KATHERINE SNAPSHOT

CRIME STATS SHOW PROPERTY OFFENCES DOWN, POLICE ASSAULT STRATEGIES WORKING

Katherine residents are less likely to have their house or business broken into than they were in 2001, according to Department of Justice crime statistics released today.

Minister for Justice Syd Stirling said total property offences were down by 24% since April 2001.

“This means 294 fewer property offences since April 2001,” said Mr Stirling.

“Over this period, house break-ins fell by 13%, commercial break-ins by 50%, and motor vehicle theft and related offences by 51%,” he said.

“Less property crime means a better way of life for the residents of Katherine.”

The Minister said the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy meant more offences against the person were being recorded and acted upon.

“One assault is too many assaults – but it’s good to see police making sure more crimes of violence are being recorded and more perpetrators are being held to account,” he said.

“Since April 2001 there has been an increase in offences against the person of 82% - which police largely attribute to their Violent Crime Reduction Strategy, rather than an actual of increase in violent crimes in the community.

“More accurate recording of violent crime means a better targeted response and a safer community for the people of Katherine.”

Mr Stirling said alcohol remained the major cause of crime in Katherine and across the Territory.

“In Katherine, more than 70% of assaults were alcohol related – and this shows the Martin Government is heading in the right direction with its focus on alcohol abuse,” said Mr Stirling.

“The Government’s strategy focuses on a region-by-region approach to limit the supply, demand and consumption of alcohol,” he said.
“Alcohol management plans are being rolled out right across the Territory – and they are helping to reduce crime in those areas.

“Just last night the Katherine Town Council unanimously voted in favour of declaring the town dry – and this is an important step forward to tackling alcohol abuse in the area,” he said.

“We will continue to focus our efforts and resources on combating alcohol abuse in the Territory, ensuring it remains a great, safe place to live.”

Contact: Michelle Fraser  8901 4010 or 0407 642 011