

Community Safety Precinct Committees Crime Prevention Framework Policy Document 2008



**Crime Prevention Unit
2008**

Prepared by the Policy and Programs Command, Field Operations



NSW POLICE FORCE DOCUMENT

Introduction

Crime can have a devastating effect on the lives of victims and their families, the families of offenders and local communities. We all want to live in a safe, just and harmonious community. Achieving this vision requires coordination and commitment. Crime prevention is not just the responsibility of the NSW Police Force; everyone has a part to play in this important work. Other Commonwealth, State and Local government agencies can contribute significantly to reducing or preventing the levels of crime within a community by addressing issues which contribute to these behaviours. Similarly local businesses and community members have a critical role to play in the development and implementation of local crime prevention approaches and initiatives through the new Community Safety Precinct Committees.

The recently established Crime Prevention Framework recognises Crime Prevention Partnerships, local crime prevention planning and Community Safety Precinct Committees as the local mechanisms for crime prevention in NSW:

- a. Crime Prevention Partnerships are co-ordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and lead locally by NSW Police;
- b. Crime prevention planning is supported by the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997, co-ordinated by NSW Attorney General's Department and lead locally by local councils; and
- c. Community Safety Precincts are generally chaired by Police Local Area Commanders with the exception of rural communities where the delegated Duty Officer may undertake this task with participation from local council, community members and business owners

What is a Community Safety Precinct Committee?

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs) provide an opportunity for local Councils and community members to meet with Police Local Area Commanders and share their perspective on local crime and safety issues. It provides the opportunity for community members and business owners to get involved in strategies designed to address local crime concerns. It also provides an opportunity for Local Area Commanders to promote accurate local crime information and raise awareness of crime prevention approaches. In some instances, CSPCs will participate in other local crime prevention initiatives, such as crime prevention planning and Crime Prevention Partnerships (CPP).

Local problems, local solutions will be actionable via this committee with the establishment of local working groups to tackle various crimes within the LAC. The working group will report to the CSPC each quarter with a progress update. Assistance can be sought from the Premier's Regional Co-ordination Management Groups (RCMGs). The RCMG's role will be to oversee cross-agency local action where required or to support implementation of regional solutions

CSPC are already working in various forms within Local Area Commands (LACs). Their success is attributed to the local knowledge of the community and police. Their outcomes have resulted in many local crime prevention strategies being implemented.

What is a Crime Prevention Partnership

In priority areas, as determined by crime data analysed by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and considered by the Steering Group, Crime Prevention Partnerships (CPPs) operate. CPPs have a mandate to drive crime prevention and reduction initiatives at a local level in priority locations. As such, they are accountable for the delivery of the targets relevant to their local area set by the Crime Prevention Steering Group in accordance with the State Plan. CPPs are a formal partnership between local council and local representatives of the NSW Police Force, relevant NSW Government agencies (which may include the Departments of Housing, Education and Training, Community Services, Health, and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing), local transport companies, and other agencies as relevant and appropriate. CPP boundaries are based on NSW Police Force Local Area Command boundaries and are referred to by the name of the relevant Local Area Command. Where established, CPPs are the operational vehicle through which coordinated crime prevention planning occurs.

Operational readiness of a Community Safety Precinct Committee without a Crime Prevention Partnership (CPP)

The CSPC will operate independently in every command regardless if a CPP is established or not. In the event that a CPP is established the CSPC will be used to filter information and intelligence to the CPP and cross pollinate the information back down to the CSPC.

The CSPC will be a local actionable committee which will sit every quarter. The commander or delegated officer will chair the meeting. The CSPC is locally flexible to meet the needs of the command and can operate in conjunction with joint commands or local government areas. The CSPC are open forums for members of the community to voice their concerns about crime and provide valuable intelligence to Police.

The CSPC also enables local communities to consult and participate with local Police Commanders in reducing crime.

Planning and operation of the CSPC

The purpose of CSPCs is to:

- Ensure Local Area Commanders are communicating to their local communities;
- Encourage community partnerships to reduce crime and the fear of crime;

- Develop local solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders;
- Improve public safety and reduce the fear of crime at a local level;
- Raise understanding of the relationship between policing and crime reduction; and
- Ensure Commanders take into account local community views on police visibility, police deployment and crime hotspots when deciding police tasking and deployment.

