



17 February 2010

Overall Reported Crime Down 8.5 Per Cent

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the announcement by the Attorney General and Minister for Police that police statistics show overall reported crime in Western Australia fell 8.5 per cent in 2009 compared to 2008.

"These falls in overall reported crime shows that Colin Barnett's and my strong stance on law and order issues are already making inroads into making our community safer," said Dr Nahan.

"At the last election the public made it clear that they wanted something done about crime and anti-social behaviour, and that is exactly what we are doing. I am pleased to see these good results for our community but acknowledge that there is more to do."

Dr Nahan said reported crimes against people and property were down 11.5 per cent in the second half of 2009 as compared to the same period in 2008.

The quarterly breakdown of total reported crime throughout 2009, as compared to the same period in 2008, showed a steady downward trend. The quarterly breakdown for 2009 showed falls of:

- 3.7 per cent January to March
- 7.8 per cent April to June
- 13.1 per cent July to September
- 9.9 per cent October to December.

Dr Nahan said it is particularly pleasing to see the significant falls in reported crime across a range of offences. These included:

- Reported offences against property decreasing every quarter of 2009 compared to the same quarters in 2008 with an overall drop of 11.5 per cent in the October to December quarter;
- Burglary decreasing every quarter of 2009 compared to 2008, down by 12.6 per cent in the October to December period compared to the same quarter of 2008.
- Motor vehicle theft decreased every quarter of 2009 compared to the same quarters in 2008, the October to December quarter showing a 14 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2008.
- Theft decreased every quarter in 2009 compared to the same quarters of 2008, down 13.6 per cent in the October to December period compared to 2008.

"The drop in offences against the person, such as robbery, fell a staggering 21.2 per cent in the July to September quarter compared to the same period in 2008 and finished with a decrease of 7.4 per cent in the final quarter compared to 2008," said Dr Nahan.

"These are significant decreases in reported crime and these figures have coincided with a rise in the prison population of 679 between March and December last year."

"What is clear is that if we take serious criminals off our streets, the effect of keeping offenders in prison longer means there is less potential for them to reoffend and more potential for them to get the rehabilitative programs they need."

"I am pleased to see that since Colin Barnett was elected as Premier and I was elected to the Riverton Electorate, prisoners are now undertaking more rehabilitative programs and must meet much more stringent conditions to get parole. This is a very good outcome for everybody in the community."

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