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$150,000 to attack the causes of crime in the Centre

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Efforts to fight the causes of crime have been boosted through crime prevention grants totalling almost $150,000 to be rolled out across the Centre, Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne announced today.

Eight crime prevention initiatives will receive funding through the first-ever round of the Government’s boosted Crime Prevention NT Grant Scheme.

Dr Toyne said the $400,000 Crime Prevention NT Grant Scheme provides a powerful resource to attack the causes of crime and in a new approach, incorporates a regional emphasis to harness community efforts in the fight against crime.

"Preventing crime before it starts through targeted crime prevention initiatives which can address localised crime problems is a key plank in the Government’s fight against crime.

"These crime prevention projects developed at community level with support from the Office of Crime Prevention, are targeted at attacking the causes of crime in ways that will have real effect in the community.

"The high number of applications from Alice Springs was extremely pleasing and an encouraging sign of the community enthusiasm for the ‘partnership against crime’ and crime prevention approach of this government."

Crime prevention initiatives funded for Alice Springs include:

- a domestic and family violence education project
- extending night patrol to attend events at outlying communities
- diversionary programs for youth at risk
- a safe house for female victims of domestic violence or sexual assault at Yuendumu
- establishment of a new men’s night patrol, also at Yuendumu
- extension of the youth night patrol in Alice Springs, and,
- the establishment of the Alice Springs Regional Crime Prevention Council and development of an Alice Springs Child and Youth Safety Strategy (previously announced)
- the establishment of the Kurduju Regional Crime Prevention Committee (previously announced)

Dr Toyne said the crime prevention initiatives funded for the Centre are targeted at localised crime problems and combined with the commitment from the organisations involved, Government and the Regional Crime Prevention Committee, should help to reduce crime in the community.

The $400,000 Crime Prevention NT Grant Scheme structure comprises:
- $120,000 to fund small grants to community organisations for innovative one-off crime prevention programs that contribute to community safety
- $100,000 to establish Regional Crime Prevention Councils and fund regional crime strategies
- $180,000 to fund targeted crime prevention projects developed through community and government partnerships

Nineteen grant applications of varying value were received from Alice Springs organisations and eight grants allocated funding.

Grants were assessed by the Crime Prevention Committee, that included advice from Territory Government agencies, ATSIC, and the Regional Crime Prevention Councils.