



# Victims of Crime NT

supporting victims of crime

**Annual Report 2017/18**

# Chairperson's Message



We are looking back on yet another very busy year for VoCNT. Once again, our numbers have increased and the organisation stepped it up a notch to support the victims of crime across all of the Northern Territory.

As we all know, crime never sleeps, but it likes to stay awake in somebody else's house or business. Thanks to the funding support of the Northern Territory Government, through the Department of Attorney General and Justice, VoCNT was able to re-secure 316 residential homes after break-ins and upgrade the security of 250 residents. We also provided telephone support to 560 victims. With regard to businesses, VoCNT has partnered with the Department of Business to re-secure commercial premises after break-ins and support businesses to prevent crime through environmental design advice.

These numbers do not tell the whole story. Most of the work done by the 8 dedicated staff members of VoCNT cannot be measured in numbers. They listen, they dry tears, they drive people to court hearings, they advocate on victims' behalf, they help them fill in application forms or assist them with writing victim impact statements, but most of all, they are available to victims for support when they are needed.

However, every single body needs two arms and I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to the volunteers who step in beyond business hours and where the staff members can't reach due to time or location constraints. Our volunteers take time out of their own lives to help other Territorians and they contribute in a very practical way to the success of VoCNT.

The Northern Territory Government has embraced the concept of restorative justice and youth diversion programmes on a broader level this year and VoCNT has stepped up to the mark by being involved in these programmes, which are all aimed at reducing re-offending. Within that same frame of mind, the Department of Corrections has long been involved in supporting prisoners to resettle in society once they have completed their sentences through the "Sentenced to a job" program. The Department, through the Commissioner, directs 5% of all the funds raised through this program to VoCNT annually. We are grateful for this untied funding contribution that enables us to react fast when unforeseen circumstances arise.

Once again thank you to the other members of the management committee. Your assistance, wisdom and patience is much appreciated.

VoCNT is now entering its 35th year of existence. May the next 35 be even better.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe festive season.

***René Laan***

Chairperson (2018)

# Our Programs



In partnership with the Department of Attorney General and Justice we provide the Safe at Home Program. This program consists of four main deliverables:



Resecures - A direct grant of up to \$400 to help people re-secure their own home after a break-in



Security Audits - A free risk assessment service of home security based on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles by our qualified staff



Security Improvement Program - Financial assistance to enable vulnerable people to conduct identified security improvements on a home.



Safe on Community - Projects on remote communities that directly address individual specific safety concerns. We are funded to do 5 projects per annum at \$10,000 each.



With sponsorship from the Northern Territory Government and under a Memorandum of Understanding with the NT Police we provide victims of crime with timely needs based support in Darwin and Alice Springs and, if possible, other towns.



Crisis support - 24x7 telephone support service providing referrals, assistance and information to victims of crime in the NT

