



Police Continue Knife Crackdown as Hot Spots Named

Sunday 1st November 2009

Police Minister Michael Daley today said NSW Police would continue their crackdown on knives this summer with new Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research figures revealing the top hot spots for knife-related crime.

Mr Daley said the continued efforts of Police had contributed to an 8.2 per cent reduction in offences involving the use of knives and other sharp weapons across NSW over the past two years.

“Police in Local Area Commands across the state are continually making our streets safer, confiscating knives off people out to cause trouble – and in some cases – serious harm,” he said.

“Across the state, the number of offences involving a knife or sharp implement is down.

“The NSW Government has given Police the resources and powers they need to detect and confiscate illegal knives.

“High visibility Police operations such as Operation Vikings and Operation Vision 5 on our public transport network continue to send a strong message to criminals who carry knives that they will be caught by Police.

“In many of these hotspots, Police have achieved excellent results in keeping the number of knife-related incidents low.

“For example, in Sydney Local Government Area – which has by far the greatest number of incidents – there were 105 less offences committed with a knife or other sharp implement during 2008-09 than in the previous year. This represents a drop of 29%.

“Police will continue to focus on trouble areas such as the Sydney CBD and Sydney’s West, and this Government will continue to give them the powers they need to keep our streets safe.

“NSW currently has the toughest knife laws in the country and just last week, the Government announced we will support new laws that could see first-time offenders face jail.

“The Government makes no apologies for this tough stance and I’ve asked NSW Police Commissioner Scipione to keep me updated about the efforts of Police in catching these gutless criminals.

“If you see someone unlawfully carrying a knife in a public place, I urge you to call the Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000,” Mr Daley said.

Top 20 Knife Crime Hotspots

LGA	2007/08	2008/09
Sydney	359	254
Blacktown	223	232
Fairfield	176	172
Bankstown	100	151
Liverpool	137	142
Campbelltown	125	141
Parramatta	140	131
Newcastle	123	128
Wollongong	110	112
Penrith	141	99
Canterbury	83	91
Auburn	95	84
Lake Macquarie	78	68
Wyong	80	66
Randwick	87	65
Holroyd	85	64
Gosford	67	57
Sutherland	69	57
Rockdale	75	56
Marrickville	90	52

Table 1: Summary of NSW Recorded Crime Trends for offences where a Knife/Sword/Scissors/Screwdriver was used as a weapon by Local Government Area.

Top 10 Drops in Knife Crime over the 2008/09 year

LGA	2007/08	2008/09
Marrickville	90	52
Strathfield	40	27
Penrith	141	99
Warringah	30	21
Sydney	359	254
Great Lakes	29	21
Rockdale	75	56
Randwick	87	65
Wagga	31	23
Holroyd	85	64

Table two: Top ten LGAs that have experienced a drop in offences where a Knife/Sword/Scissors/Screwdriver was used as a weapon (over 20 incidents per year).