A future CLP Government would review the Domestic Violence Act to investigate increasing police powers to effect removal of perpetrators from households and investigate giving police the power to issue on-the-spot restraining orders without recourse to the Courts.

The initiatives are contained in a Position Paper: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assaults: A New Direction, released today for CLP Shadow Attorney General Jodeen Carney.

"I will be inviting comments from interested parties and a copy of the Paper will be sent to a range of women's organisations around the Territory. It is hoped the Paper will stimulate discussion and comment," Ms. Carney said.

"There has been an increase in sexual assaults in the Territory, and a new direction is required if any progress is going to be made."

The Position Paper outlines a number of initiatives that are likely to assist victims of abuse, as well as assist in the prosecution of perpetrators.

"The conviction rates for sexual assaults are appallingly low. Better conviction rates get violent men out of the homes and off the streets, and that's what I am determined to achieve", Ms Carney said.

"Some of the initiatives might be considered radical, but we can't just stand by and watch the statistics get worse. It's time for action, and I hope to receive a range of thoughtful responses."

Initiatives include:

• A review of the Domestic Violence Act which would investigate increasing Police powers to effect removal of perpetrators from households; providing Police with additional resources to improve the collection of evidence in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, and giving Police the power to issue on-the-spot restraining orders without recourse to the Courts;
• Commencing a Parliamentary Inquiry to examine how the low conviction rates can be improved;
• Ensuring that accurate figures for domestic violence incidents are obtained and published.

Ends