The central Australian town of Alice Springs remains a fantastic and welcoming destination for both local and international visitors, Minister for Tourism, Paul Henderson said today.

“A recent tabloid style story aired in southern Australia on a current affair program portrayed Alice Springs in an appalling inaccurate light,” Minister Henderson said.

“The types of challenges facing Alice Springs are shared by many towns across Australia and the world.

“The Northern Territory has more police per capita than anywhere else in Australia and they are on hand when crimes do occur.

“The community of Alice Springs, NT Police and Government are determined to further reduce crime.

“Sadly there are some local politicians and others with barrows to push who seem to think they will benefit from portraying Alice’s challenges as a crisis with no solutions.

“The reality is the overwhelming majority of tourists and locals love the town that is located at the heart of our nation.

“Proof of this is the number of visitors that come back time and time again to experience the spectacular landscapes and events such as the Master Games, because they know there is no other town like Alice.

“Last year central Australia international tourist numbers increased by over 6% (an extra 17,000 travellers) and the average length of stay has increased from four to five nights.

“The fact is Alice Springs remains a wonderful destination for tourists and welcoming home for residents and we look forward to welcoming visitors from around Australia and the world,” Minister Henderson said.

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