



## **CRIME INITIATIVES AND YOUTH SERVICES GET BIG BOOST**

Crime prevention and targeting strategies and early intervention services for young people at risk will receive substantial funding boosts in the 2000-01 Justice and Community Safety Budget, Minister for Justice and Community Safety, Gary Humphries, announced today.

Mr Humphries said the 2000-01 Budget provides \$10 million in new funding for crime strategies, including more than \$8 million to fund the most substantial boost to the police budget since self-government, creating up to 90 police positions for operational duty.

The initiatives are an integral part of the ACT Government's move to foster trust and confidence in the community and hence improve the social capital of Canberra. Community safety and crime prevention are real concerns that are being seriously addressed by this major injection of funding for new strategies to improve the safety and lifestyle of all Canberrans.

KEY FEATURES of the 2000-01 Justice and Community Safety Budget include:

- \$1.292m to develop and implement crime prevention strategies and incentive programs to address targeted areas of crime (see separate release);
- \$8.208m to increase the capacity and effectiveness of ACT policing by:
  - provision of an extra 29 police for operational duty through restructuring of the communications centre;
  - provision of the equivalent of 40 extra police by changed work practices negotiated as part of a new Certified Agreement;
  - recruitment of an extra six officers for a new "community beat police" initiative; and
  - recruitment of an additional 15 officers for operational duty in the ACT, who will be assigned to the newly-created Burglary and Stolen Motor Vehicle Strike Teams (see separate release);
- \$500,000 for the installation of safety cameras in Civic, to be monitored by Police;
- \$515,000 to undertake Building Social Capital initiatives for youth justice, including an intensive youth support scheme, supported accommodation for indigenous youth and new sex offender programs (see separate release);

- \$318,000 to implement measures to enhance detainee safety and security, predominantly at Quamby Youth Detention Centre (see separate release); and
- \$1.4m in the 2000-01 budget and \$0.908m in the following year to continue the project for the establishment of a new prison in the ACT (see separate release).

## OTHER INITIATIVES

Other initiatives included in the Justice and Community Safety Budget are:

- \$269,000 to fund the Community Service Obligations and core commercial business of the Public Trustee to improve service delivery to the public; and
- \$228,000 to provide a boost to resources for the SouthCare Rescue Helicopter for specialist medical expertise provided by The Canberra Hospital, on a 24 hour 7 day roster to assist with medical retrievals.

## FEES AND CHARGES

Mr Humphries said that the fees and charges collected by the Department of Justice and Community Safety will increase by 2.5% in line with the movement in the consumer price index.

The GST will apply to relatively few of the Department's fees and charges. The vast majority of them have been excluded from the GST by a determination of the Federal Treasurer under Division 81 of the GST Legislation. Those fees and charges which attract the GST will increase by the full 10%. Fees which are subject to GST are fees for commercial-type services and include:

- Marriage ceremonies;
- Registration with the Fair Trading Office under Codes of Practice;
- Public Trustee services;
- Sales of transcripts of court proceedings; and
- Training for fire wardens; or
- Attendance by ambulance services at events, such as races.

## Statement Ends