HENDERSON ARCHITECT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBACLE

The new Chief Minister, Paul Henderson's, poor record in managing the implementation of middle schooling casts a shadow over his capacity to manage the Territory economy.

"Paul Henderson’s woeful stewardship of the transition to middle schooling inspires no confidence in his ability to manage the $3.1 billion Territory Government budget," says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

"The move to middle schooling has been poorly planned and sloppily implemented – failure to deliver the promised class rooms at Palmerston High is just second rate management.

"Paul Henderson will also have to greatly improve on his poor past performance in delivering law and order for the people of the Territory.

"The outgoing Chief Minister’s greatest failure was to respond to growing rates of violent crime in the Territory.

"Violent assault in Darwin has increased by 80% in the last year, a trend mirrored across the Territory.

"As a recent Police Minister, Paul Henderson, shoulders a good deal of the responsibility for Labor’s failure to deal with the escalating levels of violent crime.

"Labor’s failure on law and order played a significant role in the containment in the Territory of the national swing against the Coalition.

"Labor’s failure on law and order is the principle reason that Dave Tollner is likely to be returned as the Member for Solomon.

"There is a sharp lesson in Saturday’s result for the new Chief Minister and Territory Labor."
“Paul Henderson is going to have to show the people of the Territory that he has the stomach to make the tough decisions to counter growing rates of crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Plodding along the same path that Clare Martin followed will guarantee failure – people want decisive action on law and order."

Further comment : Greg Charter 04000 14 059