May 3rd, 2012

"Labor’s $70 million alcohol reforms are an expensive failure," says Opposition Leader, Terry Mills.

"Even the Government’s cherry-picked crime figures can’t hide the fact that supply restrictions are failing to reduce alcohol related crime.

"In Darwin and Alice Springs, violent assaults have actually increased since the Banned Drinker Register was introduced across the Territory last July.

"During the March quarter 2011, there were 1655 assaults across the Territory, compared with 1826 in March quarter 2012.

In Darwin, there were 365 assaults in the March quarter 2011 compared with 402 in March quarter 2012 and in Alice Springs there were 433 assaults in March quarter 2011 rising to 464 in the March quarter 2012.

"By any measure this is a failed reform.

"The Government has invested a lot of money into promoting these changes but the results speak for themselves.

"The figures released today don’t show other crime categories such as commercial and house break-ins.

"The figures also make no mention of properties broken into where alcohol is stolen.

"Chronic alcoholics will still get grog regardless of what bans are in place.

"Instead of cherry-picking crime data, the Government should release comprehensive crime statistics covering all crime categories before the election in August."

(See attached table)

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594