25 May 2003
Inaugural crime prevention
meetings in Darwin

A Regional Crime Prevention Council for the Darwin area has been formed and will have its inaugural meeting tomorrow in Darwin, ahead of the Territory’s first-ever Crime Prevention Conference later this week.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne said the formation of the Darwin council through a partnership between Neighbourhood Watch and the Office of Crime Prevention is welcomed and comes on the tail of a successful six month effort to build crime fighting councils across the Territory.

"Regional Crime Prevention Councils will have a significant role to play in the fight against crime as a forum to stimulate and sustain community involvement in crime prevention, and to keep Government informed of localised crime prevention issues.

"The partnership between Neighbourhood Watch is valuable for the contribution the long-standing and respected organisation will make to the Crime Prevention Council.

"Harnessing community efforts and expertise to develop local solutions for local crime problems is a powerful approach to preventing crime.

"Through the Regional Crime Prevention Councils we are empowering the community to help in the fight against crime," Dr Toyne said.

To date the Government’s Office of Crime Prevention has partnered or assisted the establishment of Regional Crime Prevention Councils in Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Kurduju (representing Ali Curung, Lajamanu and Willowra) and the Yolngu communities of Galiwinku, Gapuwyiak, Maningrida and Raminginning as well as this latest council representing the Darwin region.

The Territory’s first ever Crime Prevention Conference will be held in Darwin on Thursday and Friday this week (29 and 30 May 2003). The Office of Crime Prevention is hosting the conference to be attended by regional crime prevention councils from across the Territory.

The Conference will discuss current crime prevention initiatives in practice in the Territory as well as what is happening nationally and internationally in crime prevention.