Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition
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PRISONERS NEED WORK NOT PLAY

The Territory Opposition has criticised the provision of DVD’s to allow Territory prisoners to watch movies in their cells.

“Prison should be about hard work and education, not recreation,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“There’s a plague of graffiti in Darwin at the moment and I’d like to see low security prisoners in work gangs cleaning the graffiti blight.

“A prison farm at Katherine would also ensure low security prisoners got out of their cells and did some real work in the horticultural industry.

“Prisoners sitting idly around smoking, playing cards and watching DVDs are not being rehabilitated.

“The Territory has the highest repeat offender rate in the nation in part because too many prisoners learn nothing when in jail.

“If the 68% repeat offender rate is to be reduced, Territory prisoners will need to get basic education, drug and alcohol rehabilitation and work skills whilst in prison.

“Simply housing prisoners for the period of their sentence will break the cycle of crime and incarceration that too many Territorians fall into.

“The Territory Government needs to shelve its expensive plans for a new prison in Darwin, establish a prison work farm near Katherine and establish programmes based on education and hard work for all prisoners.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594