Alice Springs has recorded significant drops in all major categories of crime over the past 12 months including a 40% drop in house break-ins according to the latest audited NT Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics released today.

Total levels of reported crime have also fallen significantly over the past quarter with 82 less offences against the previous quarter and 306 less offences than for the same time last year.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne, said the large drops in crime levels in Alice Springs were significant and welcome signs of improvement.

"All major categories of crime have dropped in Alice Springs over the past 12 months indicating some positive wins in the fight against crime."

"The 40% drop in house break-ins in Alice Springs translates to 145 less offences and the 21% drop in assaults relates to 231 less assaults."

"This is welcome news for the community and a reinforcement of the good work of our police on the ground and the benefits of a number of initiatives around the town."

"We will work hard to build on this success and the extra police on the ground in the near future will add to our crime fighting resources."

"Alongside impending extra police resources numerous crime prevention initiatives are already up and running and work is starting on targeted rehabilitation programs in our jails to prevent re-offending."

Dr Toyne said Government initiatives that will continue to impact on reducing crime include:

- $75 million boost to police resources, the largest ever injection of extra funds into police
- 200 extra police on the beat by 2006
- $5 million Itinerants Strategy to address anti-social behaviour
- an annual $400,000 crime prevention grants scheme
- established Crime Prevention Regional Council
- new targeted aggravated property offences
- increased resources to target reducing re-offending
Year on Year data results:

Year on year data which provides comparable information on how crime is tracking from one 12-month period to the next, shows falls in all major categories of crime during the 12 months to the end of June 03 compared to the previous 12 months:

- House break-ins fell by 40% or 145 offences
- Break-ins to commercial premises fell by 36% or 107 offences
- Motor vehicle theft and related offences fell by 16% or 55 offences
- Assaults fell by 21% or 231 offences

Quarter on Quarter comparisons for the total number of offences report:

- a total of 1024 offences recorded by police in the June 03 quarter (206 against the person and 818 property offences) – a drop of 306 on the same quarter last year (276 offences against the person and 1054 property offences) – and a fall of 222 offences on the same time in 2001 (259 offences against the person and 987 property offences) (refer pg 44 of the report)

- a total of 206 against the person, down 58 offences against the previous quarter (264 offences against the person), and down 70 offences on the same time last year (276 offences against the person) (pg 44)

- a total of 818 property offences, down by 24 offences, against the previous quarter (842 property offences), and down a huge 236 offences on the same time last year (1054 property offences) (pg 44)

Quarter on quarter comparisons for general offences show:

The June quarter 2003 data for house break-ins recorded a 29% increase (or 15 offences) compared to the previous quarter, but a fall of 20% (17 offences) from the same quarter last year.

Break-ins to commercial premises were down by 14% (or 8 offences) over the June quarter compared to the previous quarter and down by 38% (or 30 offences) from the same quarter last year.

Alice is currently recording a two year low in the average level of house break-ins and commercial premise break-ins with the trends remaining stable.

Dr Toyne said whilst we have experienced a spike increase over the quarter the fact house break-ins are at a two year low and had dropped by 40% over the past 12 months, is a welcome indication of success in reducing this type of crime in Alice Springs.
The number of recorded assaults in Alice Springs fell by 49 offences or 21% on the previous quarter, and fell by 29% or 74 offences from the same time last year.

Sexual assaults also dropped over the June quarter with a fall of 11% or 2 offences against the previous quarter but increased by 7 offences or 78% from the same quarter last year.

Trends:

The trends for commercial and house break-ins have remained stable over the past 12 months.

"The trends for assaults and sexual assaults have remained stable over the past 12 months with some welcome and significant drops in these new figures, but it is an area of crime we will continue to focus on preventing."

"The latest crime statistics are encouraging with some real and significant falls in crime levels and the Government will continue the efforts on all fronts – law enforcement and crime prevention – to continue to bring these levels down," Dr Toyne said.

NOTE: The Crime and Justice Statistics are a measure of recorded crime across the Territory.

- The data is collected from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System and the NT Integrated Justice 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.

June Quarter 2003 Crime and Justice Statistics and regional fact sheets are available online at www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au