POLICE TO BEAT CRIME

Terry Mills has announced he would put an extra 130 police on the beat in the next two years, 50 more than would be delivered by Paul Henderson, as the centre piece of the Country Liberals election launch.

“The alarming 83% rise in violent crime in the Territory under Labor has stretched our police resources to the limit,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Country Liberals.

“We need a comprehensive approach to tackle the increasing problems with violent crime: we need certainty in sentencing and more police on the beat.

“Too often we hear our police are so busy that they cannot get to the scene of a crime in a timely manner.

“If we are going the drive down the rate of crime in the Territory we need more police officers on the beat to enforce the significantly tougher laws proposed by the Country Liberals.

“A failure on either front will compromise our capacity to drive down the rate of violent assault in the Territory.

“That’s why Labor’s plan won’t effectively tackle the rate of violent crime in the Territory – it won’t provide for genuine minimum sentencing and it is skimping on the number of police needed to enforce the law.

“Another significant announcement at the launch was the Country Liberals Sight and Sound program.

“In the first year of the Country Liberals Sight and Sound program, 2009, all primary aged students will be tested. After that we will provide vision and hearing testing for all children entering Year 1 from the 2010 school year on.
“We will also provide further testing of students who fall behind at Year 3 and Year 5 NAP testing.

“All children should have the same opportunity to develop their talents so as to be best placed to get the most out of life. It is a fundamental responsibility of Government to provide children with the best possible chance for their future.

“We use our senses to learn but if our senses are not working we can not learn. Taking action in the early years is the only way we will get real and lasting outcomes now and into the future.”

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