ATTACKING DRUG RELATED CRIME

The Territory Government’s legislation tough drug house laws are being put to good use by the NT Police with known drug houses being shut down across the Northern Territory, Police Minister Paul Henderson said.

In a statement delivered to the Territory Parliament this morning, Mr Henderson highlighted the great results being achieved by the NT Police in attacking drug related crime.

“The Martin Government knows the devastating impact illicit drugs have on our community, and the impact it has on an entire neighbourhood when a drug den sets up shop,” Mr Henderson said.

“That’s why in 2002 we amended the Misuse of Drugs Act to give NT Police tough new powers to be able to declare drug premises and shut them down.”

Since the commencement of the legislation, NT Police have issued 208 drug house notices, leading to 78 arrests, 25 summonses and 52 summary infringement notices for the possession, cultivation, manufacture or supply of drugs at drug houses.

Notices have been issued in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Batchelor and Tennant Creek.

Police have seized drugs worth an estimated $953,000, including 18.23 kilograms of cannabis; 668.5 grams of amphetamine; 67 cannabis plants; and 48 tabs of LSD.

“The Martin Government’s tough on drugs attack is working with drug houses out of business right across the NT,” said Mr Henderson.

“Of the 208 drug house notices issued, only two premises have been declared Drug Houses – and that’s a clear sign of success because it means in all other cases the dealers have been harassed out of business and forced out of the premise.

“In addition to the ongoing work in targeting drug houses, NT Police have are also cutting right to the source and have successfully dismantled 13 clandestine drug laboratories in this financial year.

“I congratulate NT Police on these outstanding results in attacking drug related crime.”

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389