Darwin recorded another drop in property crime and offences against the person in this year’s September quarter.

There were 2511 less property offences in the current four quarters’ data compared to the previous four quarters. For the same comparison, there were 99 less offences against the person.

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne said the latest figures sustain a consistent reduction in property crime since the statistics started more than 2 years ago.

“It’s a significant turnaround, we have more than 2500 less offences over the past 12 months, that’s 2500 less people who have had property damaged or stolen,” Dr Toyne said.

“Our targeted programs are working, police and the community are working to identify trouble spots and then fix them.

“The fall in assaults is also an encouraging sign, but we need to, and will build on our initiatives to combat this problem,” Dr Toyne said.

The figures are from the Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics compiled by the Office of Crime Prevention. The statistics are derived from recorded crime figures in the Territory.

The year-to-year comparisons show house break-ins were down 29 percent or 394 less offences and commercial break-ins for the Darwin region were down 27 percent or 225 less offences.

The year-to-year figures also show sexual assaults were down by six percent or eight less offences.

**Year to Year comparisons:**

This data compares figures from the total number of offences in the 12 months to September 04 to the total number of offences in the 12 months to September 03. Key findings include:

- assaults decreased by 7% (76 less offences)
- robberies decreased by 19% (8 less offences)
- property damage offences decreased by 24% (1102 less offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences decreased by 20% (278 less offences)

**Quarter to Quarter comparisons:**

Quarterly comparisons are the figures from the June 04 quarter (April/May/June) compared to the figures from the September 04 quarter (July/August/Sept). Key findings include:
- total number of offences against the person were up by 14% (32 more offences)
- assaults increased by 17% (32 more offences)
- sexual assaults up by 24% (5 more offences)
- robberies decreased by 30% (3 less offences)
- total number of property offences were down 7% (161 less offences)
- house break-ins decreased by 44% (121 less offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 21% (26 less offences)
- property damage offences decreased by 6% (43 less offences)

**Trends:**

Trends are detected when there is a statistically significant upward or downward movement in recorded crime levels in the last 12 months’ data. **A downward trend was recorded for property damage.** Trends were not identified for other offences in Darwin.

September Quarter 2004 Crime and Justice Statistics and Regional Fact Sheets are available online at [www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au)

**NOTE:**

- The above 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 unreported 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.