

COUNTRY LIBERALS

MEDIA RELEASE

CONSEQUENCES NEEDED FOR VIOLENT ASSAULTS

Terry Mills MLA

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Yesterday's brutal assault on a 15-year-old boy at the Palmerston bus interchange re-enforces the need for more active policing in violence hot-spots across the Territory and for real consequences when young offenders are convicted.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said while acknowledging the difficulties of preventing random assaults, the Palmerston interchange is well-known as a centre for violence and gang activity and for an assault to occur in such a public space at such a time beggars belief.

He said the Henderson Government should take immediate action to address issues of violence that occur when large numbers of youths assemble in the one spot.

Beyond that, there should be real consequences for violent assaults of this nature.

"The prospect of a stint at Don Dale appears to have little or no deterrent effect," Mr Mills said.

"Young, violent offenders should be sent to boot camp and put to work, whether it is labouring or a trek, mandatory numeracy and literacy tuition or community work.

"Many of the handful of young thugs who regularly commit violent crime have no fear of the consequences. They should have.

"A stint of hard-work and the prospect of more if they re-offend will encourage them to think twice."

Mr Mills said the Henderson Government had squibbed on a key promise going into the last Territory election.

"Going into the last election, the Chief Minister promised to build a police beat at Palmerston shopping centre," he said.

"With the election done and dusted, he diluted that pledge and instead put a mobile police van under the water tower which, I understand, is a here some days, gone another situation.

"Additionally, the Government should ditch its failed transit police experiment and use the budget to employ real police to make the public transport system and passenger terminals safer."

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594