PARENTS NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Minister for Justice Dr Chris Burns said the NT Government is on track to introduce parental responsibility legislation in the first parliament of the year to tackle unacceptable youth crime.

“Tackling youth crime is a top priority of this Government – and I’m confident we’ll be able to introduce tough new laws in the February sittings,” Dr Burns said.

“We will hold irresponsible parents to account for the repeat offending of their children.

“Parenting is one of the toughest jobs of all and an overwhelming majority of Territory mums and dads do the right thing.

“But, there is a small number of parents who simply don’t care – and we’re all paying the price.

“Parents need to be part of the solution and that’s what parental responsibility agreements are all about.

“Problem children will be identified by Police or Family and Community Services – and parents will enter into responsibility agreements.

“If the parents refuse to enter into the agreement or comply with the terms – the agency can seek a court order to force them to do so.

“If the order is broken – parents will face substantial fines – if they don’t pay then non-essential household goods such as plasma televisions will be confiscated

“Parental responsibility agreements will be part of a package of measures to crackdown on youth crime.”

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