Terry Mills  
Leader of the Opposition  
Media Release  

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CURTAILING THE CRIME WAVE

The latest crime statistics from the NT Department of Justice emphasis just how entrenched violent assault has become in the Territory.

“During the last three years the Territory has recorded shocking levels of violent assault,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Since 2004 the rate of violent assault across the Territory has skyrocketed by 36% to more than 5000 victims a year.

“The plain and ugly fact is that if you live in the Territory you are far more likely to be bashed, raped or murdered than if you live elsewhere.

“Unacceptable levels of violence are now even invading the classroom with more and more teachers suffering verbal and physical assault at school.

“That alarming fact is totally unacceptable and demands a change in policy from the Labour Government.

“The Territory desperately needs a boot camp for young offenders and tougher sentences for adults.

“The perception that the courts won’t deliver a tough sentence is now entrenched and undermines their deterrence value.

“Until fear of punishment is restored and proper rehabilitation programs are initiated in our corrections system Territorians will live with totally unacceptable levels of violence.

“As long as the courts and prisons remain a revolving door there will be too many people suffering the terrible effects of being violently assaulted.

“I fear that won’t change whilst Labor politicians continue to believe the offenders are victims.

“That philosophical bias prevents this Labor Government from taking the type of action necessary to curb the outrageous levels of violent assault in the Territory.”

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