Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Government keeps secret pool fencing loophole
9 February 2004

The Labor Government has added to the farce and mess of the Chief Minister's new pool fencing laws by revealing it has kept secret a loophole in the law that allows Territorians to sell their properties even if their pool fencing does not comply with the law, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

The Government has been forced to admit to the loophole after questions were raised about the sale of a property in Parap formerly owned by Ian Fraser.

The Martin Labor Government issued a pool fencing compliance certificate that allowed Mr Fraser to sell his property despite the pool fence on the property not being enclosed in accordance with appropriate Australian Standard at the completion of the sale.

"The Government has kept this loophole secret from Territorians and only a handful of people have used it," Mr Mills said.

"It allows for a property to be sold and the pool fencing to be brought up to standard after the sale.

"Mr Fraser hasn't done anything wrong in all this and good on him if he has been able to sell his house without the bureaucratic delays. It's the Martin Labor Government which has done wrong by Territorians by letting them believe for the past 12 months they could not sell their properties until their pool or spa was enclosed in accordance with appropriate Australian standard.

"This goes to the heart of the mess Government has made of its pool laws.

"The Chief Minister's new pool fencing laws have been a mess from start to finish causing enormous grief and unnecessary hardship for everyone and while this has been going on it has been keeping this loophole secret from the people.

"It's been so secret only a handful people have used it. Is there something else Government hasn't been telling Territorians? Why have people been led to believe they can't sell their homes unless their pools are enclosed in accordance with appropriate Australian Standard.

"No wonder so many Territorians have lost faith in the way the Martin Labor Government is running the Territory."

Ends.