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Tennant Creek community tackles crime together

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Break-ins to businesses and homes in Tennant Creek have more than halved over the last year, and Police Minister Paul Henderson today congratulated the Tennant Creek Police and community for their effective crime prevention strategies.

Mr Henderson said a key factor in the success being achieved in Tennant Creek was the sharing of the responsibility for addressing the town's crime rate.

"Police are working in partnership with youth groups, local business people, the Tennant Creek Town Council and indigenous organisations," said Mr Henderson.

"They have developed a Community Safety Strategy, which has become an integral part of the Tennant Creek Crime Prevention Committee's business."

Since the implementation of the Police Strategy, there has been a decrease in most criminal and public order offences.

As part of the strategy, a dedicated town patrol has been set up to target alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Two Aboriginal Community Police Officers, working closely with the Julalikari Night Patrol, focus on known trouble spots and offenders to attack the problem.

"Local crime prevention groups also play a vital role in attacking the causes of crime, and the Tennant Creek Youth Initiatives and Safe Community Strategy was a worthy recipient of a \$30,000 grant from the Office of Crime Prevention," said Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson the concerted and focused efforts of the community was having tangible, substantial results in town. During the last financial year,

- Business break-ins have dropped to 47 from 115 in the previous financial year.
- Residential break-ins are down to 54 from 109 for the same period, ,
- Police have responded to 646 social order incidents, down from 911 the year before.

"These figures are still too high, but show the efforts of the community are having an impact. There is still much work to be done, I commend the Tennant Creek community for their strong approach to attacking crime in their town," said Mr Henderson.

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