Family and Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour will be in Katherine today to launch a revamped community patrol aimed at limiting anti-social behaviour.

Ms Scrymgour said the patrol will operate full time every day and into the evenings – instead of just a twice weekly service - throughout the Katherine region.

Patrols during the day will include a foot patrol and a mobile capability, with evening patrols being increased during the busier nights of the week and for special events.

Patrol staff will now also be wearing uniforms displaying their rank within the Patrol.

The Community Patrol receives annual recurrent NT Government funding of $188,300.

The NT Government also funds the Community Harmony Project - a $5.2 million Territory wide strategy to combat itinerant behaviour.

Ms Scrymgour said a Government review into the previous format had brought about the restructure, which will now see staff being employed full-time and paid wages on top of their Community Development Employment Program payments.

“Not only will the patrols combat anti-social behaviour but they will also provide assistance to those who are at risk or in need of assistance by providing an information referral service, Ms Scrymgour said.

“This could also include medical assistance, or a lift to a place of safety such as a sobering up shelter or if necessary to the Hospital, depending on their circumstances.

“There is also a very real issue regarding emergencies such as the Australia Day Floods almost seven years ago.

“Should another natural disaster come along the Community Patrol will also be able to assist the Emergency Services in locating people no matter where they might be, warn them of the impending danger and if required, help them relocate to a place of safety.

“The Community Patrol is also able to pass on advice and information to the Emergency Services as to what is being done for these people .”

Community Patrol Operations Manager Maurie Burke said he was buoyed by the strong community support for the patrol.

Mr Burke said one of the primary roles of the Community Patrol is to provide relevant assistance, advice and support where needed to the Katherine community.