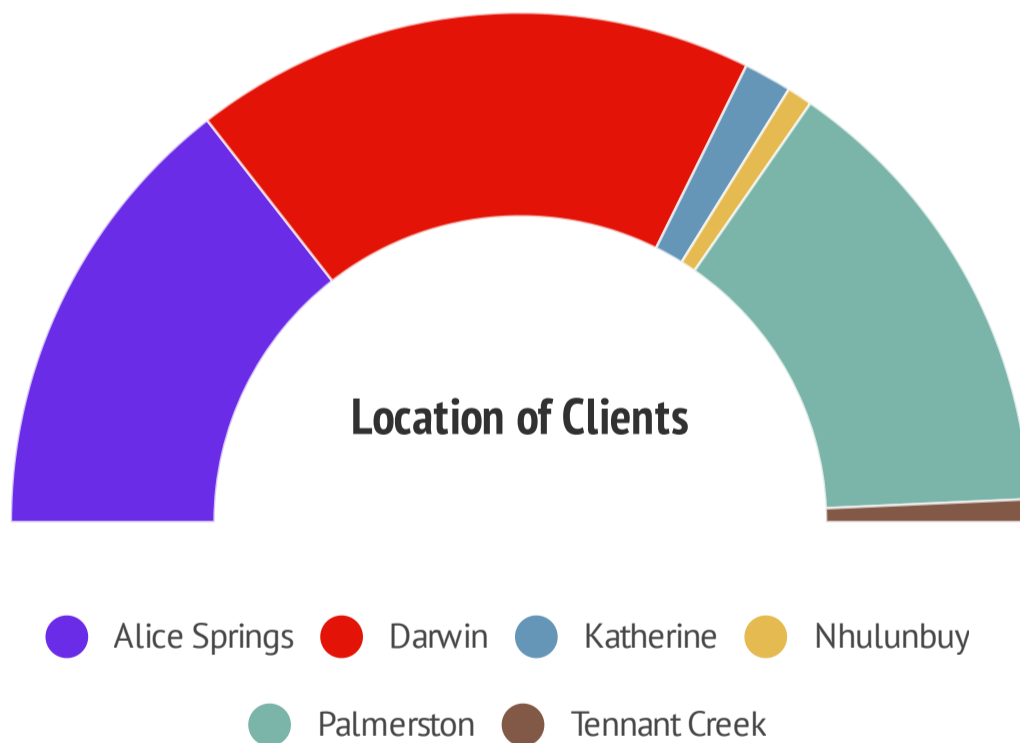
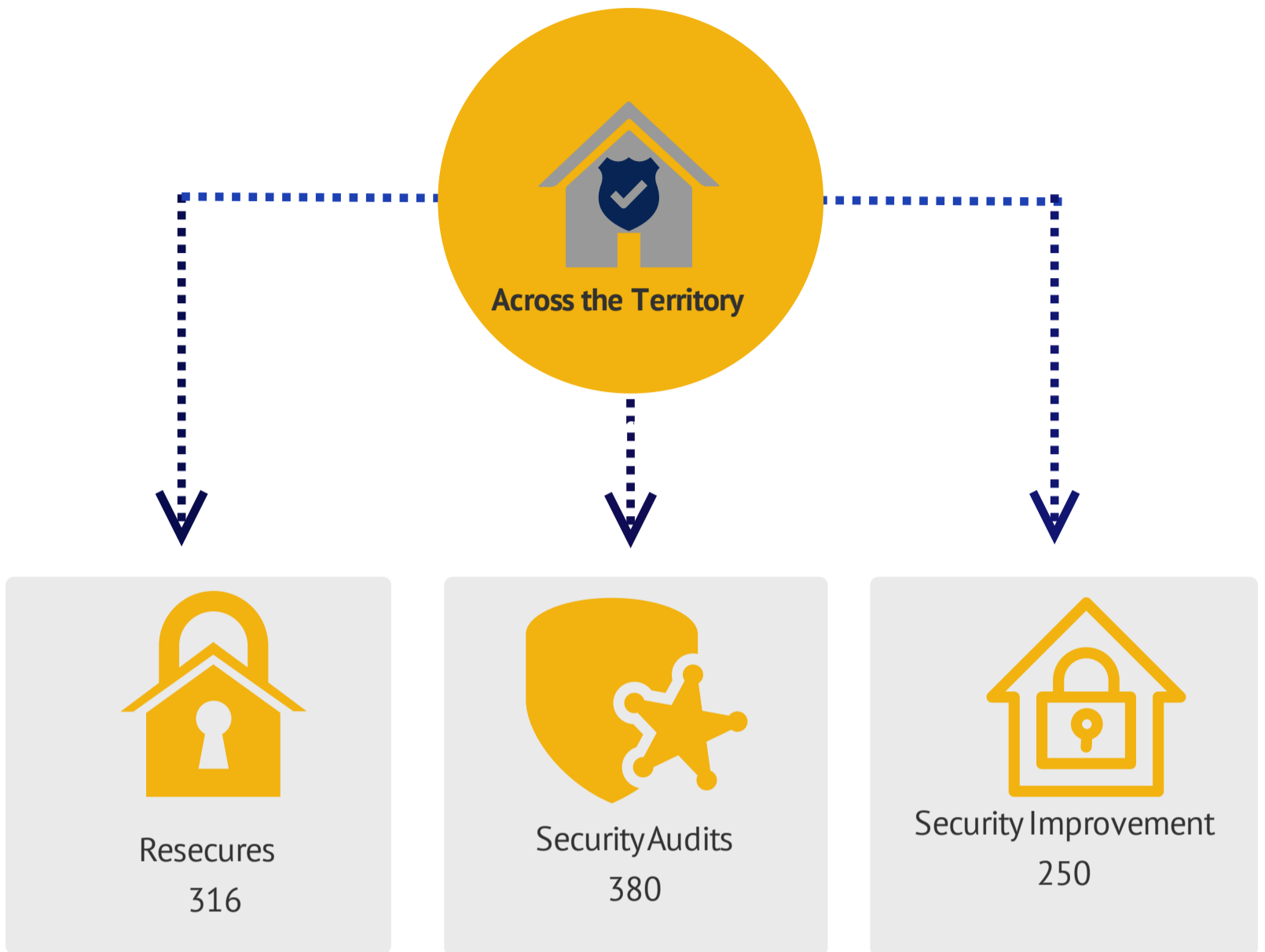


