



NSW Police Force

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

2015 - 2017



Unclassified



Title: NSW Police Force Crime Prevention Strategy 2015-2017
Subject: Crime Prevention
Command responsible: Operational Programs
Contact: Terry Mullane
Available to: Restricted
Publication number: D/2014/2017
Publication date: August 2015
ISBN: 978-1-921309-03-2
Version no: 1.0
Review date: August 2017

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Commissioner's message

The Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 - 2017 clearly defines the central role of police in crime prevention and provides a framework for making strategic crime prevention interventions. It also reinforces a commitment to building the capacity of our officers to undertake crime prevention activities.

The document supports the objectives of the NSW Police Force Corporate Plan for Safer Communities and is also aligned with State Government aims to reduce the level of crime in New South Wales.

Community engagement is integral to our crime prevention efforts. When the diverse communities of New South Wales feel safe and secure, confident about reporting crimes, trust police and work with us to solve problems together, improvements in the quality of life and the use of public spaces will follow.

The NSW Police Force also has a range of specialist resources to assist our crime prevention efforts. These include a Corporate Sponsor for Crime Prevention, Region Sponsors for Crime Prevention, Crime Prevention Officers and the centralised resources of the Crime prevention Team at the Operational Programs Command.

I encourage you to integrate crime prevention into all policing activities and this document will provide you with the tools to achieve this.



Andrew Scipione APM
Commissioner of Police
November 2014



Crime prevention

Crime prevention is the attempt to reduce and deter crime and criminal behaviour in partnership with the community. Crime prevention is fundamental to the mission and function of the NSW Police Force.

Crime prevention requires understanding and responding to both the cause and the crime. Crime prevention is achieved when:-

- police respond to a crime issue before it becomes a significant crime problem and reduce the need to repeatedly respond to similar incidents.
- police and communities work together with other partners to understand the problem and implement local solutions.
- intervention occurs which prevents or reduces crime that may have occurred if that intervention did not take place.

Government, industry and community partnerships are the key to the delivery of crime prevention in a situational or social approach. Police acknowledge that other agencies with expertise provide a range of actions and services such as education programs, child protection, housing services and counselling that police support and promote to address social crime.

Situational crime prevention relates to reducing the opportunity for crime to occur. This may involve education and awareness campaigns through community events and media, increasing physical and technical surveillance in public places and installing target hardening devices such as lighting, alarms and locks.

Social crime prevention addresses the conditions in our communities that influence behaviour that may lead to crime. This may involve youth diversion programs, supporting at risk communities and family intervention programs.



Our objectives

The NSW Police Force purpose is to realise productive police and community collaboration to reduce violence, crime and fear and crime prevention aims to support this purpose.

The objectives of crime prevention are to:

- reduce crime and increase public safety;
- strengthen engagement with communities and key partners to deliver sustainable solutions for crime;
- reduce the repetitive response to incidents of crime by employing problem solving at the core of all policing activities.

Our response

While crime prevention is the business of every police officer, Crime Prevention Officers at Local Area Commands have been established to work with the community to reduce and prevent local crime. The Crime Prevention Team and Crime Management Programs Unit coordinate and support Crime Prevention Officers to:

- coordinate the capacity of Local Area Commands to develop and integrate crime prevention strategies to reduce repeat responses to incidents of crime.
- establish partnerships with key community groups, government and business.
- support victims and local community organisations with safety and security assessments.
- Conduct safety audits and develop appropriate solutions utilising Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Develop, implement and participate in crime prevention projects and programs.
- Promote awareness and inform the community on security, safety and crime prevention.



The Corporate Sponsor for Crime Prevention provides strategic direction to the NSW Police Force response to crime prevention and is supported by the Crime Prevention Advisory Group. This Group has representation from every police Region across the state and various specialist areas.

Further, an integrated problem solving approach to crime prevention is measured and monitored by the Performance Improvement and Planning Command. Crime prevention may be measured in terms of, but not limited to, crime rates; establishing partnerships and programs; the level of community engagement to prevent crime; and the use of intelligence and forensics in crime reduction initiatives.

