chamber of Commerce, Housing Industry Association, Civil contractors Association and the Minerals Council all vehemently opposed to these changes it is obvious the power of the unions prevailed.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594