Victim Conferencing Support - Support and advice for victims who elect to take part in Victim Offender conferences under S39, S64 or S84 of the Youth Justice Act.



Victims Advocacy - We maintain a watching brief on the Justice system and media, identifying issues and reports affecting victim's rights. We advocate at the highest level for change and remedy in accordance with the NT Charter for Victims of Crime.

# Safe at Home



## Additional Activities

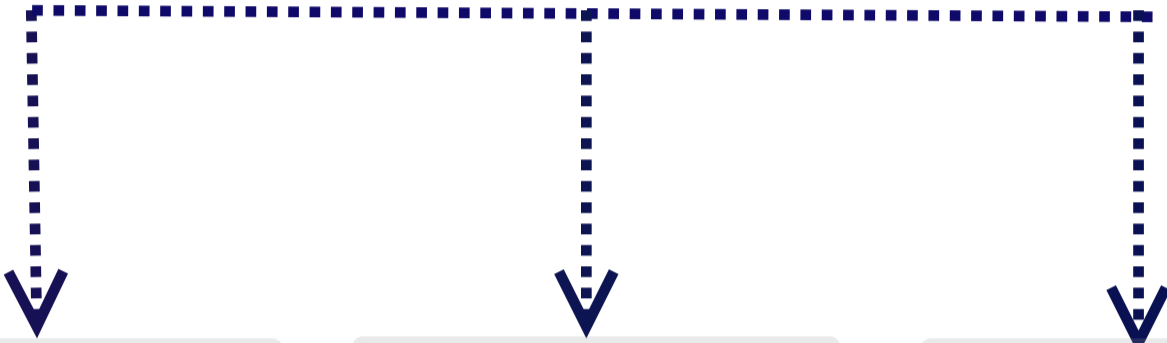


Our staff members regularly make calls to particularly vulnerable people who have had to use our services. A quick welfare check just ensures that people are feeling safer



We presented information on how to be safe at home to community groups and organisations including PROBUS, Council of the Ageing (COTA), Local Governments and Secondary Schools

