1596 LESS PROPERTY CRIMES IN THE TERRITORY

The latest release of Northern Territory Crime and Justice statistics has confirmed a consistent drop in property crime across the Northern Territory.

The September 2005 quarter edition of the Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics were released today by the Office of Crime Prevention and are based on recorded offences from police data.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne said the figures show in a year-on-year comparison, overall property offences dropped by eight percent or 1596 less offences.

“House break-ins were down five percent or 97 less offences and commercial break-ins were down 20 percent or 309 less offences,” Dr Toyne said.

“There are less victims of crime – but there is still more work to do.

“The reduction in crime has been achieved by putting an extra 137 police on the beat with 63 more on the way.

“The quarterly crime stats are also used to target crime hot spots and the Government has encouraged community partnerships such as Crime Prevention Councils and Neighbourhood Watch.

“This is all part of the Building Safer Communities framework which is this Government’s 5 Year Plan to reduce crime across the Territory,” Dr Toyne said.

Overall offences against the person are up by one percent.

“The increase in ‘Offences Against the Person’ can be partly attributed to increased policing of the ‘Breach Domestic Violence Order’,” Dr Toyne said.

“This has included police targeting offenders and the adoption of a zero tolerance approach by the Domestic and Personal Violence Protection Unit.
“This has resulted in more perpetrators of these crimes being punished and greater protection for the victims of these attacks,” Dr Toyne said.

**SOME KEY FINDINGS**

Year-to-Year comparisons (Oct03-Sept04 compared to Oct04-Sept05):
- sexual assaults – 118 less offences
- assaults – 125 more offences
- house break-ins – 97 less offences
- property damage offences – 684 less offences
- motor vehicle theft and related offences – 282 less offences

Quarter-to-Quarter comparisons (Jun05 quarter compared to Sept05 quarter):
- total number of offences against the person – 43 more offences
- total number of property offences – 296 more offences


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