Personal Crime Down Across the NT

The latest Crime and Justice statistics show the number of offences committed against the person across the Territory has fallen in the yearly comparisons.

The Crime and Justice statistics for the September 2008 quarter are based on offences recorded in the Territory Police case management system PROMIS.

The Justice Minister Chris Burns said the figures show a 12% decrease or 199 fewer offences against the person in the September quarter this year compared to the September quarter last year.

“This is very encouraging news,” Dr Burns said.

“A 13% fall in assaults in the September 2008 quarter compared to the September 2007 quarter contributed to the 12% fall offences against the person. There was a downward trend over the past 12 months, indicating the level of assaults is on the decline.”

Dr Burns said alcohol continued to play a large role in assaults but the number of alcohol-related assaults was decreasing.

Across the NT, 59% of assaults were alcohol related for the 12 months ending September 2008. In the 12 months ending September 2007, the figure was 60%.

“The Territory Government is very focused on tackling alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, and we will continue to work with communities on a region-by-region basis to reduce alcohol abuse.”

Domestic violence related assaults are also on the decline across the NT – in the 12 months ending September 2008, 51% of assaults were domestic violence-related. In the 12 months ending September 2007, the figure was almost 55%.

“NT Police have been very proactive in targeting repeat offenders and repeat victims, so hopefully we are making a dent in these sorts of crimes,” Dr Burns said.

“To further tackle DV incidents, this Government is taking the unprecedented step of introducing mandatory reporting of domestic violence and will invest $15 million to help turn around these figures.”

Dr Burns said he was disappointed property offences had risen 6% in the September quarter this year compared to the September quarter last year.
He said a rise in commercial break-ins in Alice Springs was behind the increase.

“Police have informed me they have a focus on reducing those figures in Alice Springs with free security audits of commercial premises and other measures.”

**Darwin**

Assaults in Darwin were down 20% in the September 2008 quarter compared to the same period in 2007. This drove down the overall number of offences against the person by 19%.

Alcohol-related assaults made up just over 50% of all assaults, while domestic violence played a part in 25% of assaults in the 12 months to September 2008.

Property offences in Darwin decreased 2% in the September 2008 quarter compared to the September 2007 quarter, and were down 16% in the five-yearly comparisons.

In the comparison between the September 2008 quarter and the June 2008 quarter, all but one category of property offences fell, resulting in an overall decrease in property offences of 13%.

**Palmerston**

There was an additional four offences against the person in the 12 months to the end of September 2008 compared to the same period in 2007.

The change in the figures in the five yearly comparisons equalled a 5% increase or 19 more offences.

Alcohol played a role in 47% of assaults in Palmerston, while domestic violence was a factor in 45% of cases in the 12 months to the end of September 2008.

In the September quarter 2008 overall property offences were up 6% compared with the same quarter in 2007. This was driven by increases in property damage.

The rise was despite a 24% reduction or 207 fewer property offences in the September 2008 quarter compared to the June 2008 quarter.

The long-term comparison over five years also showed a drop in property offences of 6%.

**Alice Springs**

Decreases were registered in most of the categories that make up offences against the person in the comparison between September 2008 and September 2007. There were no murders, attempted murders or manslaughter offences. Assaults were down 5%, while sexual assaults fell 33%.

These falls contributed to an overall reduction of 7% in the September 2008 quarter compared to the same period in 2007.

Just over 70% of assaults involved alcohol while domestic violence played a part in 63% of those offences.
The total number of property offences in September 2008 compared to September 2007 increased by 14%. This was largely driven by a 76% rise in commercial break-ins.

Comparisons between the September 2008 and June 2008 quarter show a 2% reduction in the overall number of property offences, largely underpinned by an 11% reduction in the category of other thefts.

**Katherine**

Katherine generally recorded positive figures this quarter.

Overall offences against the person dropped 7% this quarter compared to the September quarter last year. There was a downward trend over the past 12 months. The main contributor to the fall was the assault category, which fell 6%.

Assaults involving alcohol made up 71% of all assaults, while domestic violence was involved in almost 61% of assaults in the 12 months to the end of September 2008.

The number of overall property offences was static in the September-on-September comparisons. The highlights were a 69% drop in house break-ins and a 53% drop in motor vehicle thefts and related offences.

Property offences were down 7% in the five yearly comparisons, largely driven by a 16% reduction in property damage.

**Tennant Creek**

Tennant Creek recorded large percentage falls in personal crime and property crime in when comparing the September 2008 quarter with the same quarter in 2007.

A 30% reduction was recorded for offences against the person in the yearly comparisons, with assaults down 34% or 44 fewer offences.

Comparing the September 2008 quarter with the June 2008 quarter, resulted in a 13% decrease in offences against the person.

Alcohol was involved in 79% of assaults and almost 68% of assaults were DV-related.

A downward trend is evident in the number of overall property offences over the past 12 months. There was a fall of 15% for the September quarter 2008 compared to the same period last year.

A 38% fall the category of other thefts was the major factor in bringing the overall figure down.

There was also a 16% drop in the overall number of property offences when comparing the September 2008 quarter with the June 2008 quarter.
Nhulunbuy

Overall offences against the person were down significantly in Nhulunbuy, with a fall of 34% or 16 fewer offences in the September quarter this year, compared to the same period last year.

Much of the fall was due to decreases in assaults – down 26% – and sexual assaults – down 60%.

There was also a 31% reduction in overall offences against the person in the September 2008 quarter when compared to the June 2008 quarter.

In Nhulunbuy, 72% of assaults involved alcohol, while almost 32% involved domestic violence.

Property offences increased 26% in the September 2008 quarter compared to the September 2008 quarter, with rises in house and commercial break-ins the contributing factors.

Despite the yearly increase, overall property offences fell in the longer term statistics – down 31% from the 12 months to the end of September 2003 to the 12 months to the end of September 2008


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