



Dr Peter Toyne
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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NEW ACT PROTECTS GOOD SAMARITANS

People who attack ‘good samaritans’ or emergency workers who are providing assistance to someone will face up to 7 years in gaol following changes to the Criminal Code.

Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne put forward the Amendment Bill to protect ‘good samaritans’ and emergency workers from assaults while trying to provide assistance.

This builds on the Martin Labor Government’s tough but fair approach to crime in the Northern Territory.

Property crime has already been cut in half and we are focussing more resources to cut crimes of violence in our community.

The passing of the Criminal Code Amendment Bill has created an offence of unlawfully assaulting or obstructing a person who is providing assistance to another.

A person who assaults, obstructs, hinders or prevents a person who is providing rescue, resuscitation, medical treatment, first aid or succour of any kind is liable to 5 years gaol.

If their actions endanger the life or cause actual harm to the person being helped the offender is liable to imprisonment for 7 years.

Attorney-General Toyne said the amendments will protect people giving assistance and deter potential attackers.

“This is all about providing a protective hand to those who give a helping hand,” Dr Toyne said.

“All States and Territories protect Police from such attacks – but the same backing is only offered piecemeal for other professions, if at all.”

“I’ve stepped in to provide the same protection for everyone, whether you are an ambulance officer or a member of the community giving first-aid to someone on the street.”

Reducing crime is another way the Martin Labor Government is moving the Territory ahead.

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