John Elferink
Shadow Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Local Government, Indigenous Affairs, Community Development, and Regional Development

Aboriginal Territorians are now 11 times more likely to go to jail than non-Aboriginal Territorians

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CLP Indigenous Affairs Minister, John Elferink has called on the Labor Government to explain the sharp rise in Aboriginal people in Territory prisons.

Mr Elferink said latest ABS figures reveal that Aboriginal Territorians are now 11 times more likely to go to jail than non-Aboriginal Territorians.

"When the CLP left office in 2001 the ratio was 5.1. This has now jumped to 11.3 latest figures for the September 2003 quarter reveal," Mr Elferink said.

"Territorians and in particular Aboriginal Territorians deserve an explanation why the high jump in Aboriginal imprisonments.

"The Martin Labor Government has failed to reduce the over representation of Aboriginal Territorians in our jails and it needs to explain why.

"It has continually claimed the CLP's law and order policies were racists with a main intent of jailing large numbers of Aborigines.

"The ABS figures tell the lie of Labor's claims as we see more and more Aborigines are likely to be jailed under Labor.

"The ABS facts are clear. Since 2001 the number of Aborigines being sent to prison has been going up and up, climbing from 5.1 to 11.3 in the 2003 September quarter."

- In 2002 the September quarter ratio was 7.2 indigenous to non-indigenous in Territory prisons.
- In 2002 the December quarter ratio was 8.7 indigenous to non-indigenous in Territory prisons.
- In 2003 the March quarter ratio was 9.3 indigenous to non-indigenous in Territory prisons.
- In 2003 the June quarter ratio was 11.1 indigenous to non-indigenous in Territory prisons.
- In 2003 the September quarter ratio was 11.3 indigenous to non-indigenous in Territory prisons and climbing.

Ends.