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## **Graffiti Vandals Now Face Two Years Jail**

Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton said graffiti vandals face up to two years in jail or a \$24,000 fine under tough new penalties that come into effect at midnight on 31 December 2009.

"I encourage the local community to note this because the Riverton Telephone Exchange in Corinthian Road has been graffitied again. It was only cleaned up in November last year after it had been covered in graffiti for more than a year," said Dr Nahan.

"These new laws effectively double the maximum penalties for graffiti as part of the State Government's crackdown on antisocial behaviour in Western Australia. I encourage the local community to report any instances of graffiti vandalism that they witness so that the perpetrators can be caught."

"There are \$1,000 rewards available if members of the community provide information which leads to the arrest or caution of a graffiti offender through the Goodbye Graffiti hotline on 1800 44 22 55."

Dr Nahan said he was concerned that statistics have shown in recent years that instances of graffiti are on the increase.

"People are fed up with the amount of unsightly graffiti on property within the community and this type of antisocial behaviour," said Dr Nahan.

"People who do graffiti show a complete disregard for private and public property and the impact that it has on the local community."

"Between January and November last year, 191 adults were charged with 473 graffiti offences, 94 adults were charged with being in possession of graffiti implements and 277 juveniles were charged with nearly 1500 graffiti offences," said Dr Nahan.

"In addition, 440 juveniles were either cautioned or referred to a juvenile justice team for graffiti offences and 73 juveniles were charged with being in possession of a graffiti implement."

"The new laws make it an offence for retailers to sell graffiti implements such as spray cans, pens or markers with a tip over 6mm wide to persons under 18 years old, with maximum penalties of \$6,000 for a first offence and \$12,000 for subsequent offences."

"The State Government's Graffiti Taskforce has already provided more than \$600,000 to local governments and non-profit organisations for graffiti reduction strategies. We need the community to get behind this anti-graffiti program and to report any suspicious activity so that the perpetrators can be caught."

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