HENDERSON IN DENIAL ON CRIME

While the Chief Minister continues to bask in the delusion that rising crime levels in the Northern Territory are a figment of the community’s imagination, the number of crimes – and the victims of those crimes – continues to grow.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills says he was appalled at the Chief Minister’s dismissive comments in the Legislative Assembly last week playing down rising crime levels in the Territory.

“Paul Henderson and the Labor Government are so out of touch with what’s happening in the Northern Territory that he rejects the wealth of data that crime across the Territory is increasing.

“During last week’s Sittings, Mr Henderson said:

Now the CLP run this line that there has been an increase in crime. That is patently false, absolutely false.

“The Chief Minister should look no further than the Government’s own crime statistics that show Property Crime increased from 5117 in the September Quarter to 5572 in the December quarter and that Crimes Against the Person climbed from 1432 to 1723 over the same period

“If he’s not convinced by that, then he should look at last year’s Australian Bureau of Statistics crime data, which shows violent crime in the Northern Territory climbed by 83 since Labor won office in 2001.”

Mr Mills said the recent spate of violent attacks in Palmerston were a symptom of Government neglect over a sustained period.
“Police resourcing in Palmerston has not kept up with population increases over recent years – and this is reflected in the brutal attacks we’ve witnessed over recent months,” he said.

But the shortage in police numbers isn’t limited to Palmerston.

Mr Mills said that at the weekend the University Pirates – the rugby union team based at Charles Darwin University – was the victim of a ram raid during which a stolen car was driven through the front door of the clubhouse.

He said a combination of inadequate staffing and rising crime levels meant hardworking police are so stretched, that they didn’t even dust for fingerprints among the debris because they believed they wouldn’t catch the perpetrators.

“It should be a basic expectation of Territorians that their police are resourced to such an extent that they can adequately investigate crimes and provide a reasonable level of community safety,” Mr Mills said.

“Under the Henderson Government, both these criteria are out of reach.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594