The latest recorded crime statistics show Katherine has yet again recorded fewer offences on a yearly comparison.

There were 86 (nine percent) less property offences and 30 (eight percent) less offences against the person in the year April 04-March 05 compared to the previous twelve months.

The Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics compiled by the Office of Crime Prevention are based on recorded offences.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne said general picture in Katherine was encouraging.

“But it is important we maintain our targeted programs involving the police and community working together to identify trouble spots and then fix them,” he said.

“There has been a consistent reduction in property crime for two years now and that is particularly gratifying.

“And the fall in assaults is also encouraging ,” Dr Toyne said.

**Year to Year comparisons:**

This data compares figures from one 12 month period to the next. Among the other key findings comparing the total number of offences in the 12 months to March 05 to the total number of offences in the 12 months to March 04:

- assaults decreased by 8% (29 less offences)
- sexual assaults recorded a zero percentage change
- house break-ins increased by 5% (4 more offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 36% (35 less offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences increased by 2% (1 more offence)
- property damage offences decreased by 17% (53 less offences)
Quarter to Quarter comparisons:

Quarterly comparisons are the figures from the December 04 quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec) compared to the figures from the March 05 quarter (Jan/Feb/Mar). Care should be taken when reporting on these figures as small changes can produce large percentage figures. Key findings include:

- total number of offences against the person were up 25% (22 more offences)
- assaults increased by 39% (30 more offences)
- sexual assaults decreased by 89% (8 less offences)
- total number of property offences were up 13% (25 more offences)
- house break-ins increased by 85% (11 more offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 20% (3 less offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences increased by 10% (1 more offence)
- property damage offences decreased by 32% (25 less offences)

Trends:

Trends are detected when there is a statistically significant upward or downward movement in recorded crime levels of the last 12 months’ data. There were no trends identified for offences in Katherine.

March Quarter 2005 Crime and Justice Statistics and Regional Fact Sheets are available online at www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au

NOTE:

- The preceding statistics are a measure of recorded crime across the Territory.
- The data is collected from the Police Real-time On-line Management 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.
- Statistics in the Territory can be highly volatile, with large swings from one period or another. This is particularly the case for regional centres where small populations and changes in operational or administrative procedures may heavily influence statistics.

Contact: Fred McCue, 0401119792