ATTORNEY-GENERAL

A NEW DIRECTION FOR LAW AND ORDER

24 May 2013

The Northern Territory Government remains committed to controlling law and order in the community through the implementation of a suite of initiatives to target offenders.

Attorney General John Elferink said this Government is not prepared to stand by and allow crime to grow and is instead getting tough on law and order to create a safer community.

“A focus on proactive policing has already seen the Country Liberals tough stance on crime result in the delivery of a number of encouraging crime statistics. However, there is much more to do and positive changes will come with the implementation of policy and reform initiatives,” Mr Elferink said.

“The latest crime statistics show property offences in the Northern Territory significantly reduced by 18.6 per cent in the March 2013 quarter from the March 2012 quarter, the lowest March quarter since 2005.

“More specifically, the total number of house break-ins across the Northern Territory reduced from 631 in the March 2012 quarter to 495 in the March quarter of this year.

“Statistics also reveal that in the major centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs, there was a 24.3 per cent decrease in property offences, with 1,202 less offences in the March 2013 quarter compared to the same quarter in 2012 under the former Labor Government.

“This shows the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) failed to prevent crime, and that it was nothing more than an ineffective scheme developed by the former Labor Government.

Further proof of the ineffectiveness of the BDR is that Darwin experienced the greatest reduction of property offences in the three months to March 2013, falling 25 per cent from the same period last year under Labor.

“The statistics reveal street crime comprising of property damage, theft, and motor vehicle thefts and other related offences in the Northern Territory for the March 2013 quarter are down from the same period last year.

“Despite areas of positive change in law and order, the most recent crime statistics for the Northern Territory remain tainted by Labor’s legacy of ineffective policy, which lacked real plans to turn crime around.

“In an effort to address the former Labor Government’s failure to tackle crime in the Northern Territory, the Country Liberals Government has used proactive initiatives and policing to reduce crime on our streets and strengthen law and order.
JOHN ELFERINK MLA | Member for PORT DARWIN

“Pillars of Justice, introduced to Parliament last week, will be the framework for a comprehensive policing, justice and correctional strategy and will tackle repeat offending, violence and substance abuse in the community.

“The Country Liberals Government will implement mandatory rehabilitation to address the problems faced by problem drinkers, with alcohol abuse not only dangerous to an individual’s health, but also a major contributor to crime in the Northern Territory.

“The election commitment of 120 extra police on our streets is being rolled out with a focus on frontline service delivery.

“To address the Northern Territory’s high recidivism rate, the Giles Government has implemented initiatives such as Sentenced to a Job and Prison Work Parties which aim to provide offenders with the opportunity to gain skills for employment outside of jail, reducing the likelihood of repeat offending.

“Positive changes should begin to occur with new legislation taking effect and new policies being delivered with an aim to honour this Government’s commitment to create a safer community.

“Our commitment also extends to transparency and accountability, where since coming to Government, the Country Liberals Government has reintroduced the release of quarterly crime statistics.

This is in stark contrast to the former Labor Government's policy of hiding information and releasing the figures once a year,” Mr Elferink said.

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