Our focus

Crime statistics show that major crime categories have been stable over the past few years. Purposeful and targeted crime prevention activities play an important role in keeping crime at stable levels, facilitating downward trends and identifying emerging and future crime risks. The following focus areas have been prioritised in the NSW Police Force Corporate Plan 2012 – 2016 and NSW 2021, or identified as emerging risks that can negatively impact on the community.

- Personal crime - particularly domestic, family and sexual violence
- Alcohol related assaults
- Crime and violence associated with drug abuse - particularly methylamphetamine ('Ice')
- Crimes committed in public spaces and transport hubs
- Property crime, particularly break and enter dwelling, stolen motor vehicles and graffiti
- Communication technology enabled crime, particularly identity theft, online stalking and cyber bullying
- Bias crimes and bias incidents¹
- Repeat victims.

¹ The NSW Police Force defines bias crime as a criminal offence committed against persons, associates of persons, property or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by an offender's bias against an individual's or group's actual or perceived; race, religion, ethnic/national origin, sex/gender, gender identity, age, disability status, sexual orientation and homeless status.



Our communities

Communities are at the heart of policing. In realising the vision for a safe and secure NSW, our efforts are constantly geared towards enhancing community confidence in policing as well as community resilience. Police have a key leadership role in NSW communities.

Local Area Commands undertake environmental scans to better understand the changing face of their communities. Crime prevention activities will generally target the broader community, however NSW Police Force best practise encourages enhanced effectiveness and engagement with at risk communities through customised intervention and partnerships with communities including;

- aboriginal communities
- children and young people
- culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities, including asylum seekers, newly-arrived communities and international students
- people with a disability
- older people
- homeless people
- gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities
- people with mental health issues.



Our priorities

1. Enhanced Community Engagement

Aim: Build greater capacity and skills of police to undertake purposeful community engagement leading to sustained relationships with communities.

Community engagement is a key feature of effective crime prevention. It is a long term process through which the NSW Police Force involves groups and individuals in identifying problems and in shaping and implementing solutions to those problems. Community involvement in addressing community identified problems and police initiatives enhances trust in and legitimacy of the police. Some examples of police engagement with their communities are as follows:

- lead Community Safety Precinct Committees
- engage with the communities through social media including Eyewatch
- support Neighbourhood Watch Groups
- participate in community events
- participate in community based forums on specific issues
- police and community programs such as Community Awareness in Policing Program, Bizkeys, Next of Kin, Safely Home, MyNite.

2. Stakeholder development with industry and other agencies

Aim: Identify and work with government and partner agencies at local, regional and state level.

Crime prevention is a shared responsibility involving government and civil society. There are a wide range of stakeholders who make valuable contributions to developing, implementing and evaluating crime prevention initiatives. The NSW Police Force is committed to collaboration and partnerships with multiple agencies and stakeholders to address the wide-ranging causes of crime and to draw upon the skills, expertise, resources and responsibilities necessary to address those causes. Crime



prevention partnerships exist with the following agencies and programs as examples:

- NSW Department of Justice, Crime Prevention Division
- Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officers Network
- Community Safety Committees (Local Government)
- Local Liquor Accords
- Crime Prevention Partnership with NRMA
- University of Technology Designing out Crime Centre
- Diversion programs including Youth on Track, Life on Track, Magistrate's Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT), Forum and Circle Sentencing, Your Choice (alcohol), Think U Know (Cyber safety).

3. Intelligence driven responses

Aim: Improve the quality of data and intelligence in the development of crime prevention initiatives.

Actively seek information from the community, and channel community intelligence appropriately to add value to crime prevention strategies being developed. Utilise tactical and strategic intelligence to inform the identification of hotspots, known offenders, prevalent crimes and vulnerable individuals. Intelligence driven responses and initiatives take several forms including:

- Promote reporting of crime directly with police, Crime Stoppers and other dedicated reporting services
- Deploy resources to crime hotspots and high risk locations based on police intelligence and community information
- Conduct and support enforcement operations with security, business and other agencies based on crime trends and safety concerns
- Target repeat offenders including Suspect Target Management Plans, Child Protection Register, etc.



