MEDIA RELEASE

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VIOLENT CRIME IN ALICE CONTINUES TO RISE

The sharp surge in violent crime in Alice Springs reflects the Henderson Government’s inability to make any significant inroads into this serious issue.

Shadow Minister for Central Australia Matt Conlan said the 28% increase in offences against the person which included a 25% increase in assaults in Alice Springs in the 12 months to September highlighted the Henderson Government’s inability to make a dent in violent crime.

According to the crime statistics, there were 1481 offences against the person in Alice Springs in the year to September 2009 compared with 1160 during the previous 12 months including 1340 assaults in the year to September against 1069 during the previous 12 months.

“The Henderson Government should end its years of denial and admit there is a significant problem with violence in the Alice Springs region,” Mr Conlan said.

“It should use the recent appointment of new Police Commissioner John McRoberts to hold an inquiry into police resources across the Territory to determine what can be done to reduce violence and other crimes.”

Mr Conlan said the sharp increase in sexual assaults over the 12 months to September was a serious concern to the Opposition.

“Sexual assaults went from 47 in the 12 months to September 2008 to 91 – an increase of 94% in 12 months,” he said.

“This increase is extremely concerning and symptomatic of the broader issues of violence in the town.”

While house break-ins declined, there were 472 commercial break-ins in the year to September, up 8.5% and 375 motor vehicle thefts, up 43%.

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338