MEDIA RELEASE

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH TO BE RENEWED AND REINVIGORATED

Thursday August 02nd, 2012

The community-based crime prevention organisation Neighbourhood Watch will be renewed and revived as part of the Country Liberals comprehensive approach to fighting crime in the Northern Territory.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said today that Neighbourhood Watch had virtually been abandoned by the Labor government.

“We will immediately review funding for this important community program,” Mr Mills said.

“Neighbourhood Watch is a strong and supportive group intent on reducing crime and building secure and confident communities. Labor has no interest in assisting this group.”

Mr Mills said a Country Liberals Government would reduce crime by 10 per cent a year over the term of his government.

“Firstly, we have to establish exactly where we are,” he said, “Labor has simply stopped publishing crime statistics – that is their answer to fighting the plague of violence across the Territory We will publish honest and accurate statistics.

“And we will be accountable to the community. If we do not deliver we will be judged by the electors, and that is how it should be.

“We have also noted the demise of Neighbourhood Watch. A Country Liberals government will invest in a full-time coordinator to revive Neighbourhood...
Watch. The community has a constructive role to play in tackling crime and Neighbourhood Watch encourages that participation.

“Housebreakings, car theft.... these affect ordinary people terribly and we believe an adequately-funded Neighbourhood Watch can lead to a dramatic decrease in these crimes.

“But Neighbourhood Watch does not meet anymore. It is a community group in name only. It seems the government thinks a web-based organisation can stop community crime.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594