The losers in the Martin Labor Government's 2004-05 Budget were again average Territory families, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

“Once again Territory families have been fleeced by the Martin Labor Government,” Mr Mills said.

“The NT Government will collect approximately $16 million extra in stamp duty on conveyances this financial year compared to last year. This represents a hefty 38% increase in conveyance duty receipts in 12 months.

“Yet there is no relief in the Budget for first home owners and ordinary mums and dads who wish to buy a home.

“The question first homebuyers, wanting to get into a housing market where house prices are fast moving out of their reach, will want to know is: Why has this Budget ignored them.

“The Government was touting the possibility of increasing the threshold to somewhere between $240 000 to $300 000 paving the way for sustained growth in the construction industry and create new jobs. Instead there was nothing in the Budget.

“The Real Estate Institute and the Property Council of Australia are also the big losers in this Budget.

“Like its Labor counterparts down south the Government is riding the wave of property price rises without providing any significant relief for those Territory families who want to live and work in the Territory and realise the dream of owning their own home.”

Territory families have also been confronted with another dip into their pay packets by Government to pay for its 6% increase in car registrations.

“At a time when the financial burdens on struggling Territory families should be alleviated the increase represents a slug of about $100 for an average family,” Mr Mills said.

Ends