COUNTRY LIBERALS

MEDIA RELEASE

TIME FOR A CULTURE CHANGE

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Date 7th June 2011

The Henderson Government has created a culture where too much emphasis is placed on the rights of offenders and not enough on victims, says Opposition Justice Spokesman, John Elferink.

“The failure to notify the victim of a vicious stabbing that his attacker had escaped from Don Dale detention centre at the weekend was an appalling lapse of judgement,” Mr Elferink said.

“As was the failure by the police to inform the community the escapee had a history of violence.

It is a reflection of the culture created under Labor that the rights of victims are secondary to those of the offender.

“The two juveniles responsible for this crime had already received minimal sentences which were below community expectation.

“And their names had been suppressed from publication, despite the vicious nature of the crime.

“Three years ago, the court also suppressed the name of a youth who attacked a Darwin man in his own home with a hammer.

“And last month, the victim of a vicious rape was devastated when the court reduced her attacker’s prison sentence.

“The Country Liberals want to change the culture in the Territory’s justice system so the rights of victims of crime are placed above those of the offender.”

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