TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE BARKLY

19 March 2014

The Giles Government’s zero-tolerance approach to domestic violence is getting results in the Barkly with new figures showing a drop in offending over February.

“The Barkly has long been a hot-spot for family violence and I am proud to say that the Country Liberals government is tackling it head-on with targeted Police operations,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“Since July last year about 70% of all violent crime in the region has involved a domestic relationship and 70% of those cases were linked to alcohol consumption.”

In response, NT Police launched Strike Force Datsun at the start of February.

“The goal of this operation is to reduce personal and domestic violence-related crime by 10% and I am pleased to report that so far, it has been successful in doing just that,” Mr Giles said.

“In the month of February, offences against the person were down 11% compared to the same time in 2013.

“Domestic violence-related assaults were down by more than 14% on the previous year.

“Over the month there were 34 arrests for this kind of offending.”

Strike Force Datsun will continue to target recidivist domestic violence offenders, engage with victims and patrol hot-spots through until the end of June.

“I congratulate NT Police on their work in the Barkly on this important issue. This Government will not tolerate family violence and is giving Police the resources they need to target this kind of offending,” Mr Giles said.

“Alcohol is clearly an influential factor in much of this offending and we are addressing this through our new Alcohol Protection Orders.

“More than 150 people in Tennant Creek and the wider Barkly region are now banned from buying, possessing or drinking alcohol under one of these orders.

“The Government has also just announced it is extending its successful trial of the SupportLink referral service into the Barkly which will help connect victims of domestic violence with the assistance they need.

“This service has won high praise in Alice Springs and will now be extended until 2015 and expanded to take in all communities from Alice Springs up to Katherine at a cost of around $250,000.”