



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pretend Police for Poor People

The Northern Territory Police Association today maintained its opposition to the proposed introduction of Public Housing Safety Officers.

“This is nothing but policing on the cheap and an admission by government that police numbers are not right,” said Northern Territory Police Association President Vince Kelly.

“Socially disadvantaged people have the same rights as any other citizen and actually need professional, accountable and dedicated Police Officers looking after them when things go wrong,” he said.

“Minister Burns thinks that dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in public housing areas and public places is not really a police job.

“Our members are trained to deal with the multitude of issues that arise from anti-social behaviour in public areas.

“The minister’s claim that a public servant or security guard with six weeks training will be up to the job is ridiculous,” said Mr Kelly.

“With the level of training professional full time Police Officers receive things can and still go wrong. The minister is prepared to put people with six weeks training at risk of personal and other injuries”.

“Even worse he is happy to place socially disadvantaged people at risk too”.

“The minister claims the idea is not set in stone, then perhaps then he can explain why the NT Police College is reportedly gearing up to provide a six week training package to cheap police,” he said.

Mr Kelly said poorly paid, poorly trained, pretend police for poor people was the NT Government’s message.

ENDS

Media Contact: Vince Kelly on 0417 819 342