# Safe at Home



Resecures  
130



Security Audits  
112



Security Improvement  
60

## Local Observations

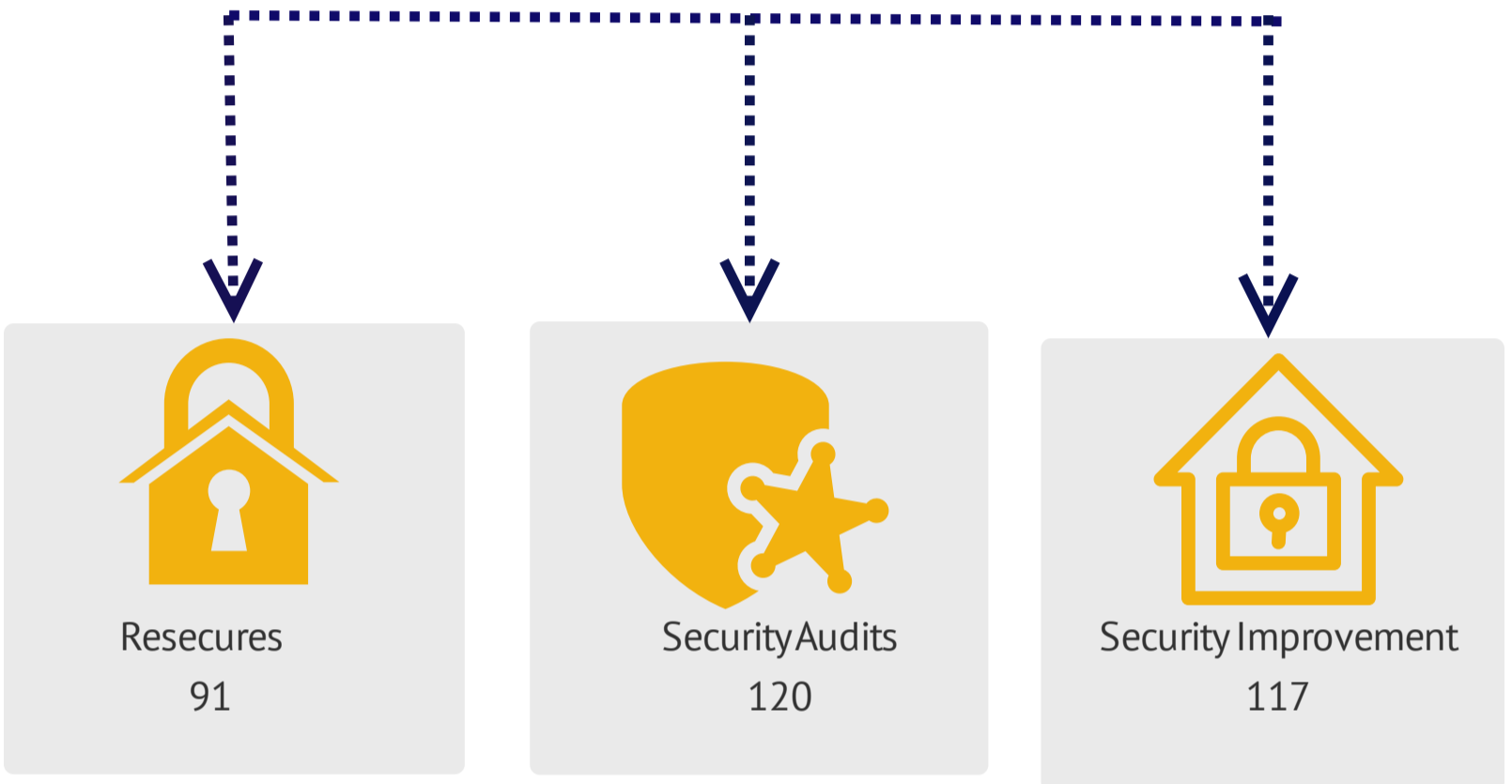


We have had a large number of calls from people seeking assistance to deal with motor vehicles in 17/18. Predominantly clients are seeking assistance with the cost of re-keying their vehicles after the theft of keys, but we have had a few unfortunate people whose vehicles have been stolen and damaged. Unfortunately our funding does not extend far enough to assist financially in these circumstances but we do make representations around these issues to government and others and we can help people fill out a victim impact statement.



The number of home break-ins in Darwin has been declining since the introduction of the Safe at Home security improvement program. We hope to be able to keep helping!

# Safe at Home



## Local Observations

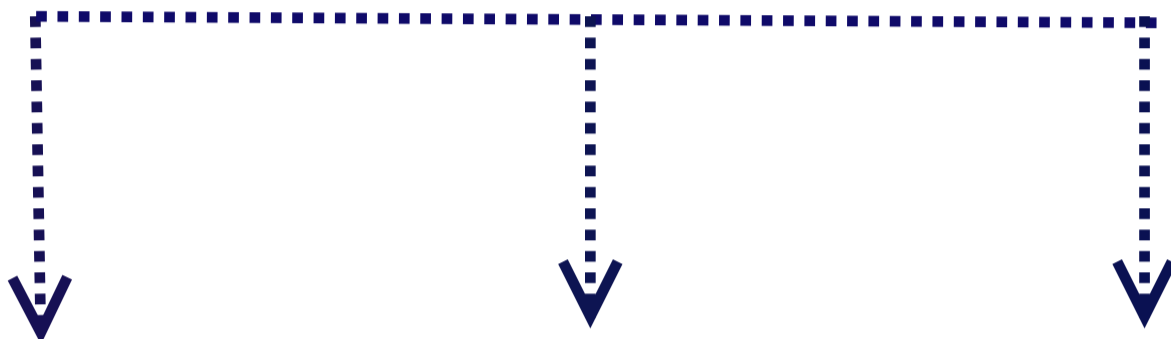


Alice Springs is experiencing a high number of unlawful entries where the crimes have been opportunistic, and the victims are typically having their car and house keys stolen, along with cash and small valuables. Crimes throughout the region have typically been through an unlocked door or window, with a small number of unlawful entries occurring when an unprotected window has been smashed.



