MEDIA RELEASE

PAYING FOR CRIME

Saturday August 11th, 2012

The Country Liberals will increase the victim’s assistance levy paid as a proportion of a fine or other penalty.

Currently in the Northern Territory the victim’s assistance levy is:

• $60 for an indictable offence
• $40 for a summary offence
• $20 for children
• $200 for a body corporate

Shadow Justice Minister, John Elferink, said these levies represented a small component of penalties imposed and needed to be increased and strengthened.

“When victims levies go into a pool of money that is used to provide on-going support for people affected by an assault or other physical offence,” Mr Elferink said.

Under the Country Liberals, the new victim’s assistance levy will be:

• $200 for an indictable offence
• $150 for a summary offence
• $50 for children
• $1000 for a body corporate

“Currently there is a $15million shortfall in monies paid by offenders into the Victims of Crime Assistance Levy.

“The fact fines remain unpaid should not prevent Government from increasing the contribution offenders pay into the levy.

“Justice Department figures show that in 2010 only 37% of court fines were
paid and only 67% of infringement penalties were paid.

“The Country Liberals will consider introducing a system of penalties for late or unpaid fines because clearly a significant proportion of people are treating the system with contempt.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400