4. Education and support

Aim: Support all levels of police in delivering crime prevention.

NSW Police Force staff will be supported by key business units to implement crime prevention and community engagement through capacity building and training. Education and support will, over time, ensure that police are provided with the right skills and specialist knowledge to work effectively with communities and agency partners to develop, deliver and evaluate crime prevention initiatives. In relation to crime prevention practitioners, education and support will:

- Provide information, support and resources by the Crime Prevention Team and Crime Management Programs Unit
- Deliver Crime Prevention Officers Workshops, Conferences and Professional Development Days
- Deliver Safer by Design (CPTED) Courses to police and external agencies
- Host police and community information days for organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch
- Provide Problem Oriented Policing training for all police commencing at recruit level.

5. Situational crime prevention

Aim: Apply responsive situational crime prevention methods.

Strengthen situational crime prevention techniques via increased awareness of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles. Ensure broader community consultation and knowledge sharing along with participation in developing situational crime prevention techniques incorporating 'community focus', as necessary. Various approaches include:

- Conduct crime risk/hazards assessments in Development Applications buildings and spaces
- Participate in community safety audits to reduce the opportunity for crime in community spaces, large facilities and infrastructure
- Provide information and education to the community on personal safety and property security
- Assist Local Councils in the development of Crime Prevention Plans
- Provide strategies that employ surveillance, access control, defined ownership, open space and activity management to improve safety.



6. Evidence based approaches to crime prevention

Aim: Use an evidence-based approach when developing crime prevention initiatives.

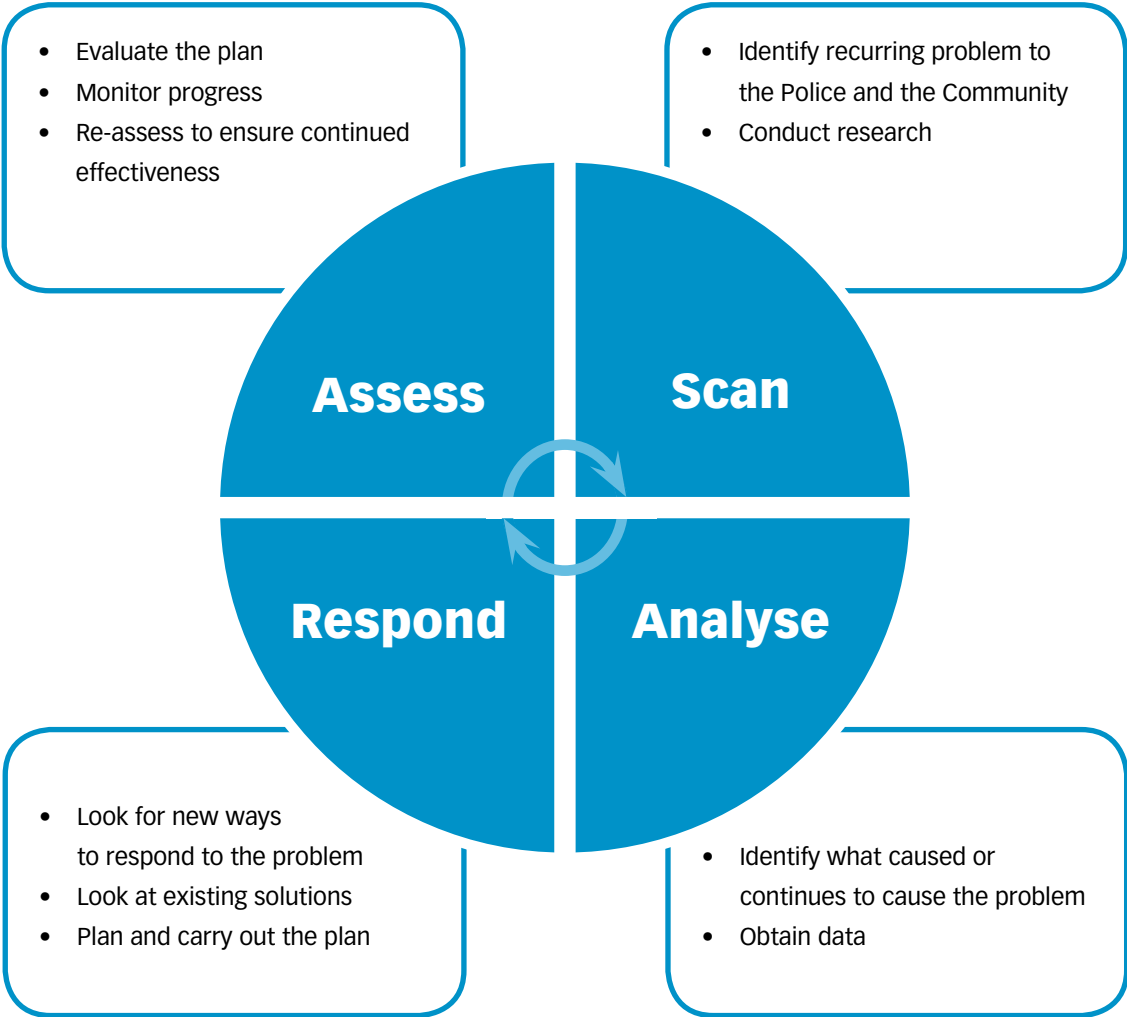
The NSW Police Force will continue to research crime prevention approaches, and adapt them to local situations. Particular emphasis will be placed on planning, documenting and reviewing interventions so that analysis of lessons learnt can be recorded and utilised for future programs. Evidence based strategies and practice include:

