

**Wellington LGA**  
**Community Safety Precinct Committee Action Minutes**  
**Report to Crime Prevention Partnership**  
**18 October 2010 – 11:07 M**

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**Participating Agencies/Community Members**

**NSW Police Force – Orana Local Area Command**

Chair – Inspector Chris SAMMUT Orana LAC, Superintendent Stan SINGLE Orana LAC, Sergeant Rod BUHR Wellington

**Wellington Council**

Anne JONES – Mayor, Mike AUGEE – Deputy Mayor, Allan DIVE – General Manager

**NSW Corrective Services**

Clarrie Dries – General Manager Wellington

**Wellington Public School**

Daryl Thompson – Principal

**Wellington High School**

Don Harvey - Principal

**Wellington Development Inc (WDI)**

Garry Francis – Liaison Officer

**Clergy**

Ross GODFREY

**Greater Western Area Health**

Louisa Squires – Wellington Health Service Acting Health Service Manager

## Apologies

Simon PRICE – St Mary's Catholic School, Robert DUNN – Acting Senior Sergeant Wellington Sector Supervisor

### Priority Crime Category

1. Break, Enter and Steal 2. Malicious Damage 3. Assaults (non-domestic violence)

### Local Crime Category

1. Reduce the incidents of break and enter offences
2. Reduce the incidents of malicious damage
3. Reduce the incidents of assaults (non-domestic violence)

### Discussion Item

- Meeting opened at 11:07.
- Welcome address delivered by Inspector Sammut.
- Thank you to Mayor, Anne Jones for use of venue.
- Outline of the role of the Community Safety Precinct Committee.
- This new body replaces the previous PACT meeting.
- The aim is to reduce crime in the Wellington community by gathering together the main stakeholders and using a collaborative approach to reducing crime and fear within the community. Inspector Sammut pointed out that the meeting was not a 'knee-jerk' reaction to local issues.
- Inspector Blackman was introduced as the Orana Local Area Command Crime Manager.
- Inspector Blackman explained the Command measured crime on a daily basis which was then broken down into the relevant sectors within the Command. He then showed a number of graphs of the major crime categories for Wellington but pointed out low numbers can make graphs look dramatic.
- Graph one showed assaults (alcohol related) – a decline has been seen since July 2010 until current.
- Graph two showed assaults (domestic violence related) – also a decline, but Inspector Blackman pointed out there is a lot of domestic violence occurring in the community that is not being reported to police.
- Graph three showed assaults (non-domestic related) – figures in this area have remained constant.
- Corrective Services General Manager asked if assaults occurring at the Wellington Correctional Centre are included in these statistics. Inspector Blackman stated they currently are. Correction Services General Manager suggested Wellington Correctional Centre assaults be categorised separately from assaults occurring within the community.
- Graph four showed break, enter and steal (dwelling) – the figures showed an increase within the Wellington sector. Inspector Blackman pointed out Wellington wasn't an isolated case and other sectors within the

Orana LAC are similarly affected. He further pointed out this is a statewide trend and there are a number of factors causing the increase eg, stricter guidelines to receiving Centrelink payments. Inspector Blackman also voiced concern at this increase as it is an area that has a high level of victim impact.

- Graph four showed break, enter and steal (non-dwelling) – again, these figures have increased. Inspector Blackman explained non-dwelling break and enters include commercial premises, farm sheds, school halls/canteens and sporting facilities.
- Graph five showed malicious damage – figures in this area are more positive. They show a decrease during September 2010.
- Graph six showed incidents of robbery – statistics are very good for the sector. Inspector Blackman explained the difference between robbery and break, enter and steal.
- Graph seven shows incidents of stealing from a motor vehicle – again, these figures are trending down and, overall, shows a good result.
- Graph eight showed incidents of steal from person – Inspector Blackman explained this was the lower end robbery and, again, the figures indicated a decline.
- Graph nine showed steal from retail store – these figures were also good, however, it was pointed out some businesses may not be reporting this crime to police.
- Graph ten showed stolen motor vehicles – statistics showed a very good result with figures trending down.
- Inspector Blackman added that a part of statistics gathering was to plot areas where crime was taking place. This also helps to identify offenders. The Wellington figures are not showing any patterns in this area.
- Inspector Sammut introduced figures outlining peak periods for Wellington police. Calls for assistance were higher from 10:30 pm until 1:00 am with the peak days being Friday and Saturday. These figures were no real surprise and are consistent with figures across the state.
- Inspector Blackman displayed pro-activity figures for the Wellington sector. He explained these figures were made up of bail compliance checks, school inspections, business inspections, persons/vehicle searches and move-on directions. Wellington has very high pro-active figures, second only to the Orana Target Action Group and Inspector Blackman stated Wellington should be very proud of the local police.
- The Mayor asked the question regarding people reporting on bail at the Wellington police station when it is unmanned and the procedure ascertaining the person's identity. Sergeant Buhr explained police could request the person remain at the station until police are able to return and identify such persons. Sergeant Buhr did not see this as being a major concern.
- Inspector Blackman provided workload statistics per officer. This showed Wellington police actioned, on average, 47 Computerised Incident Dispatches (CID's) per month, whereas the Command averages 39 per

month. The Wellington sector also averages, two arrests per officer, per month.

