Palmerston residents are much less likely to have their house broken into or their car stolen than they were in 2001, according to Department of Justice crime statistics released today.

Minister for Justice Syd Stirling said total property offences were down by 40% since April 2001.

“This means 1498 fewer property offences since April 2001,” said Mr Stirling.

“Over this period, house break-ins fell by 58%, commercial break-ins were up only minimally and motor vehicle and related offences was down by 58%,” he said.

“Less property crime means a better way of life for the residents of Palmerston.”

The Minister said the six yearly snapshot showed that offences against the person fell by 11%.

“Robberies and assaults are down since 2001 – and there is not much movement in the number of sexual assaults,” he said.

“Sexual assaults are up 32% since April 01 – but has been trending down over the past three years.

“However one assault is too many assaults and I praise the Palmerston police for being vigilant in this area,” said the Minister.

Mr Stirling said alcohol remained a significant cause of crime in Palmerston and across the Territory.

“In Palmerston, at least 38% of assaults were alcohol related – and this shows the Martin Government is heading in the right direction in its crackdown on alcohol abuse,” said Mr Stirling.

“The Government’s strategy focuses on a region-by-region approach to limit the supply, demand and consumption of alcohol,” he said.

“Alcohol management plans are being rolled out right across the Territory – and
they are helping to reduce crime in those areas.

“We will continue to focus our efforts and resources on combating alcohol abuse in the Territory, ensuring it remains a great, safe place to live.”

Contact: Michelle Fraser 8901 4010 or 0407 642 011

Moving the Territory Ahead