COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE
17 ASSAULTS IN THE TERRITORY EVERY DAY
Terry Mills MLA
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The latest assault figures provide a disturbing reminder of the extent to which violent crime has increased across the Territory under Labor and the additional effort that is required to tackle the problem.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said the number of assaults increased by almost 1000 during 2009 – a record increase over 12 months – and by 72% since 2004.

There were 6239 violent assaults in the Territory last year, an increase of 912 on the previous year.

During 2009, assaults increased by 26 in Palmerston (7%), 321 in Alice Springs (29%), 238 in Katherine (48%), 18 in Tennant Creek (4%) and 413 outside the major centres.

In Darwin, the figure fell by 47 in 2009, a decrease of 3%.

“There were 1427 assaults in Darwin in 2009, and while the Government might be satisfied by that outcome, it is an extremely poor result,” Mr Mills said.

“Territorians have a right to feel safe as they go about their business or socialise together in a nightclub.

“As it stands, 17 Territorians were victims of a serious assault every day last year or, to put it another way, an unacceptably high 1 in 30 Territorians were assaulted last year.

“I notice that at least 59% of assaults were alcohol related, which points to the on-going failure of the Government to adequately tackle issues of alcohol consumption across the Territory.

“In Government, the Country Liberals will introduce mandatory rehabilitation for anybody placed in protective custody three times in 6 months.

“Judging by today’s figures, the Government’s current alcohol policies aren’t working.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594