- Mayor Jones asked a question in relation to drugs in Wellington and the fact there is a perception drugs are a problem within the town. Inspector Blackman replied drugs are a complicated issue and drugs are a state wide problem. Superintendent Single added there is an increasing problem with prescription drugs and 'doctor shopping' is on the increase. Inspector Blackman added drug addition is a health issue as well as a police issue.
- Mayor Jones suggested there has been an increased need for Wellington police to respond to incidents at the Wellington Correctional Centre. This then takes local police away from community policing. It was then suggested that the Wellington Correctional Centre is a part of the Wellington community and not all police vehicles at the Correctional Centre are Wellington police.
- Cr Aguee added that the assault figures for Wellington, as shown in the BOSCA figures, include assaults at the correction centre which may mean these figures are higher than would otherwise be the case. He then went on to add that community perception is very important.
- Garry Francis enquired whether there is a link between drug use and the level of break, enter and steal offences. Inspector Blackman advised there is historical evidence which proves a link between the two.
- Allan Dive advised there is a problem getting community members to report crime. He stated the figures may not reflect the true crime rate in Wellington. He further stated the WDI had recently conducted a mail-out with the current Wellington Council rate notices which contained a fridge magnet displaying the police contact numbers for reporting volume crime.
- CCTV - Mayor Jones stated Council has applied for funding for CCTV but to date has not received any advice. Mayor Jones understands grants of up to \$150,000 are available but a system that will supply adequate coverage for Wellington CBD will cost more. This could leave a shortfall of \$50,000 which the local business community has been approached to fund. Garry Francis raised the point that, at this stage, the Wellington Council has not provided any detailed costings, including ongoing costs to maintain a CCTV system. Inspector Blackman added the Orana Local Area Command supported the use of CCTV an important crime fighting tool and encouraged Wellington Council to pursue the issue.
- **RECOMMENDED** by Inspector Sammut and Clarrie Dries that the Wellington Community Safety Precinct Committee endorse the crime categories of break, enter and steal; malicious damage and assaults (non-domestic violence) as its priority crime categories to be included in the Wellington Crime Prevention Action Plan.

**CARRIED**

### **General Business**

- Inspector Sammut requested enquires from the floor. Mayor Jones enquired as to the current status of

Wellington Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) position and stating she understood the position was not filled. Superintendent Single advised ACLO, Jason Nolan had been transferred to Dubbo and the Command was presently considering a lateral transfer of another officer to Wellington or if that applicant was unsuccessful, the position will be advertised.

- Mayor Jones enquired about the transfer of two senior officers from Wellington and a timeframe on their replacement. Superintendent Single advised two probationary constables will start in Wellington during the next roster period (starting 28 November 2010) and an officer from Dubbo (Leading Senior Constable Stevenson) will be on loan to Wellington. Also, an officer currently on loan to the academy, will be returning to Wellington mid-December. Superintendent Single also stated, at this stage, he planned to allocate a further Probationary Constable to Wellington from the Academy class that is due to graduate at the end of December 2010. This officer will undergo initial training at Dubbo before being deployed to Wellington but Superintendent Single is confident Wellington will be at full strength by February 2011 barring any further transfer requests from Wellington.
- Mayor Jones enquired into the current status of the Senior Sergeant position at Wellington. Superintendent Single advised Senior Sergeant Kassiris remains on sick report and Sergeant Buhr will soon be acting in that position and Sergeant Dunn will be returning to Dubbo. Senior Constable Tolhurst will be acting Sergeant during this time
- Allan Dive enquired to the current status of the two Detectives positions in Wellington. Superintendent Single advised no decision has been made at this stage. Inspector Blackman added the positions have been designated 'hard to fill' and have been advertised three times with no response.
- Inspector Sammut requested Inspector Blackman created strategies, based on the Crime Prevention Partnership model, to be incorporated in the Wellington Crime Prevention Action Plan and those strategies be circulated to the members of the Wellington Safety Precinct Committee.
- Next meeting scheduled for Monday, 13 December 2010 at 10:00 am the Wellington Council Chambers.
- Meeting closed 12:30 pm.

**Agreed updates to Crime Prevention Action Plan**

<b>Intended Outcome</b>	<b>Agreed Strategies</b>	<b>Partner Agencies/Community member</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Increase the reporting of crime.	All partner agencies agreed to have all incidents of crime reported to Police to allow Police to effectively target that crime issue, by allowing analysis of crime trends.	All partner agencies. Wellington Council.	Ongoing.

	Wellington Council to continue efforts in securing a CCTV system within the Wellington CBD.		
2. Strengthen relationships between Police and Community resulting in provision of information regarding crime, and reduction in crime due to community awareness of issues.	Sector Supervisor to continue a weekly newspaper column with the Local News, where actions to prevent crime, current crime issues, and requests for information can be circulated.	Wellington Police Wellington News	Ongoing
3. Decrease issues with homes and vehicles being left open and unsecured – target hardening.	Agreement by Wellington schools to circulate crime prevention, target hardening information and the encouragement to report crime and suspicious behaviour to Police or teachers in local school newsletters. Sgt BUHR, Youth Liaison Officer, School Liaison Police and Crime Prevention Officer to provide information.	Christian, High, Primary and Central Schools. Wellington Police. Orana LAC	Ongoing.
4. Fill vacant Constables Position at Wellington.	Police to advertise vacancies with a view to attracting suitable applicants to fill the positions.	Orana LAC	In line with advertising schedule (ASAP)
5. Increase in proactive targeting of break and enter suspects to prevent offences, reduce crime, and as appropriate detect offences.	Wellington Police to maintain high levels of compliance strategies such as Curfew Bail, STMP processes and proactive powers to interrupt opportunity for suspects to continue committing offences.	Wellington Police	Ongoing.