Targeted and innovative crime prevention projects worth $450,000 will soon be rolled out in two stages across the Territory, Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne announced today.

Twenty-two crime prevention initiatives across all major centres have been funded through the first-ever round of the Government’s boosted Crime Prevention NT Grant Scheme totalling $400,000 with another four projects worth $50,000 to be funded in the second stage beginning July 1 this year.

Dr Toyne said the crime prevention grant scheme provides a powerful resource to attack the causes of crime and in a new approach, incorporates a regional emphasis to harness community efforts in the fight against crime.

"Preventing crime before it starts through targeted crime prevention initiatives which can address localised crime problems is a key plank in the Government’s fight against crime, " he said.

"These crime prevention projects developed at community level with support from the Office of Crime Prevention are targeted at attacking the causes of crime in ways that will have real effect in the community.

"The high number of applications was extremely pleasing and an encouraging sign of community enthusiasm for the ‘partnership against crime’ and crime prevention approach of this government.

"Projects funded include improved security and lighting at schools, community-based diversion schemes, regional community safety strategies, night patrols, family violence education materials and safe houses for female victims of domestic violence or sexual assault."

Stage 1 of the Crime Prevention Grant Scheme structure comprises:

- $120,000 to fund small grants to community organisations for innovative one-off crime prevention programs that contribute to community safety
- $100,000 to establish Regional Crime Prevention Councils and fund regional crime strategies
- $180,000 to fund targeted crime prevention projects developed through community and government partnerships

In Stage 1 of the funding round four new Regional Crime Prevention Councils have been granted establishment and administrative funding with some of those councils also securing project funding.

Dr Toyne said Regional Crime Prevention Councils have an important and invaluable role to play in crime prevention by stimulating and sustaining crime prevention strategies at a community level.
"Building partnerships between crime prevention community groups and Government will ensure Government is in touch with crime issues at the local and regional level," he said.

"Over the past six months we have established crime prevention councils in Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine, and the communities of Ali Curung, Lajamanu and Yuendumu through the ‘Kurduju Committee’.

"We are working towards developing crime prevention councils in Darwin, Palmerston and Nhulunbuy, as well as some remote communities.

"The enthusiastic and committed response from the community through the Crime Prevention Councils and large number of grant applications reflects the community openness to the Government’s ‘partnerships-against-crime’ approach," Dr Toyne said.

The second stage of the grants will be funded from July 1 and include a night patrol project, youth project, and a Territory Shopsafe project.

More than 45 community organisations and groups submitted 52 applications for funding. Grants were assessed by the Crime Prevention Committee, who took advice from NT Government agencies, ATSIC, and Regional Crime Prevention Councils, according to the category requirements of the scheme.

The third round of grants will open on July 1 for applications and close on 22 August.