Jodeen Carney  
Shadow Attorney-General,  
Shadow Minister for Justice, and Women's Policy

**Attorney’s plea an admission Government losing battle**

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The Martin Government's plea for Aboriginal people to obey the law is an alarming admission that it is losing the battle against rising violent crime in the Territory, CLP Shadow Attorney General Jodeen Carney said today.

"The plea by the Government for Aboriginal people to stop committing crime reflects that the Government's lack of answers to what has taken over as the Territory's new problem-violent crime," Ms Carney said.

Ms Carney said it was incredible as well as embarrassing that the Territory's first law officer has asked criminals to stop breaking the law.

"I think it would be unprecedented for an Attorney-General to make this request to criminals and I am sure other Attorneys are laughing at Peter Toyne.

"Does Mr Toyne seriously think his request will be ringing in the ears of a criminal about to thump a victim or break into a home. I can't believe he expects anyone to take him seriously.

"I think the Attorney has lost the plot and doesn't know what to do about the problem."

"The violent facts speak for themselves

- Assaults increased 15% in Darwin. And sexual assaults increased 33% from the same quarter last year.
- Assaults increased 24% increase in Palmerston;
- Assaults increased 7% increase in Alice Springs;
- Assaults increased 6% over the last quarter in Katherine, but a massive 76% in the past 12 months;
- Assaults increased 5% over the last quarter in Tennant Creek, but 52% in the past 12 months;
- And assault has increased 69% in Nhulunbuy.

Ms Carney said the Labor Government needs to explain why it is since it came to office that
Aboriginal crime has increased and more Aboriginal Territorians than ever are in our prisons – despite promising to reverse this trend.

“If begging criminals to stop breaking the law is the best you have to offer Territorians then the future looks bleak,” Ms Carney said.

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