

27/11/2025

DEBATE

**Housing, Safety and Surveillance Devices
Legislation Amendment (Police Public Safety Officers) Bill**

Mr GUYULA (Mulka): Madam Speaker, I have already raised my objections to this increased policing that the CLP government are creating. We do not need more guns or more arrests; we need more attention to solving problems and addressing underlying issues. We need more services like Larrakia patrol and more outreach services for people who are struggling with mental health issues, drug and alcohol addictions, financial issues, physical health issues and housing issues.

We need more services that help people to address their problems. This Bill will make the NT a place with greater poverty and disadvantage, the most policed jurisdiction in Australia with police in public housing, on public buses and as liquor inspectors as well as our current police force. These new police will be carrying capsicum spray, tasers and guns, and they will have less training than our current police force. Even though the issues on our streets and in our communities are complex, these new PPSOs will have less training. We know that racial profiling occurs and Aboriginal people will be the most negatively impacted group by bringing in more police and guns.

We have some significant problems in our communities. We see these problems in not just Darwin but also our remote communities. That is why I have been here for almost nine years asking the government to work with us to fix the problems in our communities. We want to work together across all our communities to fix these problems, but these kinds of punitive pathways do not build a partnership, trust and respect.

We do not feel safe when there are more guns on our streets. It is intimidating and threatening. I have said clearly that in our remote communities we do not want police carrying guns as they move about the community. This is not something that builds trust.

I grew up on Elcho Island. That is where my *wawa* was shot by police in 1990 and where a teenager had a gun pulled on him by the police in 2007 to scare him. This resulted in a police apology through community mediation called the Meshach agreement.

We need to be addressing the underlying issues, not locking up anyone. We need to address problems in remote communities and have new housing and infrastructure in our homelands so that we can bring people home. As an elder I want to see people living on our country. We need increased health services and other support services for people to return to country where they are safest.

This government now needs to focus on working respectfully with Aboriginal nations. Acknowledge our authority, listen to what we need and work in partnership so that we can bring a real change for our people.

It is clear that Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people are suffering greatly in the Northern Territory. We see it clearly in every community every day, but this government continues to show no care for the suffering that we feel. This Bill continues to bring punitive responses. It does not address what communities need for change. It is just increased policing without any sustainable, real changes.

This government needs to do better, and I will not support this Bill.

Source: <https://hdl.handle.net/10070/1020451>