Delia Lawrie
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

31 March 2010

December 2009 Quarter Crime Statistics Released

New crime and justice figures out today show the Henderson Government’s mandatory reporting of domestic violence and increased police presence in remote areas is having an impact.

The Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, said while crime figures for 2009 show 912 more assaults, just under half of the increase was recorded in rural and remote areas.

“There has been a significant increase in police presence in remote communities as part of Operation Themis with 18 stations now operational,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This increased police presence has boosted community safety as well as seen more crimes being reported.

“Overall there was a 17 per cent increase in assaults across the Territory last year including 1762 assaults in the December quarter – a 20 per cent increase.

“On a positive note, assaults in Darwin have dropped three per cent over the past 12 months which shows initiatives including the Safer Streets campaign are having a positive effect.

“Importantly seven per cent of assaults recorded in 2009 resulted in serious harm with this figure trending down since 2005.”

“There was a 25 per cent increase in the number of domestic violence related assaults last year in line with the introduction of mandatory report with 53 per cent of all assaults reported domestic violence related.
“Once again alcohol was involved in 59 per cent all assaults across the Territory which is simply too high.”

Ms Lawrie also welcomed a decrease in property offences in 2009.

“There were 441 fewer house and commercial break-ins and a six per cent drop in property offences last year,” she said.

“This shows that Territorians are listening to the ‘Lock It or Lose It’ message from police and justice agencies.”

Ms Lawrie said the Henderson Government had recently announced new tough proposed laws that will provide police and courts with greater powers to crack down on alcohol fuelled violence.

“These proposed new powers are currently before the Parliament and include immediate 48 hour bans from pub precincts for troublemakers and a $130 on-the-spot fine for refusing to leave,” she said.

“The Henderson Government is also currently running the Championship Moves awareness campaign which encourages friends to look out for friends and to step in to prevent a fight or incident before it escalates.”

The Crime and Justice Statistics for the September 2009 quarter are based on offences recorded in the Territory Police case management system PROMIS.

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**Darwin**

Assaults dropped three per cent in 2009. Overall offences against the person have increased 28 per cent in the quarter and are 1 per cent lower for the year to December.

Of all assaults, 53 per cent were alcohol-related while 27 per cent were domestic violence related.

Property offences were nine per cent lower last year with an eight per cent drop in house break-ins and an 11 per cent decrease in commercial break-ins recorded.

Motor vehicle theft and related offences dropped 3 per cent last year.

**Palmerston**

There was a seven per cent increase in assaults recorded last year but a four per cent drop in the December quarter.

Alcohol was involved in 52 per cent of assaults while 49 per cent were domestic violence related.

In 2009 there was a 17 per cent decrease in the number of property offences recorded including a 39 per cent drop in house break-ins and a 46 per cent drop in break-ins at commercial premises.

**Alice Springs**

Assaults increased by 29 per cent last year including a 37 per cent increase in the December quarter.

Sixty-five per cent of assaults were reported as alcohol related while 56 per cent were domestic violence related.

House break-ins dropped by three per cent in 2009 while there was a 16 per cent decrease in break-ins at commercial premises.

**Katherine**

Assaults increased by 48 per cent in 2009 but dropped by seven per cent in the December quarter.

In 2009 there was a 37 per cent increase in the number of domestic violence related assaults compared to 2008.

Of the recorded assaults, 78 per cent were alcohol related assaults while 56 per cent were domestic violence related.
Property offences dropped by 27 per cent including a 38 per cent decrease in house break-ins and a 61 per cent drop in commercial break-ins in the December quarter but rose five per cent in 2009.

**Tennant Creek**

There was a four per cent increase in assaults in 2009 including a 26 per cent increase in the December quarter.

Seventy-three per cent of assaults were alcohol related and 67 per cent were domestic violence related.

There was a four per cent increase in property offences last year with a two per cent increase in house break-ins and a 15 per cent increase in commercial break-ins.

**Nhulunbuy**

Assaults have dropped 38 per cent in 2009 including a 40 per cent decrease in the December quarter.

Of the assaults recorded, 73 per cent were alcohol related while 33 per cent were domestic violence related.

Property offences dropped 12 per cent last year including a 28 per cent decrease in house break-ins and a 24 per cent increase in commercial break-ins.

**Balance**

Assaults increased by 32 per cent last year including a 17 per cent increase in the December quarter.

Alcohol was involved in 48 per cent of all assaults with 67 per cent of assaults domestic violence related.

Property offences increased by three per cent in 2009 however house break-ins dropped by 21 per cent.