Alice Springs has recorded significant drops in most categories of crime over the past 12 months including a 29% drop in house break-ins according to the September quarter 2003 NT Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics released today.

Total levels of reported crime have also fallen significantly over the past quarter with 199 less offences against the previous quarter and 164 less offences than for the same time last year.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne, said the large drops in crime levels in Alice Springs were significant falls and welcome signs of improvement for the community.

“Again this new quarter figures have shown most categories of crime have dropped in Alice Springs over the past 12 months.

“Over the past quarter house break-ins have fallen by 49% or 33 less offences – a very welcome sign of success in tackling property crime.

“These drops in crime levels indicate some positive wins in the fight against crime, and are due to the efforts of police and crime prevention initiatives on the ground.”

“The 29% drop in house break-ins in Alice Springs translates to 88 less offences and the 18% drop in assaults relates to 183 less assaults.”

“This is welcome news for the community, and the Government will continue to work hard to build on this success with extra police and new crime prevention initiatives.”

Year on Year data results:

Year on year data which provides comparable information on how crime is tracking from one 12-month period to the next, shows falls in all major categories of crime during the 12 months to the end of September 03 compared to the previous 12 months:

- House break-ins fell by 29% or 88 offences
- Break-ins to commercial premises fell by 24% or 64 offences
- Motor vehicle theft and related offences fell by 17% or 56 offences
- Assaults fell by 18% or 183 offences

Quarter on Quarter comparisons for the total number of offences report:
a total of 818 offences were recorded by police in the September 03 quarter (207 against the person and 611 property offences) – a drop of 199 offences on the previous quarter (203 offences against the person and 814 property offences) – and a fall of 164 offences on the same time in 2001 (214 offences against the person and 768 property offences) (refer pg 44 of the report).

a total of 207 against the person, were recorded by police in the September 03 quarter, up 4 offences against the previous quarter (203 offences against the person), but down 7 offences on the same time last year (214 offences against the person) (pg 44).

a total of 611 property offences, were recorded by police in the September 03 quarter, down by 203 offences, against the previous quarter (814 property offences), and down 157 offences on the same time last year (768 property offences) (pg 44).

Quarter on quarter comparisons for general offences show:

The June quarter 2003 data for house break-ins recorded a 49% drop (or 33 offences) compared to the previous quarter, and a fall of 11% (4 offences) from the same quarter last year.

Break-ins to commercial premises were up by 2% (or 1 offence) over the September quarter compared to the previous quarter and up by 15 offences or 43% from the same quarter last year.

Dr Toyne said while the number of commercial break-ins had shown a small increase over the quarters the 12 month picture has recorded welcome and significant drops, showing 64 less offences than on the previous 12 months.

The number of recorded assaults in Alice Springs increased by 2% or 4 offences on the previous quarter, but fell by 6% or 13 offences from the same time last year.

Sexual assaults increased by 2 offences or 17% against the previous quarter, and increased by 9 offences or 180% from the same quarter last year.

Over the past 12 months sexual assaults have increased by 43 to 64 offences.

Dr Toyne said the Government is concerned about any increases in sexual assaults and a new Taskforce announced today will focus efforts on preventing sexual assaults through the development of a whole-of government Sexual Assaults Prevention Plan.

Trends:

The underlying average level of house break-ins in Alice Springs is at a two-year low, and the trend has remained stable for the past 12 months.

The underlying average level of commercial break-ins in Alice Springs is
also at a two-year low, and the trend has remained stable for the past 12 months.

The underlying average level of assaults is also at a two-year low in Alice Springs, and the trend has remained stable over the past 12 months.

Dr Toyne said the latest crime statistics are encouraging with some real and significant falls in crime levels and the Government will continue the efforts on all fronts – law enforcement and crime prevention – to continue to bring these levels down.

**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 NT Integrated Justice Information 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.

September Quarter 2003 Crime and Justice Statistics and regional fact sheets are available online at [www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au).