26 January 2005

Proud to be Australian – And Territorian

As part of Australia Day celebrations, CLP Opposition Leader Terry Mills today announced an initiative to support schools to fly the Territory flag alongside the Australian flag.

“As part of Australia Day celebrations, I am announcing that a CLP government will restore the Australian and Territorian flags as pride of place in our schools. A CLP government will ensure that every school in the Territory will be funded to upgrade and/or install a flagpole to have a Northern Territory flag to fly alongside the Australian flag.

Mr Mills said, “I believe that we live in the best country in the world and that we live in the best place in Australia. I want all Territorians to get out and celebrate Australia Day and take pride in our great country.

“I would like to see the Australian flag take pride of place in our nation and for every Australian – no matter where they were born – to truly appreciate our great Aussie culture.

“I strongly believe that it is very important to recognise our cultural symbols and will also encourage schools to engage in flag-raising ceremonies. These will be part of a return to a values-based education where such Australian concepts like honesty, a fair go, respect, understanding and integrity are taught within the existing educational system.

“In addition to this, there must be a greater emphasis on the teaching of Australian and Territory history particularly in primary and junior high schools. We all must become more familiar with the great story behind the Australian and Territory flags.

“We need to return to an education system that teaches our children the importance of our cultural symbols and the values that they stand for”.

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