Carrying out Home Security Assessments has allowed VoCNT to show victims how small changes to their regular routine can assist in making them safer at home, and reducing the risk of unlawful entries. After carrying out Home Security Audits, victims have felt better about their home security and knowing that there is help out there, and that they are able to make small changes which could lessen their risk of unlawful entries.

# Safe at Home



Resecures  
7



Security Audits  
17



Security Improvement  
10

## Local Observations

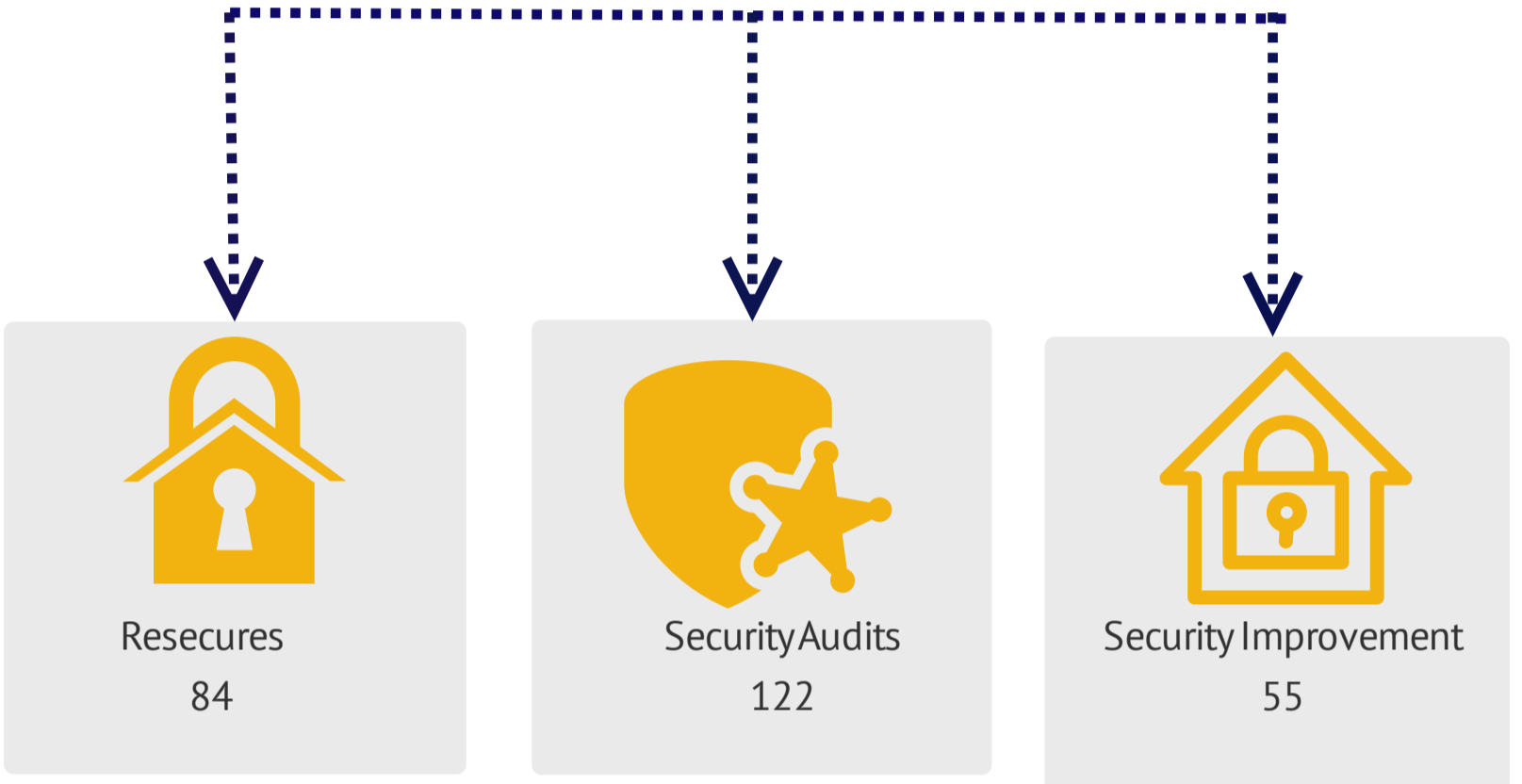


Most of our calls from Katherine have been from areas that have small walkways that criss-cross blocks and lead eventually to open land. These little maze like pathways are providing ready escape routes and refuges where offenders can rifle through their pilferage, take any cash or valuables and dump what they don't want.



