Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne today officiated at a hand-over ceremony of children’s toys, crafted by prisoners at Darwin Correctional Centre, to the Annual Christmas Toy Appeal.

Dr Toyne said the efforts of prisoners and corrections staff to provide some Christmas cheer through the donation of hand-made wooden toys will be appreciated by needy Territory children.

"The annual Christmas Donation Day allows prisoners to give something back to the community through their handiwork.

"A number of prisoners crafted the toys ranging from rocking horses, puzzles, helicopters, prams, tables and chairs, dinosaurs, hobby horses, and cradles.

"Along with the donation of toys, prisoners also contributed hours of work to a number of community projects giving benefit to the community," Dr Toyne said.

The Garden of Angels, a special garden for families that have lost a young child, is one of the major community projects completed by prisoners and staff from Darwin Correctional Centre.

As part the of Donation Day ceremony, community organisations and local businesses that also contributed to the creation of the garden were presented an angel statue, crafted by prisoners, as a token of thanks.

Other projects undertaken by prisoners over the past year as part of their reparation include the construction of a special bike for a young Darwin girl, a trailer for the Breast Cancer Voice dragon boat, trailer repairs for the Disabled Sports Association and refurbishment of the Salvation Army mobile kitchen.

Dr Toyne said through these projects the prisoners at Darwin Correctional Centre will bring some cheer and Christmas spirit to other Territorians.

"Over the past year prisoners working on these projects have gained skills and training through meaningful and constructive activity that will contribute to their rehabilitation, as well as a sense of recompense to the community for their offending," he said.

Prisoners enrolled in accredited art and music courses also demonstrated their skills at the presentation ceremony through a display of artworks and a band performance.

Prisoner rehabilitation and reparation activities in the Territory are highlighted on the prisoner website www.ourmessage.org.