Both property crime and offences against the person in Nhulunbuy recorded decreases in the latest crime statistics released today.

The Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics compiled by the Office of Crime Prevention are based on police recorded offences.

The March 05 quarter figures, released by Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne, show there was a 36 percent drop in property offences in the year April 04-March 05 compared to the previous twelve months.

Offences against the person recorded a 16 percent drop or 14 less offences in the same comparative period.

“Last quarter we set out to build on our initiatives to combat assaults in Nhulunbuy, so it’s great to see a positive result here,” Dr Toyne said.

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

“We are also seeing particularly pleasing results in relation to property crime in Nhulunbuy.”

**Year to Year comparisons:**

This data compares figures from one 12 month period to the next. Among the other key findings comparing the total number of offences in the 12 months to March 05 to the total number of offences in the 12 months to March 04:

- assaults decreased by 21% (16 less offences)
- sexual assaults increased by 25% (2 more offences)
- house break-ins decreased by 46% (6 less offences)
- commercial break-ins decreased by 64% (21 less offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences decreased by 61% (14 less offences)
- property damage offences decreased by 43% (40 less offences)
Quarter to Quarter comparisons:

Quarterly comparisons are the figures from the December 04 quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec) compared to the figures from the March 05 quarter (Jan/Feb/Mar). Care should be taken when reporting on these figures as small changes can produce large percentage figures. Key findings include:

- total number of offences against the person were up by 121% (17 more offences)
- assaults increased by 142% (17 more offences)
- sexual assaults increased by 100% (1 more offence)
- total number of property offences were up by 156% (39 more offences)
- the number of house break-ins remained the same
- commercial break-ins increased by 200% (2 more offences)
- motor vehicle theft and related offences increased by 400% (4 more offences)
- property damage offences increased by 133% (12 more offences)

Trends:

Trends are detected when there is a statistically significant upward or downward movement in recorded crime levels of the last 12 months’ data. An upward trend was detected for assaults in Nhulunbuy.

March Quarter 2005 Crime and Justice Statistics and Regional Fact Sheets are available online at www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au

NOTE:

- The preceding 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 un-reported 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.

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