

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Violent Crimes

1. In regard to crimes of violence and sexual assault (and I remind the Minister of the spate of sexual assaults that have taken place in Darwin recently) what strategies were implemented in 2004/05 to combat this increasing problem?

ANSWER

In terms of violent crime, the Northern Territory Police launched their Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (VCR Strategy) in November 2004. The Strategy identifies the link between domestic and personal violence to more serious crimes, such as sexual assaults and homicide. The objective of the VCR Strategy is to reduce the incidence of violent crime using an intelligence led approach by:

- understanding and targeting the causal factors of assault and domestic violence;
- utilising generic strategies targeting recidivist offenders, victims, and causal factors;
- monitoring our performance and providing feedback to the workforce;
- working with other government and non-government agencies that provide support services to victims of domestic violence.

A project team was established in February 2005 to implement a range of initiatives including the creation of Domestic and Personal Violence Protection Units in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Each Unit is responsible for developing strategies to target specific problems in their region.

The VCR Strategy is also supported by a quality assurance process, which has operated since February 2005. This process involves every domestic-related incident being reviewed to ensure a quality response is provided on every occasion.

Police have received a grant from the Australian Department of Family and Community Services to implement an integrated family violence service in the Katherine Region. This service will see the co-location of Police and NT Family and Children's Services to manage more effectively, families who present with a range of issues, which include family violence. It will also focus on remote areas in the region to assist individual communities to develop sustainable support structures for victims of family violence.