JOHN ELFERINK MLA | Member for PORT DARWIN

ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

GAP IN LEGISLATION CLOSED BY ONE PUNCH LAW

November 28th, 2012

The offence of a violent act causing death has been added to the Criminal Code, closing a gap in
the law.

The Criminal Code Amendment (Violent Act Causing Death) 2012 or ‘one punch’ was passed
through the Northern Territory Parliament today.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice John Elferink said the amendment will close a gap in the
law where a person has killed another and it’s not possible to prosecute for manslaughter or
murder.

“It will make sure that on occasions where the Director of Public Prosecutions doesn’t believe
there would be a conviction for manslaughter, offenders will be held accountable when they have
causedsomeone’sdeath,” Mr Elferink said.

“Thoughtlessness, irresponsible alcohol consumption, drunken or behavioural bravado or
misplaced aggression do, on occasion, claim the lives of Territorians. The community has told us
repeatedly of their concerns in the increase in violence. This amendment reinforces the stance
that offenders need to face the consequences of their actions.

“The maximum sentence for a violent act causing death is 16 years imprisonment. The offence
does not replace the charge of manslaughter and can’t be used as an alternative verdict to
manslaughter.”

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