JOHN ELFERINK MLA | Member for PORT DARWIN
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MEDIA RELEASE

METHAMPHETAMINES A DANGER TO OUR COMMUNITY

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Offences involving methamphetamines in the Northern Territory will soon carry the same maximum penalties as those for heroin and cocaine, under proposed changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Under the proposed amendments, methamphetamine will be upgraded from a Schedule 2 dangerous drug to become a Schedule 1 dangerous drug, with increased maximum penalties including longer maximum prison sentences.

Attorney General John Elferink said these drugs pose a high danger to the community and we must act to deter users, sellers and producers of this illicit substance.

“The dangers associated with methamphetamines are well documented with harmful physical and mental dangers associated with its use,” Mr Elferink said.

“Methamphetamines are highly addictive and lead to short-term side effects including anxiety, depression, nausea and vomiting.”

Mr Elferink said the negative effects of methamphetamines reach far and wide across the community and is largely associated with criminal and violent behaviour.

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act the maximum penalties apply for offences involving a Schedule 1 dangerous drug:

- Basic Possession – 5 years (3 years more than Schedule 2)
- Trafficable Possession – 7 years (2 years more than Schedule 2)
- Commercial Possession – 25 years (11 years more than Schedule 2)
- Supply – 14 years (9 years more than Schedule 2)
- Supply Commercial – 25 years (11 years more than Schedule 2)
- Manufacture – 25 years (18 years more than Schedule 2)

“This should send a clear message to users, sellers and producers that dealing with methamphetamines will not be tolerated,” Mr Elferink said.

“Offenders who attempt to evade the law and profit from this illicit substance should understand they will face serious consequences with lengthy prison sentences.”

Methamphetamines are already considered a Schedule 1 substance in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

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