

More Police on the Beat

Police, Fire & Emergency Services budget has been boosted to \$172 million, up \$29 million from \$143 million, an increase of 21 per cent over the past two years. This massive boost is giving police the tools they need to fight crime.

Building our Police Force

The roll-out of the Martin Government's \$75 million Building Our Police Force Plan continues in Budget 2004.

The plan is delivering 200 more police on the beat by 2006.

Highlights include:

- \$13 million more for police personnel, enabling record rates of recruitment
- \$400 000 for a new coastal vessel as part of the \$1 million coastal vessel replacement program to improve Police ocean search and rescue and patrolling capabilities
- \$2 million for the ongoing upgrade and repair of policing equipment.

Safer communities through crime prevention

\$2.52 million for the Office of Crime Prevention to continue leading crime prevention strategies, including:

- \$400,000 for crime prevention grants
- \$150,000 to continue the process of building law and justice plans in remote communities

Further whole of government crime prevention initiatives include:

- \$1.5 million to improve safety and security of public housing.
- \$680 000 for eight School Attendance Officers to deal with truancy.
- \$200 000 to develop better reintegration strategies for prisoners being released, a first step in breaking the reoffending cycle.
- \$100 000 to maintain an Alice Springs office providing a range of justice services including the Office of Crime Prevention and Consumer and Business Affairs.

Itinerants strategy

\$2.75 million to tackle anti-social behaviour and itinerancy. This money will deliver infrastructure and intervention programs across the Territory to tackle the problem. The Community Harmony Strategy is already producing positive results.

Safer communities through improved facilities

Budget 2004 contains a number of initiatives to improve community safety including:

- \$18.5 million to implement the recommendations of the review into Correctional Services to focus on preventing reoffending, and safety and security.
- \$8 million for a new low security gaol at the Darwin Correctional Centre.
- \$1.8 million to upgrade 66 police houses to help keep experienced officers in the Territory .
- \$1 million for a police post at Numbulwar.
- \$1.56 million for short term accommodation and day centres within the Community Harmony Project.
- \$680 000 to modify and upgrade police cells at Batchelor, Maranboy and Ti Tree.

These projects build on the new Darwin CBD police station opened late last year and the new Humpty Doo Police and Fire facility expected to be opened in early 2005.

Boosting counter terrorism capabilities

\$400,000 to boost the counter-terrorism capacity of the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, including a new bomb response vehicle, specialist training courses and new communications equipment.

