MEDIA RELEASE

POPULATION FIGURES HIGHLIGHT POLICY FAILURES

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The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics population figures shows the extent to which the Henderson Labor Government’s policies are failing Territorians.

The Territory recorded the country’s third lowest population increase of just 0.8%.

During the December quarter 2011, 612 more people left the Territory for interstate than migrated here.

Since the December quarter 2009, net interstate migration has been 4193 in the negative.

“Territory families and workers are voting with their feet,” says Opposition Leader, Terry Mills.

“These figures are almost without precedent and are a damning condemnation of the Government’s land release and housing policies.

“Median rents in Darwin are the highest of any Australian capital and out of reach of many wage-earners.

“House prices are also out of reach for many ordinary Territorians who either can’t get loans from the banks or who can’t afford the repayments.

“The Government’s response to the interstate exodus is to bury its head in the
“Treasurer Delia Lawrie has blamed the re-location of Australian Defence Force members from Palmerston to South Australia in 2010 – a claim which isn’t borne out by the facts.

“Meanwhile, the Chief Minister is pushing to bring overseas workers into the Territory while his Government’s policies are forcing people to leave.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594