BURNS TAKES A BATTERING ON ASSAULT STATISTICS

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics Victims of Crime figures are another body blow to the Territory Government’s tattered law and order credentials.

“Yesterday the Minister for Justice, Chris Burns, misleadingly quoted Justice Department statistics to claim assault rates in the Territory were falling,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Indeed the Minister went even further, claiming to be ‘heartened’ by the latest figures on violent assault.

“Today the ABS has confirmed that the rate of violent assault in the Territory in 2007 rose by an appalling 24%.

“The Minister shouldn’t be ‘heartened’ by these appalling figures, he should be disgusted.

“Behind his dishonest attempt to manipulate the figures are real people suffering terribly from violent crime.

“The figures also clearly show that the rate of violent assault has been rising since Labor came to office in 2001.

“In 2001 there were 2,948 violent assaults in the Territory, last year there were 5,390 violent assaults in the Territory.

“That’s an outrageous average of 15 violent assaults each and every day of the year in the Territory.

“Labor needs to stop pretending things are improving and admit it has lost the fight against violent crime.

“As long as Labor publicly pretends the situation is improving there is no hope of them taking the measures necessary to stem the rise of violent crime.

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