The Federal Budget took another step towards handing the Territory’s sovereignty to Canberra.

Federal Labor flagged the recruitment of 12 alcohol licensing inspectors … ‘to tackle alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory’.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said the Henderson Government’s dependence on the Commonwealth is undermining Territory sovereignty.

“The Chief Minister rails about the need for Statehood, but then rolls over to Canberra without even trying to defend our rights,” Mr Mills said.

“The licensing inspectors are the thin edge of the wedge for Territory business operators who will now have to run the gauntlet of Canberra bureaucrats.

“It appears these Federal bureaucrats will be acting independently of the Territory’s Licensing Commission.

“The same type of intrusion is also on the cards for the operators of stores that sell food to large numbers of Aborigines.

“While it’s obvious the Chief Minister and his incompetent Labor Government lack the capacity to manage the Territory, that’s no excuse for giving control to Canberra.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594