



**Paul Henderson**

MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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## **DRUG DENS DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS**

Drugs worth an estimated \$1.2 million have been seized from suspected drug dens since the Government's "Drug House" laws came into effect in August 2002, Police Minister Paul Henderson said.

"The Government knows there is a clear link between the supply and sale of illicit drugs and other crimes and we amended the *Misuse of Drugs Act* to give Police stronger powers to target drug dealers and known and suspected drug dens," Mr Henderson said.

"Under the Act, if Police suspect drugs are being supplied from a premise and find dangerous drugs on the premises they can issue a drug house notice.

"If three drug house notices are issued within a 12-month period, an application can be made to the Courts to have the premises declared a Drug House, giving Police the powers to search the premises without a warrant if they suspect illegal activity is taking place."

Since August 2002 Police have issued:

- 145 first notices – in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Batchelor, Jabiru, Oenpelli, Adelaide River, Nguiu and Hermannsburg;
- 19 second notices – in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Oenpelli
- five third notices - in Darwin and Alice Springs
- three commercial premises – in Darwin

In the same period, Police have seized 24.013 kilos of cannabis, 64 cannabis plants, 648.8 grams of amphetamines and 48 LSD tabs, worth an estimated total of \$1.2 million, from suspected drug houses.

"NT Police are actively using the legislation to drive drug dens out of business," said Mr Henderson.

"Only two properties – a house in Darwin and a house in Alice Springs – failed to heed the warning of the drug house notices and were declared by the court to be Drug Houses.

"In all other cases the occupants moved out or were evicted from the property, effectively closing down the drug den.

"The legislation is proving to be an effective tool in the fight against drugs and I commend the NT Police on the results."

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