Shadow Justice Minister, John Elferink, says he has misgivings about the six month non-parole period handed to an 18-year-old who bashed a man, stole his car and escaped from custody.

Mr Elferink said the young man had earlier been given a 12 month non-parole period for the stabbing attack on a man as he tried to protect his baby daughter.

"In both cases, lenient non-parole periods appear to have been handed to this offender," Mr Elferink said.

"This young man appears not to have appreciated the initial non-parole period handed down for the stabbing, and now he has been given another apparently lenient non-parole sentence for the later offence.

"Sentences of this nature disappoint the broader community.

"There is a public expectation that people who are sentenced for a violent crime actually do real time.

"A court’s authority is primarily drawn from public confidence and when that confidence is eroded it can ultimately attract Parliamentary intervention.

"The Country Liberals believe sentences, particularly for violent assaults, should be more in line with the head sentence."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400