



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEW PROGRAM TO COMBAT PROPERTY CRIME**

Chief Minister and Attorney General, Jon Stanhope, today announced a major new initiative to combat property crime.

The ACT Government is providing \$5.3 million over four years to fund the Reducing Property Crime Program.

“The Reducing Property Crime Program is a fresh and innovative approach to tackling high-volume, repeat property offenders that will work to reduce the overall rates of property crime.

“It is well documented that a relatively small number of offenders are responsible for a large proportion of all crimes committed in the ACT. In line with this evidence, the Reducing Property Crime Program is aimed at a group of targeted high-risk repeat offenders who will be intensively supervised by ACT Corrective Services.

“The program will also be tailored to meet the needs of indigenous offenders and will liaise closely with other indigenous programs, as it has been shown that chances of reducing re-offending among indigenous offenders are substantially higher if indigenous community groups are involved in program delivery.

“Reducing Property Crime Program will work towards creating a safe and secure community for the people of the ACT and will deliver key actions identified in the ACT Criminal Justice Strategic Plan.

“The program is closely linked with other Government initiatives, such as the ACT Homelessness Strategy *Breaking the Cycle* which aims to identify those groups in the community who are at risk of being homeless. Lack of stable accommodation has been identified in numerous studies as a predictor of re-offending.

“The Reducing Property Crime Program includes several components that address the risk factors that are known to increase re-offending. These components are:

- Intensive supervision;
- Provision of Offender intervention Programs;
- Supported accommodation;
- Increased surveillance through electronic monitoring; and
- Drug screening and rehabilitation.

“This initiative will target 60 of the ACT’s high volume property offenders - the people responsible for the majority of the burglaries occurring in the ACT. By combating property crime, this program people will feel more safe at home and free up police currently involved in a cycle of arresting and rearresting the same group of offenders,” Mr Stanhope said.

**Statement Ends.**

