



Delia Lawrie
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
Karl Hampton
MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

27 January 2010

New Initiatives to Make Alice Springs Streets Safer

The Northern Territory Government today unveiled new justice and police initiatives to make Alice Springs streets safer.

Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, joined Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton and Police Commissioner, John McRoberts, in Alice Springs to announce the new initiatives which include:

- The establishment of new juvenile detention facility for Alice Springs
- Introducing a new offence for breach of bail
- A review of the Youth Justice Act
- Return to Country Blitz for Back to School
- Targeted Police Patrols
- Commencement of the new Patrol Coordinator
- Juvenile Safe Houses
- Expanded juvenile Alcohol and Other Drugs Facility

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton said the initiatives build and be incorporated in the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan.

Ms Lawrie said the latest initiatives followed a series of meetings with police, Alice Springs youth and welfare agencies, business owners and council about the recent spike in property crime committed by juveniles in Alice Springs.

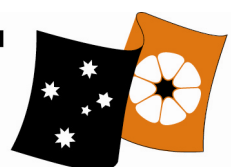
“The Territory Government has listened to the community is taking action to get youth off the streets at night, reduce crime and make Alice Springs safer,” Ms Lawrie said.

“These new initiatives will give police, youth and welfare agencies and the courts greater tools to target and intervene early for at risk youth and tackle anti-social behaviour.”

Similar to the recent very successful Operation Harpoon, the Patrol Coordinator will monitor crime trends and anecdotal evidence of anti-social behaviour and develop and implement plans to solve problems in partnership with the community.

Ms Lawrie said a new Juvenile Detention Centre will be located at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and should be operational by mid-March.

“A low security facility will be converted into a new secure facility to provide for greater capacity to detain juveniles who have been convicted or are on remand.



“The Government will establish short term safe houses to accommodate juveniles that will enable Police to take kids off the street.

“The Government will also make it an offence to breach bail conditions which will include failing to attending court hearings when required.

“Offenders who are released on bail but breach bail conditions will face a fine or a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment.

“Everyone must understand that bail is privilege and conditions of release must be followed or you will end up in custody.”

Ms Lawrie said the NT Government will review the Youth Justice Act to identify if NT laws governing juveniles can be strengthened.

“The NT Government will fund a Return to Country blitz to provide free one off return travel for children and families for the start of school year,” she said.

Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton, said the new initiatives will complement the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan.

“This is the most comprehensive action plan to focus on ‘at risk’ children and their families while making our community safer,” Mr Hampton said.

“While the plan has already delivered important initiatives including the opening of Police Beat in Todd Mall, the introduction of a ‘No School, No Service’ program supported by local businesses and extra youth street outreach services, there is more to do.

“Upgrades to Centralian Middle School are very nearly complete and the new Youth Hub at Anzac Hill will be operational this year.

“These new initiatives will see police, youth and welfare agencies and justice services continue to work together to get at risk youth off the streets and into the classroom.”

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