15th April 2008

THE HUMAN FACE OF VIOLENT ASSAULT

Terry Mills, the Leader of the Opposition, has voiced his concern about the leniency of a sentence handed down in the Youth Court for a vicious assault involving a attack with a hammer.

Mr Mills has been contacted by the victim, Mr Tod Trainer, and received a copy his Victim Impact Statement relating to the assault at his Malak home last year.

“I am deeply disturbed that the offender received a suspended sentence for this vicious assault,” says Mr Mills.

“This young offender should be on his way to a boot camp to sweat some real tears.

“Instead he’ll be lounging around at home under the supervision of his mother.

“I can think of no better illustration of the failure of the Labor Government regarding youth crime in the Territory.

“We need a genuinely tough option for young people who violently assault others.”

The facts of this case are stark and disturbing.

Mr Trainer was attacked in his own home, with the claw end of his own hammer resulting in a head wound requiring 10 staples and 10 stitches. As a consequence of the attack the Mr Trainer suffered from frequent headaches and slurred speech. He has also endured considerable psychological anguish and no longer feels safe in his house as a consequence of this disgraceful assault.

“I cannot understand how the perpetrator of a vicious assault whilst trespassing can receive a suspended sentence,” says Mr Mills.

“There is a huge gap between what the offender received and what the community expects.

“This case illustrates my contention that our criminal justice system has become a revolving door because of the lenient treatment of too many lawbreakers.

“A suspended sentence sends the wrong message to the whole community.

“People who commit serious crime need to do serious time.

“I want to know what the Attorney General thinks about this sentence and what he plans to do about it?

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 04000 14059