Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

Govt spinning out of control over data

27 May 2004

For the second time this week the Martin Government has made claims that contradict statements made by the official body releasing the data, CLP Leader Terry Mills said today.

“Claims today by Attorney-General Peter Toyne that ABS figures show that assault in the Territory has gone down is contradicted by the ABS which issued a statement saying “The victimisation rate for assault in 2003 decreased for all states and territories EXCEPT Northern Territory and Tasmania. Northern Territory recorded an increase of 7% to 1,874 per 100,000 population,” Mr Mills said.

“On Monday the Martin Government claimed the Sensis Business Index found that Northern Territory small businesses are the most confident in the country when the Sensis statement said “The Northern Territory recorded the lowest net business confidence of any state or Territory.”

“Today’s spin on ABS figures –an organisation that the Martin Government has actively sought to discredit – is one of everything is coming up roses.

“Closer inspection of today’s ABS data reveals:

· Homicide and related offences are 1.9 times higher than the national average
· Murder is almost four times the national average
· Assault is almost three times the national average and
· Sexual assault is almost twice the national average

“The truth is the Territory has a far more serious crime problem and its called Violent Crime.

Ends