Territory Housing have improved security for residents at many of their complexes by upgrading security screens and doors.

# Safe at Home



## Local Observations



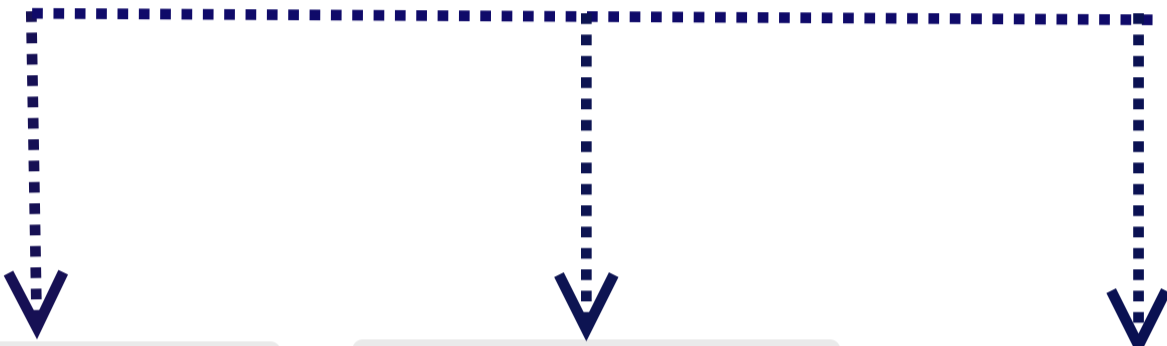
Living next to a laneway, in a residence without a fence or that backs on to a Park or crown land are some of the biggest risks for Palmerston residents.



We are part of the Palmerston Safe City Committee who are doing a lot of work to improve neighborhood safety and respond to residents concerns.



# Safe at Home



Resecures

4



Security Audits

9



Security Improvement

8

## Local Observations



We find Tennant Creek a service challenge. We don't have sufficient resources to base a staff member in the town full time and consequently try to provide services from Alice Springs as needed. We are looking for solutions.

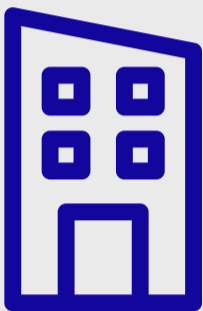


We are working with local trades people to improve the coverage for people in Tennant Creek. We would love to hear from any Philanthropists who would like to sponsor our presence in the town.

# Safe at Home



Nhulunbuy -



Crime prevention through environmental design assessment of the 13 blocks of 12 Units known as the "Town flats"

Batchelor -



10

Wadeye- Port Keats -



# Safe on Community



## Completed



**Belyuen** - We worked with the local community council to install solar street lights



**Peppimenarti**- A project to install speed humps to slow traffic around high risk areas such as school and store. Built by locals, under Council supervision to Australian Standards



**Naiyu-Daly River**- Community project to install a combination of solar light solutions to activate spaces for pro- social activities



**Ntaria-Hermansburg** A solar light project to light dark spaces where anti social behaviour was occurring and community members reported feeling unsafe

## In Progress..



**Palumpa**- A project to install speed humps to slow traffic around high risk areas such as school and store. Built by locals, under Council supervision to Australian Standards



**Wadeye-Port Keats**- Solar light installation in areas where community members reported feeling unsafe



**Goorbidgem - Bulla**- Install solar lighting to enable basketball and netball activities to be conducted on newly constructed covered basketball court outside daylight hours.

