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Tuesday, 8 September 2009

## CRIME RATES CONTINUE TO FALL

Minister for Police Tony Kelly today welcomed the latest NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) figures which show that 16 out of 17 major crime categories of crime have either fallen or remained stable over the past two years.

Mr Kelly said that these results show that the hard work and strategies implemented by police were having a significant impact on serious crime, especially firearm related offences.

“These figures indicate that the long-term trend in shooting incidents continues to remain stable,” Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly said that categories such as *murder, shoot with intent to murder, shoot with intent other than to murder* and *discharge firearm into premises* have remained stable in the period September 2004 to June 2009.

“The fall in the number of incidents of *discharge firearm into premises* after a spike in December 2008 is encouraging,” Mr Kelly said.

“We have given police the powers and resources they need to crack down on these criminal thugs.

“The in-your-face policing strategies are sending a clear message to these thugs – if you stick your head up, you will get caught.”

Over the last 24 months to June 2009 there were decreases in:

- Robbery without a weapon – down 19.8%
- Robbery with a weapon not a firearm – down 14.9%
- Break and enter – dwelling - down 4.7%
- Break and enter – non-dwelling - down 12.9%
- Motor vehicle theft – down 12.2%
- Steal from motor vehicle – down 19.1%
- Steal from person – down 9.1%

The remaining categories (*murder, assault – domestic violence related, assault – non-domestic violence related, sexual assault, indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offence, robbery with a firearm, steal from dwelling, fraud and malicious damage to property*) remained stable.

Mr Kelly said that the report found that only one category recorded an increase over the last 24 months.



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Police  
Minister for Lands  
Minister for Rural Affairs  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

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“The 6.2% increase in *Steal from Retail Store* includes an increase in the theft of items such as food, clothing and alcohol which suggests that it may be related to the current tough economic conditions,” Mr Kelly said.

“Police already have strategies in place targeting those areas most affected by these increases.”

Mr Kelly said that the increase in drug offences was a direct result of increased enforcement by police.

“I note that police do not attribute the increase in possession of narcotics and possession of other drugs to a rise in heroin importation,” Mr Kelly said.

“We are seeing a rise in the sale and possession of Oxycontin, a prescription drug for pain relief, and we will continue to work with the police and NSW Health to address this trend.

“Police have implemented smart, intelligence-based policing strategies to combat crime and police need to be congratulated for these positive results,” Mr Kelly said.