HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Confirmation that the Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia again throws the spotlight on the Territory Government’s failure to finalise a deal with the Federal Government for its share of the $800 million national homelessness program.

The "Counting the Homeless" report, released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, shows the Territory has a homelessness rate 500% higher than the national average.

On Wednesday it was revealed that the Territory Government is one of just 3 jurisdictions that failed to finalise an agreement with the Federal Government for funding to tackle homelessness.

“No State or Territory needs to do more to combat the impact of homelessness, yet the Henderson Government missed the deadline for cutting its share of money from the national homelessness program," says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“It is an indictment of the professionalism and commitment of the Henderson Government.

“The Henderson Government has a terrible record on housing issues and too many Territorians are paying the price of its failure.

“The constipated release of land in Darwin and Alice Springs has created a deep housing affordability crisis in both cities.

“We now have the highest rents in the country and first home buyers face a mountain of debt if they are lucky enough to get a loan to buy a house.

“In the bush the Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) is still to deliver a single new house in its 2 years of existence.
“I regularly deal with people in my electorate who are desperately searching for accommodation

“The upshot of the Henderson Government’s policies is that we have far too many people living in cars, other people’s lounge rooms and in the long grass.

“The Housing Minister needs to jump over whatever roadblock has prevented the Territory from finalising its agreement with the Federal Government for its share of the national homelessness program.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594