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

Emergency workers exposed because of Govt's churlishness

11 October 2004

CLP Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services John Elferink has called on the Government to confirm reports that another two ambulance officers were threatened and hindered while attending an incident in Darwin at the weekend.

Mr Elferink said information he has received leads him to believe that such an incident did take place less than a day after the Government announcement that it would not support proposed CLP laws to make it an offence to hinder emergency workers and Ambulance Officers.

"The protection that could have been offered to these emergency workers through the CLP's proposed laws was rejected last week by a churlish and arrogant Martin Government," Mr Elferink said.

"If the Government had done the commonsense thing and made whatever amendments it felt were genuinely needed to the CLP's proposed laws then these ambulance workers would have had the protection of the new laws at the weekend.

"Instead the Government has brought no alternative laws forward to protect our ambulance officers. They will have to wait unnecessarily for many months for the Government to bring forward its own legislation.

"Sadly, it also means that emergency workers and Ambulance officers will not enjoy the same protection afforded to police when they are hindered in their duties.

"It will also mean that people who should be getting medical treatment and support from workers will also suffer because there is no protection for the workers."

Ends