MEDIA RELEASE

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New Parliament New Opportunity

Since Self Government the objective stated and agreed to by all Members of the Northern Territory Parliament is to advance and prosper the true welfare of all Territorians.

The General Election of August 27th has resulted in just the third change of government in forty years.

In this most recent change Territorians have elected a parliament that is a reaction to the previous government and has given the Labor Party a dominant voice in the parliament.

Territorians have also elected a group of Independent members that is more than double the size of the official Opposition. Yet these members remain outside the conventional considerations of their role and value in the parliament.

Our performance as a representative democracy since Self Government has given rise to questions within the Territory and within the Commonwealth of the capacity of this jurisdiction to manage its own affairs responsibly.

Rather than accept business as usual now is the perfect time to consider alternative governance models for the Northern Territory.

The group of Independents have met and agreed on the following:

- We are required to deliver a voice for our electorates into the parliament and community unhindered by compromises for power.
- We are to scrutinise Government in its day to day operations so that as a group we can contribute to good governance and a strong democratic process
- We are to work to repair the reputation of Parliament, restoring people’s confidence in the Parliament and upholding good governance for all Territorians.
- We are to listen to and consider and respond to the needs of others in the hope of collaboration and finding consensus.
- We are to lead by developing unique options and alternative pathways for the improvement of our society.
- participate fully in debates, committees and question time in Parliament

For Comment Contact: **Insert name of and contact number**
Our role is to test the Government agenda and ensure robust operations.

We do not accept that two people can form an effective opposition.

We do not accept that parliament is made up of just Government and Opposition.

We believe this is a matter to be considered and responded to by parliamentarians and is not the sole responsibility of the Independent members.

We also make it clear that although we all agree with above statement we still value our independence and each of us will remain independent.

*Independents will be available for interviews at 3.45pm today outside Parliament House*

*Contact Gerry Wood 0428 698 037*