September 2009 Quarter Crime Statistics Released

Crime and justice statistics released today show a reduction in the number of house break-ins and property damage across the Territory in the September 2009 quarter.

The Minister for Justice, Delia Lawrie, said while crime statistics including assaults were down in Darwin, disappointingly statistics increased in other centres due to alcohol fuelled violence and domestic violence.

“Once again the number of assaults across the Territory continues to be unacceptably high,” Ms Lawrie said.

“There were 1458 assaults in the September quarter which is a five per cent increase from the June quarter while there was a 15 per cent increase in the crimes against the person in the year to September.

“While there was an 11 per cent reduction in the number of assaults in Darwin for the quarter, disappointingly alcohol was involved in 53 per cent of assaults.

“Across the Territory in the year to September, alcohol played a role in 59 per cent of assaults which is simply too high.

“On a more positive note, property offences in the Territory dropped 5 per cent in the quarter and are 4 per cent lower in the year to September.”

Ms Lawrie said the proportion of assaults that were domestic violence related across the NT was 51 per cent for the year to September 2009.

Ms Lawrie said the Northern Territory Government had provided record funding for Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Over the past eight years, the NT Government has increased funding by 104 per cent for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and provided funding for an extra 387 new police officers.

“This has resulted with more police on the beat and in turn resulting in an increase in crimes being reported,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Government will continue to ensure our police and emergency services have the resources they need to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.”

The Crime and Justice Statistics for the September 2009 quarter are based on offences recorded in the Territory Police case management system PROMIS.

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Darwin

Assaults dropped 11 per cent in the September quarter and have demonstrated a downward trend in year to September. Overall offences against the person have dropped 7 per cent in the quarter and are 1 per cent lower for the year to September.

Of all assaults, 53 per cent were alcohol-related while 25 per cent were domestic violence related.

Property offences are 8 per cent lower for the September quarter with a 46 per cent drop in house break-ins recorded.

There was a 15 per cent decrease in motor vehicle theft and related offences in the September quarter.

Palmerston

There was a 3 per cent increase in assaults recorded for the quarter with a 25 per cent increase in assaults in the year to September.

Alcohol was involved in 51 per cent of assaults while 47 per cent were domestic violence related.

There was a 10 per cent increase in property offences for the quarter, largely driven upward due to a 72 per cent increase in commercial break-ins. However there was a 1 per cent drop in property offences in the year to September 2009.

Alice Springs

There was a 3 per cent increase in assaults recorded for the September quarter but a 17 per cent decrease in sexual assaults.

Sixty-five per cent of assaults were reported as alcohol related while 55 per cent were domestic violence related.

There was a 12 per cent drop in property offences for the quarter with house break-ins down 20 per cent and commercial break-ins down 13 per cent.

Katherine

Offences against the person increased by 16 per cent in the September quarter which included a 22 per cent increase in assaults and a 63 per cent decrease in sexual assaults recorded.

Of the recorded assaults, 76 per cent were alcohol related assaults while 56 per cent were domestic violence related.

Property offences increased 59 per cent this quarter and up 13 per cent in the year to September 2009.
Tennant Creek

Overall there was an 11 per cent decrease in offences against the person with a 16 per cent drop in assaults for the quarter.

Seventy-three per cent of assaults were alcohol related and 66 per cent were domestic violence related.

There was a 23 per cent increase in property offences for the quarter but a 38 per cent drop in house break-ins however there were increases in commercial and motor vehicle thefts over the same period.

Nhulunbuy

Overall there has been a 25 per cent drop in crimes against the person for the year to September however there was a 52 per cent increase in the September quarter.

Of the assaults recorded, 70 per cent were alcohol related while 34.2 per cent were domestic violence related.

Property offences dropped 11 per cent for the quarter and have dropped 10 per cent in the year to September 2009.