The latest crime statistics show a dramatic drop in property offences and crimes against the person in Darwin.

The release of the quarterly crime and justice statistics have revealed 2243 (20%) less recorded property offences and 179 (14%) less offences against the person in 2004 compared to the figure for 2003.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne said the figures show there’s been progress in both property offences and offences against the person.

“Less offences means less victims of crime,” Dr Toyne said.

“We’ve been able to reduce the number of victims by the Martin Labor Government delivering on its promise to tackle the causes of crime.

“This has been achieved by putting more police on the beat – 200 expected by the end of 2006, targeted operations – these figures are used to identify crime hotspots, and community partnerships including Crime Prevention Councils and Neighbourhood Watch,” Dr Toyne said.

“This is all part of the Building Safer Communities framework which is this Government’s 5 Year Plan to reduce crime across the Territory,” Dr Toyne said.

In a breakdown of the statistics, the yearly comparison also shows house break-ins were down 21% or 261 less offences and assaults were down 15% or 160 less offences.

The figures are from the Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics compiled by the Office of Crime Prevention.

**Year to year comparisons:**
This data compares figures from one 12 month period to the next. Among the key findings comparing the total number of recorded offences in 2004 to the total number of recorded offences in 2003:

- robberies increased by 15% (5 more offences)
- sexual assaults decreased by 16% (22 less offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 20% (143 less offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences decreased by 26% (333 less offences)
- property damage decreased by 26% (1100 less offences)
Quarter to Quarter comparisons:
Quarterly comparisons are the figures from the September 04 quarter (July/Aug/Sept) compared to the figures from the December 04 quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec). Care should be taken when interpreting the quarter to quarter comparisons as the figures can be volatile.

Key findings include:
- total number of recorded offences against the person were up 3% (8 more offences)
- robberies increased by 71% (5 more offences)
- assaults decreased by 1% (2 less offences)
- sexual assaults increased by 7% (2 more offences)
- total number of recorded property offences were up 1% (11 more offences)
- house break-ins were up 55% (83 more offences)
- commercial break-ins increased 3% (3 more offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences were down 10% (22 less offences)
- property damage was down 3% (18 less offences)

Trends
Trends are detected when there is a statistically significant upward or downward movement in recorded crime levels of the last 12 months’ data. Downward trends were recorded for the commercial break-ins, motor vehicle theft and related offences, property damage and other property offences categories. Trends were not identified for other offences across Darwin.

The December Quarter 2004 Crime and Justice Statistics and Regional Fact Sheets are available online at www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au

NOTE:
- The preceding statistics are a measure of recorded crime across the Territory.
- The data is collected from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System.
- Nationally it is recognised that there are varying levels of un-reported crime in our community but that recorded crime is the best available measure of changes in the level of crime in a community.
- Statistics in the Territory can be highly volatile, with large swings from one period or another. This is particularly the case for regional centres where small populations and changes in operational or administrative procedures may heavily influence statistics.

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