Council keeping an eye out for crime

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“DURING the operation, which ran from the end of February until the beginning of April, police reported a massive 54 per cent reduction in assaults, compared to the same period last year,” he said.

“That’s half as many victims of assault as last year and is surely saving many women from being victims of domestic and sexual assault.”

However, the number of domestic violence offences has gradually risen as a result of mandatory reporting introduced in the Northern Territory in 2009.

The scheme takes a zero-tolerance approach to domestic assaults, and has been backed up by the Government’s new Alcohol Protection Orders, installed in December last year.

“More than 1000 Territorians are now banned from buying, possessing or consuming alcohol or attending licensed premises because they’ve been charged with committing a serious crime under the influence of alcohol,” Mr Giles said.

“Since coming into Government, the Country Liberals have applied a zero-tolerance, pro-prosecution approach to domestic violence that has resulted in an increase in cases appearing in the crime statistics,” he said.

“We are determined to put victims first by placing the full force of the law behind every case and being transparent about the true scale of this problem.”

Between February 25 and April 2, police dealt with 2765 incidents, compared with 3420 during same period in 2013, resulting in a 19 per cent reduction of cases.

More than 100 assaults were recorded during this period, compared with 227 during the same period the previous year.

Property crime has also plummeted, with offences in February down 30 per cent to the lowest number in nine years.

Statistics for the month of March are still being finalised, but indications are that the downward trend will likely continue.

Sarah Rohweder
COUNCIL REPORTER

ALICE Springs Town Council has opted to install two high-definition closed-circuit television cameras in an attempt to capture criminal activity taking place around the Council Chambers.

The installation, which was originally sought after to monitor happenings near the Gregory Terrace taxi rank, is now being used to record illicit behaviour in a much broader scope.

Council’s Corporate and Community Services director, Craig Catchlove, said the cameras have the potential to encapsulate movement as far down as the Memo Club, along Gap Road.

“One camera has been installed on Wilks Terrace at the end of the Todd Mall looking towards the taxi rank, and the other has just gone up on the corner of Gregory Terrace and Todd Street, close to Rocky’s Pizza,” he said.

“The grant we applied for was for these cameras to be looking at the taxi ranks, but the area they actually cover is so much larger than that.

“They define areas people go into and the vision locks onto them and then phones through to people to tell them there is an issue and you can make a determination as to whether something needs to be done.

“You can gain an accurate picture of what is happening down at the Memo Club with the camera that has been placed at the end of Gregory Terrace, and that just shows how good these devices actually are.”

Mr Catchlove said the cameras also have the ability to monitor other traffic-related matters, including pedestrian counts and pedestrian movements, so they can also be used for other traffic needs and requirements,” he said.

“They are a very sophisticated tool for us and we have used them multiple times in recent weeks. They are exceptional.”

Council had previously installed a number of security cameras in the Todd Mall precinct.

However, it is understood the devices are now in the possession of the NT Government where they are monitored by police authorities in Darwin.

MJD funding ‘static’

FEDERAL Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion says sufferers of Machado Jospeh Disease will receive the same amount of money despite the Government withdrawing a $10 million grant.

In February, Mr Scullion pledged $10 million promised by the previous government to the MJD Foundation.

The foundation was to use the returns from investing the money to fund therapeutic and other services for MJD victims.

The minister later announced $500,000 a year to help people with MJD and recently told ABC’s Lateline: “In terms of money, they will receive it exactly the same.”

The NT has the highest number of victims of the neurodegenerative disease in the world and experts expect a rapid acceleration.

Desert inspires artist

WATCH This Space gallery is launching a new art exhibition that is sure to make you think.

Loops of footage, of some-times sinister, sublime and re-petitive aspects of life, are assembled and constructed, thus reframing memory.

Based in Tasmania, Selena de Carvalho is a cross-disciplinary artist and designer.

Selena’s exhibition will open next Wednesday from 6pm and be on display until May 17 at Watch This Space Gallery at 4/9 George Cres.

Inspired by her experiences in the desert, the artworks respond to the notions of place.

Violent grandad jailed

A GRANDFATHER with more than 80 criminal convictions stabbed his wife in the back because she went to get help when their car ran out of petrol on the way to a Territory town camp.

Fabian Dixon, 42, faced up to 14 years in prison when he pleaded guilty to unlawfully causing serious harm.

Chief Justice Trevor Riley said: “Once again this is an example of the prevalent offence of violence committed in the community.

The court lists are full of cases where drunken Aboriginal men attack others, often drunken Aboriginal women.”

The court heard Dixon had racked up 10 convictions for violent crimes.

Dixon has been jailed for three years, with two years non-parole.