



4 April 2006

Property Crime Drops Across the Territory

Car thefts, break-ins at homes and businesses, and property damage fell across the Territory in year-to-year statistics released by the Office of Crime Prevention today.

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 the falls could be attributed to targeted police campaigns, and the Government's continued commitment through its *Building Safer Communities* framework to tackle the causes of crime.

He said the downward trend extended to the number of sexual assaults, which fell 108 offences or 29 per cent to 262.

"The spotlight has been on sexual assault offences for several years with the result that these figures continue to drop in year-to-year comparisons," Dr Toyne said.

"The news is not so good in other key categories."

Overall offences against the person were up 448 to 4637 in 2005 compared to 2004.

General assaults were also up – 531 offences to 4167.

"Campaigns encouraging the reporting of domestic violence incidents seem to be responsible for much of the rise in these figures.

"The Government is very supportive of the police department's policy when investigating suspected domestic violence incidents.

"While there has been an increase in the yearly comparisons it's well worth noting the overall figure for 2004-05 is unchanged from 2000-01 when the figures were first released."

Dr Toyne said it was encouraging to see successes being achieved in reducing crime in some areas.

"The Territory Government will, however, continue to tackle the incidence of crime across the board."

Contact Andrea Adlam 0401 119467