COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE

YOUTH CRIME CONTINUES TO RISE
Terry Mills MLA
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The latest youth crime figures show a troubling increase in recorded crimes by juveniles across the Territory in the 2008-09 financial year.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show there were 8982 recorded crimes by offenders aged between 10 and 18 in 2008-09, compared with 7817 in the previous financial year, an increase of 14.9%.

Young people represented 22.4% of all offenders across the Northern Territory.

Between 2007-08 and 2008-09, the Northern Territory reported the largest proportional increase in the number of offenders, both male and female.

The increase for young males was 14% and for young women it was 16%.

The figures show the Territory had the highest offender rate in 2008-09, with 4832 offenders per 100,000 persons aged between 10 and over and recorded the largest increase in the offender rate across Australia.

“These figures confirm that youth crime in the Territory is at disturbingly high levels,” Mr Mills said.

“There is no substantial consequence for young offenders and as a result the cycle of youth crime remains unbroken.

“Under the Country Liberals, boot camps would be established around the Territory aimed at getting young offenders to work and develop skills.

“We believe this would help break the cycle of youth crime and encourage character development of young people.”

Corrective Services figures also released by the ABS today shows the average daily number of people in full time custody in the Territory last year was 1073 compared to 939 in 2008.

The Territory also has the highest imprisonment rate in the country with 662 prisoners per 100,000 population compared to 171 prisoners per 100,000 nationally.

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