Crime Figures Rise in Unique Alice Springs

The latest Office of Crime Prevention figures have shown increases in most of the key crime reporting categories in Alice Springs.

The Crime and Justice statistics for the December 2005 quarter are based on offences recorded in the Territory police reporting system PROMIS.

The Justice Minister Peter Toyne said year-to-year comparisons for overall offences against the person were up 219 to 1068.

Within that category, assaults rose 220 to 1009.

"Much of the rise in the number of recorded assaults can be attributed to more reporting of domestic violence incidents," Dr Toyne said.

“The Government is very supportive of the police force’s policy when investigating suspected domestic violence incidents.”

“We know that alcohol-related violence accounts for up to 50 per cent of assault numbers so we need to look at absolutely everything and anything that will remove or reduce alcohol abuse in Alice Springs.

"The bright spot within the figures is a 23 per cent drop in the number of sexual assaults in Alice Springs from 35 to 27 in 2005 compared to 2004.

“That figure continues the trend that has seen sexual assault numbers across the Territory drop about 5 per cent a year since 2001 as a result of campaigns targeting the offence."

Overall property offences were up 11 per cent in the year-to-year comparisons and increases were recorded in all other key property categories.

Dr Toyne said the crime problems in Alice Springs were unique.

"Initiatives that work elsewhere in the Territory don't necessarily transfer to Central Australia," he said.

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