LABOR LEARNS NOTHING

An 18% increase in the rate of violent assault in the Northern Territory between October 2008 and September 2009 highlights the failure of the Henderson Government to control violent crime.

The Henderson Government suffered a 9% swing against it at the August 2008 poll largely because of its failure to respond effectively to the spiralling rate of violent assault during Labor’s rule.

“Another 18% increase in the rate of violent assault shows the Henderson Government has learnt nothing and done far too little to tackle the shocking incidence of violent assault in the Northern Territory,” says John Elferink, Manager of Opposition Business.

“These figures are the latest wake-up call for a Chief Minister who has repeatedly and foolishly denied the extent of violent crime in the Northern Territory.

“Paul Henderson has repeatedly claimed that the relentless rise in the number of violent assaults in the Northern Territory reflects an increase in the rate of reporting of domestic violence.

“The Opposition exposed the Chief Minister’s argument as nonsense at the Alice Springs’ sitting of Parliament.

“Today’s figures confirm the rate of violent assault is increasing in both domestic cases and non-domestic cases in the Northern Territory.

“The fact is neither violence in the home nor violence on the streets is acceptable and people are more likely to be violently assaulted in the Territory than any other jurisdiction in Australia.

“Rather than engaging in desperate deceptions about statistics the Chief Minister needs to confront the reality that violent crime is out of control in the Northern Territory.

“Territory Labor has created an environment where the perpetrators of crime are treated as victims and as a consequence there are too many people with too little respect for the law.

“Curbing the rate of violent crime requires a well resourced police force, courts equipped with tough sentencing requirements and a corrections system that both punishes and rehabilitates.

“Our police need sufficient numbers to control crime on the streets and our courts need to instil respect for the law in those who appear before them.

“The Territory needs boot camps for young offenders, work camps for adult offenders and policies that end the revolving door that is the NT’s prison system.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400