The attrition rate of the Northern Territory Police remains relatively stable, Police Minister Paul Henderson said today.

"Attrition is a fact of life amongst any profession, including police, and it’s taken into account in the recruitment process," Mr Henderson. "Police officers, like any other employee, are entitled to consider employment in other jurisdictions for family and career reasons."

On average, between four and seven per cent of police ranked as constables and above leave the police force for retirement or other reasons, and the current figures show this year’s levels are within that range.

"While a number of officers may have decided to pursue careers elsewhere, the attrition rate to date for this financial year is in line with the average standards," said Mr Henderson.

"Ideally, every officer would start and end their career here, but this is simply not realistic. However, this Government is committed to seeing police officers train and remain in the Territory and the NT Police force offers salary and working conditions equal to the best in the country."

"It is recognised that NT Police are amongst the most highly-trained in the country and it is therefore not surprising that to see them actively "head-hunted" by other forces," he said. "Indeed, as far back as 1995 Queensland Police were actively targeting our members in their recruitment process."

Mr Henderson said the Government’s commitment to the police force was evidenced in the high level of recruitment in place since Labor came to power.

"In the Opposition’s final financial year in Government, only 30 constables graduated from training. In 2001/2002, the Labor Government’s first year in power, 60 constables graduated."

"Twenty five constables have already graduated in this financial year and 29 more are due to graduate by June. That’s already 114 new constables, and 38 recruits are due to start training next month.

"This Government is determined to see the NT Police Force remain at the top of the ladder and will continue to work to achieve this."

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