CSPC operates locally under the following rules:

1. CSPCs are a forum to ensure that community views about police visibility, police deployment and crime hotspots are taken into account by the LAC when making decisions about the deployment and tasking of Local Area Command police, and that each LAC is accountable to his/her local community for those decisions;
2. CSPCs are held quarterly with dates determined by the LAC. They are to be convened on a Local Area Command basis by each NSW Police Force LAC. The LAC arranges for the date and agenda of each CSPC meeting to be publicly notified at least 14 days prior to that meeting;
3. The LAC chairs all CSPC meetings. However, in rural areas this geographically may be difficult, so the delegated Duty Officer may chair the meeting;
4. The LAC is to invite local MPs, Local Mayors, and the heads of local State Chambers of Commerce and local community members to attend each meeting;
5. The CSPC can refer any matters that require further assistance from the RCMG;
7. CSPC agendas are determined by the LAC to include the following standing items:
 - Crime hotspots in the Local Area Command
 - Police visibility and deployment in the Local Area Command
 - Issues and decisions of the previous meeting
 - Action taken in respect of working groups being established to tackle local crime issues.
9. The LAC arranges for a CSPC Meeting Report, containing issues and decisions from the meeting to be publicly promulgated within 14 days of each meeting, and is published on the Intranet and Internet;

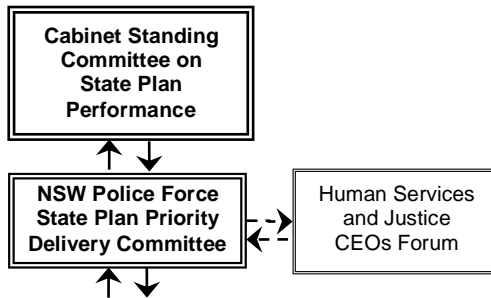
Sub CSPCs may be set up in geographically large LACs, with several regional centres, several Local Government Areas (LGAs), or more than one State Electorate. Sub CSPCs are chaired either by the Commander or a Duty Officer and the local community is represented,

at a minimum, by the local council and existing community groups or committees. Sub CSPCs engage local communities in the communication process, and provide the same level of accountability as LAC- CSPCs while overcoming the problems of distance. The Sub CSPC focuses on local crime issues, and provides a Meeting Report of issues and decisions to the Commander, for use at the LAC-CSPC. It may even be useful for a Sub CSPC to elect a representative on the LAC-CSPC.

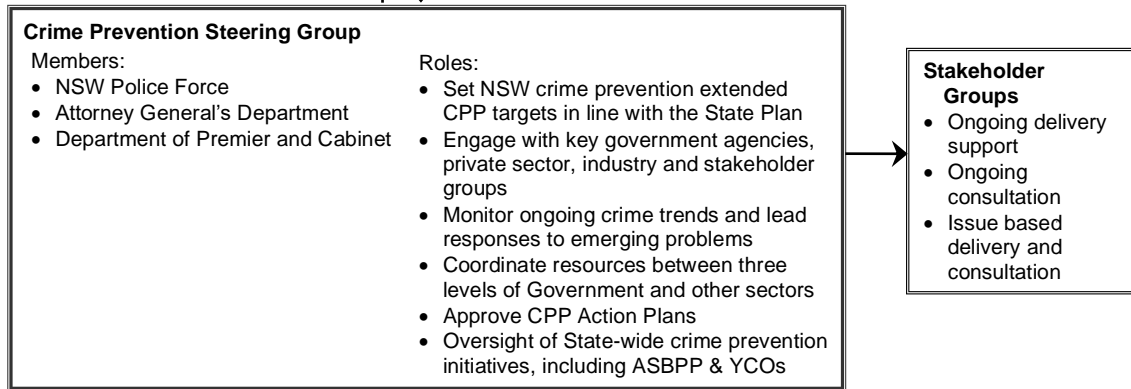
PACT forums will no longer exist. CSPCs will embrace various attributes of the PACT forums but will be a stronger, robust and open committee addressing local problems. It is mandatory that at least one CSPC is established in every Command across NSW.

Crime Prevention Framework Structure

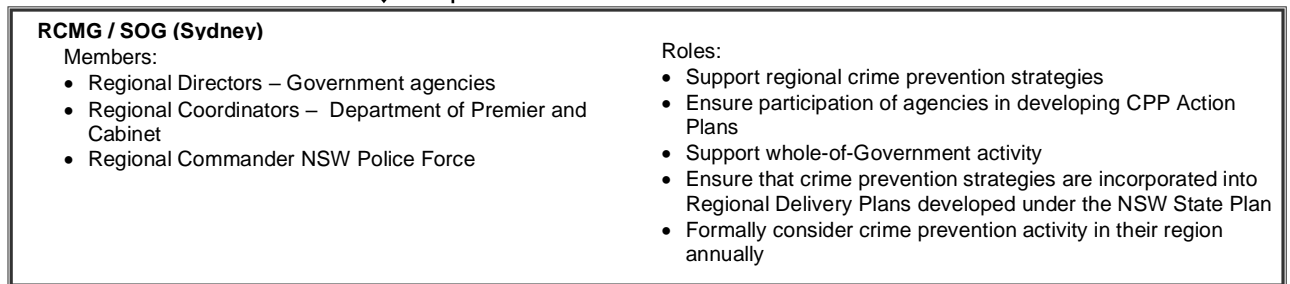
GOVERNANCE



CENTRAL



REGIONAL



LOCAL

