PALMERSTON CRIME DOWN

The latest release of the quarterly crime and justice statistics show a dramatic drop in the number of reported property crimes and crimes against the person in Palmerston.

There were 632 less recorded property offences and offences against the person in Palmerston in 2004.

The figures for Palmerston show overall there were 516 (18%) less recorded property offences and 116 (31%) less offences against the person in Palmerston in 2004 compared to the figure for 2003.

The figures are from the Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics, December 2004 edition, compiled by the Office of Crime Prevention.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne said the efforts of the Palmerston community and the government towards crime prevention were being rewarded.

“Less offences means less victims of crime,” Dr Toyne said.

“We’ve been able to reduce the number of victims by the Martin Labor Government delivering on its promise to tackle the causes of crime.

“This has been achieved by putting more police on the beat – 200 expected by the end of 2006, targeted operations – these figures are used to identify crime hotspots, and community partnerships including Crime Prevention Councils and Neighbourhood Watch,” Dr Toyne said.

“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.

In a breakdown of the statistics, the yearly comparison also shows house break-ins were down 43% or 230 less offences but the motor vehicle theft and related offences category recorded an 11% increase or 22 more offences.

**Year to year comparisons:**
This data compares figures from one 12 month period to the next. Among the key findings comparing the total number of recorded offences in 2004 to the total number of recorded offences in 2003:

- robberies decreased by 22% (2 less offences)
- assaults decreased by 33% (104 less offences)
- sexual assaults decreased by 21% (8 less offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 10% (15 less offences)
- property damage decreased by 15% (153 less offences)
Quarter to Quarter comparisons:
Quarterly comparisons are the figures from the September 04 quarter (July/Aug/Sept) compared to the figures from the December 04 quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec). Care should be taken when interpreting the quarter to quarter comparisons as the figures can be volatile.

Key findings include:
- total number of recorded offences against the person were down 10% (6 less offences)
- assaults increased by 12% (5 more offences)
- sexual assaults decreased by 69% (11 less offences)
- total number of recorded property offences were up 15% (84 more offences)
- house break-ins were down 6% (5 less offences)
- commercial break-ins were up 11% (4 more offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences were up 65% (28 more offences)
- property damage was up 21% (39 more offences)

Trends
Trends are detected when there is a statistically significant upward or downward movement in recorded crime levels of the last 12 months’ data. There were no trends identified for recorded offences across Palmerston.

The December Quarter 2004 Crime and Justice Statistics and Regional Fact Sheets are available online at www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au

NOTE:
- The preceding statistics are a measure of recorded crime across the Territory.
- The data is collected from the Police Real-time On-line Management Information System.
- Nationally it is recognised that there are varying levels of un-reported crime in our community but that recorded crime is the best available measure of changes in the level of crime in a community.
- Statistics in the Territory can be highly volatile, with large swings from one period or another. This is particularly the case for regional centres where small populations and changes in operational or administrative procedures may heavily influence statistics.

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