



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Petition

Registration No:	40
Title:	Police substation Karama Plaza
Presented on:	17 October 2006
Presented by:	Ms Lawrie
Referred To:	Health (Dr Burns)
Response due:	17 April 2007
Response received:	13 December 2006
Response presented:	13 February 2007

### Petition

Substation / higher presence of Police

Please sign petition if you agree to have a substation located in the Plaza at Karama

### Response

It is acknowledged that a number of policing issues have arisen in the suburb of Karama, and in and around the Shopping Centre. The residents of Karama are clearly entitled to an appropriate level of policing service that is responsive to community needs.

The establishment of a 'sub-station' or Police Office at the Karama Shopping centre is not considered a viable option. Such an initiative requires considerable resources both in terms of people and infrastructure and additionally, may not represent a best value policing service for Karama residents. Most other jurisdictions in Australia have moved away from this type of policing service in favour of Mobile Police Stations.

The Northern Territory Police recently received two Mobile Police Station vehicles. One is currently in use in Alice Springs and another is in service in Darwin. A further Mobile Police Station is currently being fitted out for service in Katherine and is due to be delivered in December 2006. A fourth Mobile Police Station is on order for service in Darwin, and it is anticipated this vehicle will be ready for operation in February 2007.

The existing vehicle in Darwin is already being used to address policing issues and community concerns at a number of locations including Karama, Nightcliff, Coconut Grove, Palmerston and the Casuarina Bus Interchange. Northern Territory Police have received favourable comments from people throughout the Northern Suburbs, and the addition of a second vehicle will enable the NT Police to offer a greater level of mobile policing services throughout the Greater Darwin area.

Police Officers target hot spots based on a variety of factors, including information provided from members of the community. Ideally, police will identify an emerging hot spot and address the issues before they become a significant problem. This type of policing recognises the fluid and mobile nature of opportunistic crime patterns contributing to public disorder and fear of crime.

Although there is no demonstrated need to establish a Police 'shop-front' at Karama, the Mobile Police Station will continue to be used, particularly at times identified as being of high activity. I can assure the residents of Karama that the NT Police are responsive to community concerns and actively monitor reports of crime and anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood.