MEDIA RELEASE

VIOLENT CRIME OUT OF CONTROL IN PORT DARWIN

Tuesday July 31st, 2012

Member for Port Darwin, John Elferink, says violent assaults in Port Darwin have increased substantially over the past six months.

"I have been concerned at the number of people in my electorate documenting assaults and the impact of violent crime," Mr Elferink said.

"I personally have had to break up two fights recently.

"Crime in Port Darwin is out of control and Labor lacks the will to take the fight up to people who commit violent crime.

"Since the start of June a man’s leg has been punctured in a CBD attack, taxi drivers have walked off the job because of violence, a restaurant has been destroyed by fire in suspicious circumstances and a woman has been bashed in the face with a baseball bat.

"Under Labor, violent crime in the Territory is up 15% a year and, since 2004, violent assaults have doubled.

"There has been a 127% increase in violent crime between 2001 and 2011 and, under Labor, your chance of being assaulted is double the national average.

"Labor lets criminals get away with violence.

"The suspended sentence the courts handed to a man this week who brutally assaulted a patron in front of a Darwin nightclub was typical of a Government that has gone soft on criminals.

"Labor penalises the entire community for problems caused by grog, but
refuses to hand out appropriate sentences when a brutal, cowardly assault is committed.

“And to add insult to injury, Paul Henderson has stopped releasing quarterly crime statistics because he wants to hide the true picture of violent assaults from Territorians.