Chief Minister, Clare Martin, will officially open the Neighbourhood Watch Annual Conference at the Northern Territory University tomorrow.

Ms Martin said the theme of this year’s conference - ‘Combating the Causes of Crime’ – reflects the growing understanding that solutions to crime involves everyone working together.

"To make our society a better place takes the combined effort of us all – the people, the government and our law enforcement and justice system – working together," Ms Martin said.

"Certainly Governments and police must focus on crime issues, and direct sufficient resources to tackle it across the whole community, but the effort and co-operation of the community is also a vital component in this fight."

Ms Martin said that addressing the underlying causes of crime is the most critical weapon for making a safer community.

"To reduce crime we must understand what its causes are and tackle those underlying problems in our society.

"The underlying causes of crime can be straightforward ranging from boredom to lack of opportunity, to more complex reasons like drugs, the breakdown of families, and unemployment.

"This Government is determined to address and tackle these causes in a whole of Government way, hence the development of the Office of Crime Prevention, established recently to co-ordinate Government’s crime prevention strategy."

Ms Martin said the "tremendous" work carried out by Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in assisting the community to respond, more effectively, to crime and to its impact.

"The Territory Government is grateful for the efforts of volunteers to ensure our community is a safer place to live, and I am pleased to have announced in the August budget an annual grant of $100,000 for Neighbourhood Watch," she said.

"This money will provide the organisation with the ability to deliver significant crime prevention programs into the community."

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Paul Henderson, and Minister for Health Jane Aagaard will also attend the conference, which begins at 9am.