MEDIA RELEASE

TOUGHER ONE PUNCH LAWS

August 5th, 2012

The Country Liberals will re-introduce one-punch homicide legislation to the first Legislative Assembly sittings after the August 25th Northern Territory election.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills and Shadow Attorney General John Elferink said if elected, the Country Liberals will pass the law through Parliament by Christmas.

Mr Mills said a Country Liberals Government will also introduce mandatory drug testing for anybody arrested for an assault on or about a license premises.

"The impact of this will be two-fold," Mr Mills said.

"It will allow authorities to determine the substances that may have contributed to the assault but also open up the possibility of drug abuse charges being laid

"The Country Liberals are committed to sending out a very strong signal that violent crime simply will not be tolerated," Mr Mills said

"The message needs to be re-enforced with laws that show there will be a consequence for violent behaviour."

Shadow Attorney General, John Elferink, said king-hit laws are in place elsewhere in Australia and other jurisdictions are also considering legislating to close the king hit loophole.

"Our king hit legislation is ready to go and will be a priority of the Country Liberals," Mr Elferink said.

"At present, under certain circumstances, an offender may not be held accountable for causing a death after a fatal king hit."
“Our proposed amendments seek to close loopholes within criminal law that require prosecution to prove that foresight or negligence was present in the event of a fatal assault.

“This can be problematic when the cause of death may actually have been the victim’s head striking the ground after a king hit.

“The Country Liberals will seek to amend the Criminal Code to include an offence of Assault Causing Death which will result in a guilty finding:

• If an assault is committed
• If the assault either directly or indirectly led to the death
• Regardless of the intent or foresight at the time the punch was delivered

“A maximum 16 year prison sentence will apply if an offender is found guilty.

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