Opposition Leader Terry Mills says the Chief Minister should clarify recent comments he has made linking the increase in violent crime to domestic violence.

Mr Mills said the Police annual report, released today, shows that contrary to claims by the Chief Minister – the gap between domestic violence and general violence is widening.

The report shows that Offences Against the Person increased from 5964 to 6474 in 2008-09, an increase of 8.6% on the previous year.

A break-down of the figures in the Northern Territory shows domestic violence actually fell as a percentage of overall violent crime – down from 48.2% in 2007-08 to 47.1% in 2008-09, Mr Mills said.

“While still unacceptably high, it bears no relationship to what the Chief Minister has to say on the reporting of violent crime,” Mr Mills said.

“The same applies in Darwin and Alice Springs, with the proportion of domestic violence dropping as a percentage of Violence Against the Person.” (table attached)

Paul Henderson says violent crime in the Territory is increasing because of increases in domestic violence:

- … the increase in the reporting of violent crime was a direct link to, and consequence of, increased focus of policing domestic violence. (Hansard – October 12th, 2009)
- As I have said, it does go to the fact these assaults, tragically, are very much over-represented by the horror of domestic violence. (Hansard – October 19th, 2009)
- … and how they were directly attributable to the increased reporting of domestic violence. (Hansard – October 19th, 2009)

“The Chief Minister should stop using mandatory reporting of domestic violence as an excuse for increasing rates of violent assaults in the Northern Territory,” Mr Mills said.

“A 6.8% increase in domestic family violence across the Territory at the same time that violence in the wider community increased by 10.9% indicates violence in the community is out of control.”