Crime Stats Out: Territory becoming More Violent

The release of the December Quarter Crime Statistics have revealed an across the board increase in violence in the Territory. The assaults that were recorded against Territorians the highest number of assaults that have been recorded since Labor came to office. (p15 Crime Stats)

“This is a very worrying trend.” Opposition Leader Jodeen Carney said today.

“This first role of Government is to provide a safe environment for the people who live in the Territory. The Government is presiding over assault figures that are just appalling.

“They have been quick to attack people who question their ability to make the Territory safe but when numbers like this come out there is no denying that they have a serious problem.”

Alice Springs in particular is currently faring particularly badly. A comparison with the last two December quarters reveal a marked increase in criminal actively both in the area of offences against the person and offences against property.

In Alice Springs, offences against the person the numbers for the last three December quarters have been: 231, 208 and 323 respectively. Offences against property in the last three December quarters have been: 586, 592 and 810 respectively.

“If you look at all of the major centres outside of Darwin and Palmerston the numbers are concerning as well.” Ms Carney said.

“In spite of the Government’s much vaunted Community Harmony Project and Return to Country project the urban drift that we have seen in Alice Springs has brought many social problems into the town.

“Little comfort is taken from articles such as the one in the Sunday Age which said that Alice Springs is beset by violence, alcoholism and crime and that Alice Springs was a failing community.

“It is time for the Government to look beyond Darwin and see what is happening in our other major centres.”

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