Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition
Media Release

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MAYHEM ON MITCHELL STREET

Early morning violence in Mitchell Street has again drawn attention to the rise of senseless, random violence in Darwin.

“It’s time for the Chief Minister to admit his Government is failing to stem the rise of violent crime across the Territory,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“The half-hearted measures the Henderson Government has adopted to deal with violent crime are fuelling the rise of assault in the Territory.

“The Chief Minister’s repeated claim that there is merely an increase in the incidence of reported crime, rather than actual violence, has resulted in a lack of decisive action to deal with assault.

“The Henderson Government needs to make reducing violent crime a priority.

“One issue that certainly needs to be addressed is the manner in which nightclubs shutdown at the moment.

“All clubs should stay open for an hour after last drinks and provide free water during that period of time.

“That would help reduce the tendency for a large number of people to spill onto the street at the same time and should help reduce the potential for confrontation between patrons.

“I’d also increase the police’s role in enforcing the law when it comes to the sale of alcohol to intoxicated patrons in licenced premises.

“I’d also ensure there are a sufficient number of police on the streets to curb the prospect of violence before it erupts.

“Just last month the Chief Minister cancelled a police recruitment squad claiming there were more police than needed in the Territory.

“Last night’s events in Mitchell Street again illustrate too few police is the reality – not too many.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 83 3594