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Building Safer Communities - A Five year Framework

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A FIVE YEAR FRAMEWORK

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne and Police Minister Paul Henderson have unveiled a 5 year framework to build safer communities in the Northern Territory.

Dr Toyne said Building Safer Communities - A Framework for Crime Prevention and Community Safety - 2004-2009 is a signpost to the future direction of safety and justice in the Northern Territory.

“This is all about protection, punishment and prevention,” Dr Toyne said.

“Our communities and homes are already much safer under a Martin Government.”

“Property crime is down 47%, a sexual assault taskforce is up and running, and the Government has injected $18.5 million into Corrections to implement the reforms and another $8 million for the upgrade of facilities.”

The building blocks of this vision are simple, yet fundamental.

- Children and Young People
- Protecting Your Home and Business
- Preventing Violence - Protecting Territorians
- Two Way Justice - Engaging Aboriginal Culture and Communities
- Tackling Substance Abuse
- Targeting Punishment and Preventing (re)Offending

Building Safer Communities also identifies three key areas for strengthening and reforming our legal and justice system:

- Front Line Responses: Our Police Force
- Partners in Crime Prevention
- People, Places and Systems

Police Minister Paul Henderson said the men and women of the Police Force remain the frontline against crime.

“That’s why the Martin Labor Government is delivering a record boost of resources with the $75million four-year Building our Police Force Plan,” Mr Henderson said.
“The Plan is delivering 200 extra police on the beat by the end of 2006 including record rates of recruitment – and that means more police on patrol delivering safer communities for Territorians.

“The Martin Labor Government is giving police the tools they need to attack crime, and the Police are getting results with targeted and intelligence-led policing is a big factor in the drop in unlawful entries over the past 12 months.”

Dr Toyne added the Government knew there was more work to be done to turn the Territory into a place where everyone is – and feels – safe.

“Under each of the areas of the Framework, we look at the challenges we face, and outline what we have already done and are doing now. Importantly, under each of these areas we set out what we will do in the future.

These future directions provide the framework for planning across government over the next five years, as well as better and new partnerships with communities and the non-government sector, local government and the Commonwealth.

The Territory’s newest police will hit the beat in coming days with today’s graduation of 21 members of Squad 78.

Police Minister Paul Henderson will participate in today’s graduation ceremony at Marrara Basketball Stadium.

“Squad 78 is the fourth police squad to graduate this year as part of the record rates of recruitment being delivered by the Martin Government’s $75M Building our Police Force Plan,” Mr Henderson said.

“Squad 79 will also graduate before Christmas – compared to not single officer graduating between 1991 and 1994!”

The 21 members of Squad 78 have been in training for 28 weeks.

They will now be posted across the Territory, with two to be stationed in Alice Springs, three in Tennant Creek, 11 in Darwin, four to Katherine and one to Nhulunbuy.

“I congratulate the members of Squad 78 on their commitment to protecting the Territory community and wish them well throughout their career with the NT Police.”

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