



It's all about the Territory

Media Release

FOCUS ON LAW AND ORDER

Terry Mills MLA

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The Country Liberals will pursue the Government's law and order strategies when Parliamentary sittings resume this week.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said the Country Liberals will push the Chief Minister to honor his commitment to detail plans for a review of Territory police resources.

He said Territory families were suffering while the Chief Minister wrung his hands about whether or not to call an inquiry.

Mr Mills said he had recently assisted a Top End mother whose two sons were injured in separate assaults over the past two weeks.

In the first incident, her 13 year old suffered bruised ribs and abrasions when he was assaulted by a 30-year-old male along a busy road and in the second, her 15-year-old suffered facial injuries when he was set upon by a youth in a shopping centre.

"Police have detained a man in relation to the first assault but in the second, the family had to wait a week before police took a statement," Mr Mills said.

"I have serious concerns about levels of crime in the suburbs, levels of victim support, police resourcing and the impact this has on job prioritisation.

"The failure to respond in a timely fashion to a call-out at the Aurora Hotel in Alice Springs last week had the hallmarks of a force struggling to manage its resources.

"The Country Liberals have already committed to an additional 20 police in Alice Springs, but a review would provide an opportunity to identify gaps in the system.

"The Chief Minister says the Territory has the highest per capita number of police in the country, but we also have the most crime.

"The issue of resourcing goes beyond just numbers – it's also about how police personnel are managed, where they are deployed and the equipment at their disposal. A review would help work through these issues of concern.

"Paul Henderson promised in August to make an announcement on the state of police resourcing across the Territory, but six months on he failed to follow this commitment with action."

Mr Mills said the Country Liberals would also use Parliament to scrutinise cost of living issues arising from the Government's container deposit scheme, Labor's response to the recent train derailment and the need for Shire reform.

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