Assaults Tumble Across the Territory

The latest crime statistics show the number of crimes against the person fell 14% across the Territory in the March quarter.

The Crime and Justice statistics for the March 2008 quarter are based on offences recorded in the Territory police case management system PROMIS.

The Justice Minister Chris Burns said of particular note was a decrease in assaults from the December quarter to the March quarter in every major Territory town.

“It’s the first time ever that we’ve had a quarterly reduction in assaults in every main NT centre at the same time,” the Justice Minister Chris Burns said.

“Alcohol is still the cause of most assaults. But the fact we now have fewer assaults indicates our focus on reducing alcohol abuse and harm is going in the right direction.”

Dr Burns said the breakdown of the assault category showed domestic violence-related incidents were the predominant offence accounting for about 50% of these offences.

“The prevalence of these types of assaults is a reflection on the police focus in that area. In particular, the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy, and the work done by the Domestic and Personal Violence Protection units to proactively target repeat offenders and repeat victims,” he said.

Dr Burns said property offences in the March quarterly comparisons increased by 15%.

He said the quarterly comparisons do not reflect the long-term comparison which shows that for the year ending March 2002 to the year ending March 2008, there were 34% or 10,795 fewer property offences.

“The Territory Government is tough on crime with more than 200 extra police and another 60 on the way,” Dr Burns said.

“The additional police are backed up by tough new laws and targeted programs.

“We will continue to work hard to ensure the Territory remains the best place to live, work and raise a family.”

The March 2008 quarter crime statistics are available at:

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