PROPERY CRIME AND ASSAULTS DOWN IN TENNANT CREEK

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne says the latest crime statistics for Tennant Creek show a marked improvement in the number of offences.

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.

The year-on-year comparisons show overall property offences down 45 percent or 372 less offences while offences against the person were down six percent or 21 less offences.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter 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,” Dr Toyne said.

“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.

Although the year-to-year figures for offences against the person were encouraging there was a rise in the quarter-to-quarter figures.

“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 – 8 more offences
- assaults – 21 less offences
- house break-ins – 51 less offences
- property damage offences – 130 less offences
- motor vehicle theft and related offences – 10 less offences

Quarter-to-Quarter comparisons (Jun05 quarter compared to Sept05 quarter):
- total number of offences against the person – 28 more offences
- total number of property offences – 25 more offences

FOR A MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF THE STATISTICS, SEE THE MEDIA RELEASES FROM THE OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION OR GO TO www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au

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