18 Frontline Police Officers to Tackle Youth Crime

31 January 2017

The Territory Labor Government will assign 12 police on the beat and 6 detectives to tackle youth crime in the Northern Territory.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner said the 18 experienced frontline officers are on top of regular police on the beat who are targeting youth crime as part of Taskforce Sonoma, a Territory-wide operation dedicated to youth offending. They will boost the Investigative arm in Strikeforce Trident Darwin and Operation Winx in Alice Springs.

The officers will be based in Darwin and Alice Springs and will begin to be deployed within a week.

“Every Territorian has the right to feel safe and expect their homes, businesses and property to be secure,” Mr Gunner said.

“The 18 new officers will boost resources dedicated to youth crime, particularly aimed at preventing crime before it happens through youth diversion and early intervention programs and strategies.

“We believe it’s far better to stop a crime before it happens rather than clean up the mess - that’s why this Government is tackling the causes of crime and social dysfunction through a plan to combat alcohol abuse and by investing in the early years and appropriate rehabilitation strategies.”

Government has begun this task by:

- Bringing back the banned drinkers register by September 2017
- Limiting new take away licenses
- Working on reform to youth justice and correction systems
- Engaging with local business to create vibrant cities and towns.

Mr Gunner said that Government is also supporting Territory police with the resources and police numbers they need to proactively patrol hot spots and target repeat offenders.
“The NT Labor Government has a four-year recruitment plan to increase Police numbers by 120 over the term of Government, plus has already fast-tracked the building of a new $15 million 24-hour Palmerston police station and brought forward by three years $5 million to upgrade the Katherine Police Station,” Mr Gunner said.

“We acknowledge that after a tumultuous four years under the CLP, police numbers and police resources have been stretched and we need to provide support.

“That’s why our Government is delivering on our election commitments to give Police the numbers and resources they need.”

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