The level of recorded criminal offences in the Christmas period in Alice Springs showed a decrease compared to the same three months in 2001.

While there was an increase in the December quarter 2002 compared to the previous quarter, the overall number of offences remained relatively stable.

A total of 1043 offences were recorded by police in the quarter (258 against the person, 785 property), well below the same period in 2001 (1345) and 2000 (1286), but an increase of 63 on the previous quarter. (p43 of report)

The report shows a decrease of 17 per cent in the December 2002 quarter from the same period in 2001 for offences against the person, but a 22 per cent increase from the previous quarter. (p44).

Property offences fell by 24 per cent in the December 2002 quarter compared to the same quarter in 2001, but increased by 2 per cent increase from the previous quarter. (p47)

Minister for Justice Dr Toyne said that while there had been an increase in the number of break-ins to homes and business premises in Alice Springs in the December quarter, the figures were well down on the same quarter for the previous two years.

"In the December 2002 quarter house break-ins in Alice Springs decreased by 16% or 12 offences from the same quarter the previous year, but increased by 61% or 23 offences from the previous quarter.

"The figures also show the underlying level of house break-ins is at the lowest it has been over the past two years, at 20 offences per month, from a range of between 20 to 35 offences per month.

"Break-ins to business and commercial premises is also at the lowest underlying average over the past two years at an average of 16 offences per month, from a range between 16 to 31 per month.

"Over the last quarter break-ins to commercial or other premises fell by 4% or 2 offences against the same quarter the previous year, but increased by 40% or 14 offences from the previous quarter.

"It’s a similar situation for the number of assaults in Alice Springs with the underlying average for assaults at the lowest it has been in the past two years at 78 offences per month, from a range of between 78 to 100 offences per month," Dr Toyne said.
"Over the December quarter there was a decrease of 19% or 54 recorded assault offences from the same quarter last year, but an increase of 15% or 30 offences from the previous quarter.

"The increase in sexual assaults in Alice Springs over the last quarter is of concern to the Government but taken in context over the two year period and the volatility of small numbers the underlying average level has remained stable." Dr Toyne said.

December Quarter 2002 Crime and Justice Statistics and regional fact sheets are available online at [www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au)