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Gary Humphries MLA

Australian Capital Territory

2000-01 BUDGET

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY BEAT POLICE

The ACT Government will fund the Australian Federal Police to create six community beat police officers from 1 January 2001, supporting a recommendation from the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety after a submission by Dave Rugendyke MLA.

Minister for Justice and Community Safety, Gary Humphries, said the community beat police would be allocated to particular areas to deal with local community problems, but particularly target burglaries, car thefts and anti-social behaviour in those communities.

This Program will cost \$528,000 in a full year.

"There are areas of Canberra where specific local problems are affecting local communities, and those problems require local solutions.

"In coming months, police and the Government will identify those communities which will benefit most from the use of these new resources. Unlike the former country town policing concept, I do not envisage this program being static in one suburb for all time.

"It may be that this program targets areas of community interest where police identify particular problems, rather than suburbs. It may also be the case that the police who undertake this task will be moved around once particular problems are dealt with.

"Unfortunately, it is the nature of crime that it is very fluid and, as strategies are used to deal with, and prevent crime in one area, other crime problems emerge. This community-based approach will be used flexibly to deal with those emerging trends and to proactively manage and prevent crime.

"The Budget funds six new police officers from 1 January 2001, and in full years after that, to undertake this program. I expect this program will also achieve a high level of community support, particularly from local business in areas in which the program will be implemented," Mr Humphries said.

Statement Ends

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