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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2002

The latest crime statistics released today by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) show that, in the two years to December 2002, there were substantial falls in six major offence categories, an increase in one offence category and no change in the other nine offence categories.

The falls occurred in:

- robbery without a weapon (down 18%);
- robbery with a weapon not a firearm (down 36%);
- break and enter (dwelling) (down 13%);
- break and enter (non-dwelling) (down 21%);
- motor vehicle theft (down 22%); and
- stealing from a motor vehicle (down 16%).

The rise occurred in stealing from a retail store (up 8%).

The following offence categories all remained stable:

- murder;
- assault;
- sexual assault;
- indecent assault and related offences;
- robbery with a firearm;
- stealing from a dwelling;
- stealing from the person;
- fraud; and
- malicious damage to property.

The increases in stealing from a retail store occurred in the Statistical Subdivisions of Blacktown (up 25%), Outer South Western Sydney (up 27%) and Central Northern Sydney (up 18%) and the Statistical Divisions of Illawarra (up 21%), Richmond-Tweed (up 8%), Northern (up 29%) and the Mid-North Coast (up 14%). The top five items stolen in shop-stealing offences were mobile phones, money, cosmetics, food and cameras.

The regional trends in recorded crime generally mirrored the State trends, with most areas of the State experiencing either significant decreases or stability in most categories of crime.

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