Dr Chris Burns  
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

June 24, 2008

Night Patrol Begins in Darwin and Palmerston

The Darwin Area Night Patrol will be phased in around Darwin and Palmerston over coming weeks as the Territory Government continues to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Justice Minister Chris Burns said the Territory Government has zero tolerance for anti-social behaviour.

“The Darwin Area Night Patrol is another element of the government’s comprehensive package to tackle it,” Dr Burns said.

“The Night Patrol will operate in Darwin and Palmerston seven nights a week and will help reduce anti-social behaviour by taking drunks out of the long grass and public places and into sobering-up shelters.

“Anti-social behaviour is not a new issue – but there is no doubt there are more itinerants in Darwin and Palmerston as a result of the intervention.

“Night Patrol officers will link in with the First Response Patrol to refer people on to programs such as Return to Country, rehabilitation services, Mission Australia and Territory Housing to try and keep them out of the long grass and help get them back to their home community.”

The Government has committed $1.4 million over three years to Larrakia Nation to run the Darwin Area Night Patrol.

The Night Patrol officers will be specially trained to deal with intoxicated people and have clinical qualifications in Community Services (Alcohol and Other Drugs) or similar tertiary qualifications.

“The Territory Government will continue to tackle anti-social behaviour,” Dr Burns said.

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