The level of recorded criminal offences in Tennant Creek over the March quarter was down compared to the same three months in 2002, according to the latest NT Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics released today.

While there was an increase in the March quarter 2003 compared to the previous quarter, the overall number of offences was down on the same period last year.

Police recorded a total of 303 offences in the March quarter (65 against the person, 238 property), down 63 offences from the same period in 2002 (366), but an increase of 38 offences on the previous quarter. (p62 of report)

The report shows an increase of 3 offences or 5% in the March 2003 quarter from the same period in 2002 for offences against the person, but a decrease of 14 offences or 18% from the previous quarter. (p63)

Property offences dropped by 22% or 66 offences in the March 2003 quarter compared to the same quarter in 2002, but increased by 28% or 52 offences from the previous quarter. (p65)

Year-on-year data, which provides comparable information on how crime is tracking from one 12-month period to the next, shows that during the 12 months to the end of March compared to the previous 12 months:

- House break-ins dropped by 38% or 60 less offences
- Break-ins to commercial or other premises fell by 54% or 83 less offences
- Assaults increased by 8% or 14 offences

The Minister for Justice, Dr Peter Toyne, said that while there had been an increase in the number of break-ins to business premises in Tennant Creek in the March quarter, the numbers are small and the figures were well down on the same quarter the previous year.

A significant drop of 38% or 60 less offences was recorded during the 12-month snapshot.

"In the March 2003 quarter, house break-ins in Tennant Creek dropped by 30% or 14 offences from the same quarter the previous year, but increased by 10 offences or 45% from the previous quarter.

"The figures also show the underlying average level of house break-ins is at the lowest it has been over the past two years, at 8 offences per month, from a range of between 8 to 11 offences per month. (pg66)

"Break-ins to business and commercial premises are also at the lowest
underlying average over the past two years at an average of 6 offences per month, from a range between 6 to 13 per month," Dr Toyne said. (pg67)

"Over the last quarter, break-ins to commercial or other premises fell by 40% or 14 fewer offences against the same quarter the previous year, but increased by 31% or 5 offences from the previous quarter.

"The number of recorded assaults in Tennant Creek appears to be stable with the underlying average for assaults currently at 17 per month in the middle of a range of between 14 to 19 per month over the past two years.

"Over the March quarter there was an fall of 6% or 4 less offences from the previous quarter, and a drop of 1 offence or 2% for assaults on the same period last year.

"Over the long term we are making some in-roads and will continue the efforts on all fronts – law enforcement and crime prevention measures to continue to bring the rates of crime down in Tennant Creek," 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 Northern Territory Courts IJIS 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.

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