The Government today unveiled the Declared Drug Premises signage ahead of the new Tough on Drugs law package commencing on August 1.

Minister for Justice and Attorney General said implementation of the drugs laws package marks the completion of the first point of the Government's three-point Tough on Drugs plan.

The second point of the plan – compulsory treatment of drug addicts - will be implemented through the establishment of drug courts next year.

The final point of the plan – a properly resourced drug prevention strategy, including family support policies and education campaigns directed at our schools – is set to be implemented following the report by the Taskforce on Illicit Drugs.

"The Martin Government was elected on a platform to tackle drugs and related property crime through a comprehensive plan of action"

"The Government’s commitment to tackle illicit drug use and related property law is clear with the first part of the three point plan in force within the first year of this Government's term."

"The laws give police the powers they need to fight the increasing manufacturing of illicit drugs, drug dealing, and drug trafficking across the Territory."

"From August 1 police will be using these new laws to slow the supply of illicit drugs by targeting dealers and moving to close down drug houses."

"The Drug House laws are about targeting dealers, traffickers and manufacturers who peddle drugs in our community, not drug users," said Dr Toyne.

Where police have shown evidence that drugs are being supplied from a premise and the court issues a Declared Drug Premise order, a sign can be erected that premise.

We anticipate landlords and property owners will take action to clean up their premises on the first warning from police so the Declared Drug Premises signage will only be used in cases where this action does not occur.

The signage is designed to be visible so to provide a clear warning that the premises are drug premises, but also details what powers extend to police in monitoring the Declared Drug Premise.

30 July 2002
The tough on drugs laws set to commence on August 1