- Researching and distributing crime prevention approaches including resources from the Problem Oriented Police Centre, Australian Institute of Criminology and professional journals
- Employ Problem Orientated Policing strategies to address local community issues
- Integrate relevant Problem Solving model (Scan, Analyse, Respond and Assess) in response to emerging crime issues
- Youth intervention in the case management of youth by PCYC.



Problem Solving for Prevention

The NSW Police Force employs the SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) in crime prevention. The SARA model contains the following elements:



Roles and responsibilities

- Strategic:** Commissioner’s Executive Team, Operational Programs, Corporate Sponsors, Heads of Discipline/Crime Areas, Region Commanders
- Operational:** Crime Prevention Team, Operational Programs, Youth Command Region Crime Prevention Sponsors, Crime Managers, Customer Service Duty Officers, Region Operations Managers
- Tactical:** Crime Prevention Team, Operational Programs, Crime Managers, Customer Service Duty Officers, Crime Prevention Officers, Crime Management Units, All frontline officers, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, Multicultural Liaison Officers, Gay & Lesbian Liaison Offers

<p>Strategic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priorities for crime prevention • Research and policy development • Partner with national and state level interagency governance groups • Education and Training • Ensure continued availability of relevant crime prevention training for NSW Police Officers • Implement the NSW Police Force Crime Prevention Strategy 2014 – 2016 • Plan and coordinate community engagement activities
<p>Operational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, plan and respond to current or emerging crime issues at regional and local level • Partner with regional and local stakeholders in crime prevention initiatives • Support and/or deliver situational crime prevention strategies • Ensure documentation, planning, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention initiatives • Intelligence used to develop evidence based strategies • Provide support through specialist areas to all levels of police in design, implementation and evaluation of prevention based activities



Tactical

- Deliver crime prevention and community engagement training
- Provide advice on situational crime prevention techniques
- Conduct crime risk assessments
- Participate in and support police/ community events
- Consult with and partner communities in problem identification and problem solving
- Gather and analyse community intelligence
- Utilise and deploy Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, Multicultural Community Liaison Officers, Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officers, Youth Liaison Officers as appropriate to the local community environment
- Support and provide advice to victims of crime
- Ensure documented evaluation of Crime Prevention activities



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