# Victim Support Services



**Support and Referral**

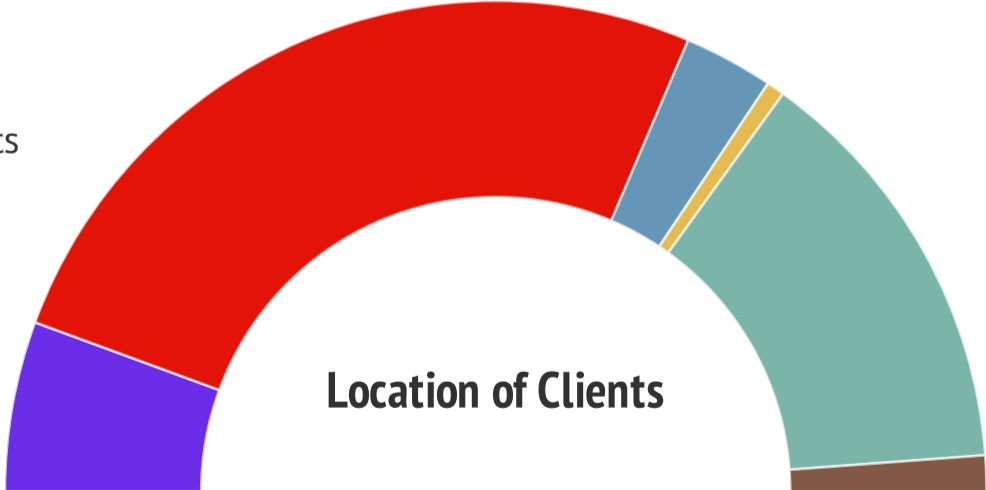
**Victim Offender Conferencing**

**Advocacy**

- We provided 220 clients with information about the services available to victims under the NT Justice system
- Our volunteers responded to 272 after hours requests for assistance
- Our Victim Support officers provided complex support and counselling to 75 Victims of Crime and responded to 303 requests for telephone support

The pilot project to support Victims to participate in Restorative Justice Conferences began in April 2018. Where victims aren't able to attend we will represent them by reading their Victim Impact Statement. We also provide specialised victim support counselling.

We have made representations on behalf of victims in relation to many issues including the use of Victim impact statements, the Victim/Offender register and the Northern Territory Charter for Victims of Crime.



- Alice Springs
- Darwin
- Katherine
- Nhulunbuy
- Palmerston
- Tennant Creek

# Finances



Victims of Crime NT Incorporated

## Committee's Declaration

In our opinion:

1. the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 2 to 21, being a general purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2018 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
2. the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association.
3. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Committee member   
Rene Laan - Chairperson

Committee member   
Jill Huck - Deputy Chair

Dated this 6 day of September 2018

Ratio Type	Ratio	Comments on Solvency
Debt Ratio	0.48	Indicates VOC has a lower ratio of debt & the company has twice as many assets as liabilities.
Current Ratio	1.8	The Association has \$1.80 of liquid assets available to cover \$1 of current liabilities. This indicates the Association has no issue meeting its short-term financial obligations and has short-term solvency.

# Thank you



Victims of Crime NT is only able to do what it does because of a very special group of people who volunteer to be available to help. **We thank our Volunteer Victim Assistance workers.**



The Northern Territory Government through the Department of Attorney General and Justice provide us with funding to implement the **Safe at Home** and **Victim Support Service**. They also provide us with office space in Darwin from which we run our service.

**Thank you**



Thanks to Northern Territory Corrections who provide us with 5% of prisoner wages from the **Sentenced to a Job Program**. This money helps us to step in where no one else can to help Victims on their journey back to well being.



We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the **NT Police** which enables them to send us details of people who may need our help. **Thanks for helping us help!**

**We work with many local businesses to ensure that Victims are safe in their homes. We thank them for their professional and caring responses when we call for help or refer clients.**

**Thank you!**



- Mobile Locksmiths
- Darwin Locksmiths
- TopLock NT
- Darwin Lock and Key
- Katherine Lock and Key
- Power Projects
- Tennant Security Service
- Local Locksmiths NT
- The Loc Doc
- Alice Springs Locksmiths
- GT Lock and Key
- Power Concepts
- Window Works NT
- Power Projects
- K&S Windows
- Neata Glass & Aluminium
- McKelvey Carpentry
- System Homes
- Service on Security
- Territory Doors
- Pete's Glass and Aluminium
- GK Builders
- GGS Alice Glass and Aluminium
- JoyTech
- Pelikaner Communications and Security
- TKT Communications Solutions
- Ready Cut NT
- Kinny Screens
- Dice Electrical
- Easy Glass NT
- Tennant Security Service