MEDIA RELEASE

WORKING TOWARDS KING HIT CHANGES

February 22nd, 2012

The Country Liberals will today re-introduce a One Punch Homicide Bill to the Territory Parliament in response to growing community support for the introduction of tougher penalties for king hit killings.

Shadow Attorney General, John Elferink, said the Government should acknowledge the increased support for tougher king hit laws and support his proposed amendments to the Criminal Code.

"Now that the Northern Territory Police Association has thrown its weight behind a law change I would hope the Government will also shift its position," Mr Elferink said.

“I am willing to assist the Government in getting this legislation through the Parliament in an effort to address issues around king hit merchants in our nightclubs.

Mr Elferink moved to toughen laws for one punch killings after the death of off-duty police officer, Brett Meredith in a Katherine nightclub early on New Year's Day, 2010.

Under his proposed changes, the amendments to the Criminal Code would see an offence of Assault Causing Death passed into law.

“This will remove the element of foresight or negligence that is currently required to achieve a guilty verdict," Mr Elferink said.

“Amee Meredith, widow of Sgt Brett Meredith, has been lobbying for these changes since the death of her husband.

"While the person who killed her husband has been convicted of manslaughter, the case highlighted some shortcomings in the law.

“I will continue to push the Government towards accepting change is both necessary and important."

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400