Assaults Dive in Darwin

The number of crimes against the person in Darwin fell 19% in the March quarter, according to the latest crime statistics.

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 every type of offence in the category of crimes against the person recorded decreases.

“It is very heartening to see these falls,” Dr Burns said.

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

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

“Overall, there were 92 fewer crimes against the person in the March quarter compared to the December quarter.

“This was driven by a drop in assaults – 67 fewer than in the previous quarter. The decrease builds on the 3% drop in assaults recorded in the December quarterly figures.

“To have two consecutive quarters with falls in assaults is very promising. I hope we can record further reductions in the next quarterly comparisons.”

Dr Burns said there were no instances of the more serious offences against the person such as murder and manslaughter. And I was especially pleased to see a fall in sexual assaults.

He said the long-term comparison showed there were 40% or 6799 fewer property offences from the year ending March 2002 to the year ending March 2008.

“Unfortunately in this quarter there has been a 13% increase in overall property offences,” he said.


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