



TERRY MILLS MLA | **Member for BLAIN**
CHIEF MINISTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

DELIVERING ON A COMMITMENT TO LAW AND ORDER

October 30th, 2012

Chief Minister, Terry Mills, has today introduced new powers for police in the fight against drug-fuelled crime.

Mr Mills said the *Police Administration Act* Amendment Bill 2012 delivers on his commitment to law and order.

“There is great concern in the community about the increasing level of assaults in the Territory and the use of illegal drugs,” Mr Mills said.

“Both anecdotal and scientific evidence suggested that the use of certain dangerous drugs can seriously affect an individual and make them violent and extremely dangerous to others.

“Today’s changes to the Act will allow police to obtain a sample of saliva from a suspect to test specifically for the presence of dangerous drugs.

“The powers will operate where police suspect a person has committed an offence, the person is in lawful custody in relation to the offence and police suspect on reasonable grounds that there may be a dangerous drug present in the suspect’s body.

“This is the first step of a two stage process by my Government to address the Territory’s crime problems.

“Today’s changes to the Act will be followed up in later Parliamentary Sitings with amendments to the *Criminal Code Act* and *Sentencing Act* to formulate appropriate penalties for unlawful assault where the suspect is believed to have a dangerous drug present in their body.”

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