The Territory Government today launched its new $6.7 million program, *Crime Prevention NT: building partnerships against crime.*

"For the first time the Northern Territory will have a comprehensive plan to attack not just crime, but its causes," Chief Minister Clare Martin said.

"While law enforcement is the frontline in the fight against crime, this government wants a sharper focus placed on stopping crime before it happens."

A total of $6.7 million over four years has been allocated to resource Crime Prevention NT, an increase of $2.5 million on previous crime prevention funding.

The program will be administered by the new *Office of Crime Prevention*, which will be based in the Department of Justice. The new executive director of the Office will be Lyn McDade.

The Office for Crime Prevention will co-ordinate a ‘whole of government’ approach to tackling crime. Staff with expertise in crime prevention planning, community consultation and statistical analysis have been drawn from NT Police, the Department of Justice and the Office of Courts Administration to establish the Office.

An additional five staff will be employed in the office this year.

Importantly, the government has increased funding, to $400,000 each year (an increase of $150,000) over the next three years, for *Community Crime Prevention Grants*. Community groups will put forward their plans to prevent crime to the Office, and apply for funding.

"In this way we will build partnerships with those at a local level who really know how to stop crime before it starts," Dr Toyne said.

In a Territory first, crime prevention in regional areas will now be addressed, with *Regional Crime Prevention Councils* established across the Territory. Membership on these Councils will be drawn from all areas of Territory life. The Council will assess what crime prevention initiatives work best in their regions and encourage community involvement.

**Youth Night Patrol**

The Chief Minister said that among the crime prevention initiatives favoured by Government was the Youth Night Patrol, the first stage of which will start operating in July this year.

"The Youth Night Patrol proposal, which has been allocated $320,000 a year, grew from discussions with the community prior to the election," Ms Martin said

"Community organisations, including youth groups, have already met to discuss the Youth Night Patrol, and they are working with the Government and police to create a model service.

"The focus of the service will be to meet the safety needs of children and young people who are on the street at night, divert these young people from risky
behaviour, including crime, and support families to take responsibility for supervising their children.

“This is an example of government working in partnership with community workers, youth workers, police, and young people to stop crime before it begins, and that is what Crime Prevention NT is all about.”

The Office for Crime Prevention will be reporting to four Territory Ministers (including the Chief Minister) and a CEO Crime Prevention Committee. The CEO Committee will be chaired by the Commissioner of Police, Paul White, and the CEO of the Department of Justice, Richard Coates.

Government will continue releasing details of Crime Prevention NT initiatives throughout the year, with a new program to assist victims expected to be announced next month.

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