Neighbourhood Watch Conference Concentrates on Youth

This year’s annual Neighbourhood Watch Conference will focus on identifying and addressing the behaviour that drives juvenile crime.

The Police Minister Chris Burns will officially open the conference tomorrow.

“Whilst our community values our youth and most of them are good kids, there is an element that has no respect for the values of the community in which they live. If we can tap into what some juveniles are doing and how they’re doing it, we can address aspects of the problem.”

During the conference representatives from Neighbourhood Watch organisations around the Territory will share their knowledge about initiatives and partnerships that allow the community to work together to combat juvenile crime and develop safer towns.

“The Northern Territory Government is strongly committed to providing safer communities through a strengthened police force and the development of partnerships with the public through organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch,” Dr Burns said.

The 16th annual conference will feature speakers from Neighbourhood Watch groups, community and government organisations.

“I'll be especially listening to how Mission Australia’s Youth Beat service operates and how the Department of Education’s special programs work towards preventing youth crime and anti-social behaviour,” Dr Burns said.

Neighbourhood Watch is a very successful community-based crime prevention program that began in the Territory 18 years ago. The program aims to protect property and promote personal safety through the supply of information and services to the public.

Neighbourhood Watch has a membership of more than 13,000 Territory residents.

Contact: Andrea Adlam 0401 119467