

8 October 2008

ACT Labor boosts funding to Neighbourhood Watch

ACT Labor will provide \$20,000 a year to support the Neighbourhood Watch program if re-elected on October 18, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell announced today.

"I am delighted to announce that ACT Labor, if re-elected, will strengthen our support to Neighbourhood Watch," Mr Corbell said.

"ACT Labor will provide funding of \$20,000 a year over four years to ensure the ACT Neighbourhood Watch program can continue to provide its vital service to our community.

"Today's announcement follows detailed discussions this week between the Government and representatives from the Neighbourhood Watch program, and complements the Suburban Policing Consultative Committee policy ACT Labor announced yesterday.

"The SPC Committees are not intended to replace Neighbourhood Watch but to work alongside and complement each other.

"A particular focus of Neighbourhood Watch is to reduce burglary and property crime in residential areas, encouraging neighbours to work alongside one another and promote a safe and secure local community.

"The consultative committees announced yesterday are a new and innovative approach to community policing that is designed to see residents and police working in partnership on specific policing strategies in their neighbourhood.

"This grassroots approach to policing will be an Australian first and is based on the successful UK model, providing a formal structure to improve communication between police and the communities they serve.

"ACT Labor's twelve month trial of SPC Committees will give residents and community groups, including Neighbourhood Watch, the opportunity to work closer with police and the Government and ensure the consultative committees work in conjunction with all programs in the ACT Government's broader community safety strategy.

"The success of this strategy and the hard work of community groups including Neighbourhood Watch have seen property crime reduce significantly in the ACT in the last four years.

Media release

“This additional funding for Neighbourhood Watch further demonstrates ACT Labor’s commitment to a fairer and safer community for all Canberrans.”

Statement Ends

Media Contact:

Tim Colquhoun 6205 0401 0401 146 895 tim.colquhoun@act.gov.au
(Minister Corbell’s Office)

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