A TRIPLE PIKE WITH A HALF TWIST

The Martin Government will perform a memorable back flip when it introduces its Domestic and Family Violence Bill tomorrow.

“The new legislation will result in mandatory sentencing for people convicted of domestic violence,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the opposition.

“That is despite a history of denouncing mandatory sentencing as a useless tool in the fight against law and order.”

As Opposition Leader in 2001 the Chief Minister said ‘... mandatory sentencing doesn’t work. They (Territorians) know that tackling crime with a stunt like mandatory sentencing is costing us’.

“I’m pleased the Chief Minister has finally reversed her dogmatic position about the use of mandatory sentencing in certain instances,” Ms Carney says.

“The Opposition under my leadership have been far more pragmatic regarding the potential benefits of the use of mandatory sentencing.

“In August of 2006 we introduced the Criminal Code Amendment Bill providing for the mandatory sentencing of thugs who assault police officers.

“The Martin Government voted down our Bill with the Attorney General, Syd Stirling, sneering that mandatory sentencing was nothing more than an ‘old standby for the CLP’ and declaring ‘We oppose it.’

“Anyone belting a police officer would be looking at gaol time under the CLP’s legislation.

“I hope the Martin Government will now reappraise the need to protect our police with tougher sentencing laws for those who assault them.”

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 04000 14 059