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Gary Humphries MLA

Australian Capital Territory

2000-01 BUDGET

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50 NEW POLICE IN BIGGEST BOOST TO CRIME STRATEGIES

The Government will add 50 new officers to Australian Federal Police operations in the biggest boost to crime-fighting since self-government, Minister for Justice and Community Safety, Gary Humphries, announced today.

Mr Humphries said funding provided in the 2000-01 Budget would see the new positions created, and many of them used to target problem areas of burglary and car theft through the use of dedicated strike teams.

The positions are made up of:

- 29 police positions redeployed from the Communications Centre, as that area is civilianised;
- 15 new positions; and
- 6 community beat police, coming on-line from 1 January 2001.

"44 of these positions will be transferred into the Burglary and Stolen Car Strike Teams, to give that operation the largest possible dedicated focus for a sustained period of time.

"Burglars who think they can lie low while the heat's on need to be aware: the heat is now on, and will stay on as a result of these initiatives.

"\$4.208m extra in funding will be provided in the 2000-01 year to create these 50 new police positions in the ACT. On top of the \$4 million extra to fund the Certified Agreement proposed in the Draft Budget, direct expenditure on police will increase by \$8.208m over last year in this Budget, or by 15%.

"The resources will be used in a targeted sense to reduce the impact of burglaries and stolen motor vehicles on our community. Rises in these crimes in recent months are cause for the community's concern and the Government is acting swiftly to target those problems.

"But it is only through responsible financial management that resources can be allocated for the proper and effective targeting of criminal activity. This big funding boost is a dividend, only possible because of effective financial management in the past five years," Mr Humphries said.

Statement Ends

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