Terry Mills, Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister, is calling on the Chief Minister to outline what mutual obligations requirements will accompany the $286 million the Territory Government will spend in Aboriginal communities in the next five years.

“The Chief Minister has correctly identified the need for Aboriginal people to play a significant role in solving these problems but that won’t happen without an enforceable mutual obligation compact,” says Terry Mills.

“Too much money has been wasted over too many years because it has been handed over without requirements attached to it, an approach that reinforces the problems of welfare report.

“We now know that money given for nothing, achieves very little in return.

“Mutual obligation is a recognised bridge to bring Indigenous and non-indigenous Territorians closer together.

“The Martin Government needs to ensure that where a service is to be provided it is delivered in a manner that requires a corresponding effort from the recipient.

“This mutual obligation needs to apply to Indigenous organisations as well as individuals.

“The Northern Land Council has claimed that the Territory Government has not allocated enough money to address the shortfall in services to Aboriginal people.

“What will the Martin Government require from the NLC to ensure better outcomes from the money already being spent?

“Will the Martin Government be demanding the revenue from the Land Council’s investments like Centacorp is invested in creating sustainable jobs in Indigenous communities?

“It will not be until we have a whole of Aboriginal society mutual obligation approach that we can expect improved results.

“A framework that reinforces partnership through respect and obligation empowers rather than weakens the recipient.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594