Tackling Crime in Palmerston

The Chief Minister and Police Minister Paul Henderson told a meeting of Palmerston residents tonight that agencies across Government and the private sector are working to reduce the impact of crime on residents.

“There is a lot being done but there is always more to do,” he said

“Crime and anti-social behaviour is unacceptable, is not tolerated and is being addressed.

“Palmerston is a great place to live and work. The Government and the Palmerston City Council want to keep it that way.

“It is clear that a lot of the youth crime in Palmerston involves a small group of young offenders.

“Police are targeting those offenders with patrols of hot spots and enforcing bail conditions. They are also building up intelligence on others who are on the fringes and at risk of becoming more seriously involved.

“Police patrols will be aided by the rollout of 15 CCTV cameras in hot spots around the city, and will be linked to the existing cameras at the Palmerston Bus Interchange. A Police Beat will be established in the Palmerston Shopping Centre by December.”

The Chief Minister said more would be done to improve the co-ordination between Government agencies, the Government, the Council and the non-government sector.

“The Department of Families and Children now has a strong emphasis on case managing some Palmerston families to help them manage their children and develop their parenting skills.

“We will work with all groups to address the underlying causes of youth crime by addressing family break down. That will involve more intense focus on families and a greater sharing of information between all sectors.

“My Government has recently announced $170,000 in additional funding to Mission Australia’s Youth Beat service to triple its service from two nights a week to six.

“Youth Beat officers are out talking to kids finding out why they’re not at home and linking them up to services.
“The Palmerston YMCA is also offering an alternative education program for primary school-aged kids who have become disengaged from school to reintegrate them back into the classroom.

“The highly successful Clontarf Academy also operates in Palmerston with around 100 Indigenous boys. Students who have attended for more than a term have improved their attendance to nearly 100%.

“This intense effort across all agencies of Government and across the community will address both the short-term and long-term problems behind youth crime. We have done a lot but we know there is more to do.

“My Government will continue to work hard to ensure the people of Palmerston can go about their business safely.”

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