



**New South Wales Government**

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Department of Premier and Cabinet

# NSW Crime Prevention Framework

**Strengthening, focusing and coordinating  
crime prevention in NSW**

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## **The NSW Crime Prevention Framework**

### **Crime prevention in NSW**

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.

The NSW Government recognises that the factors which influence crime vary and are complex. A range of strategies and initiatives are needed to address these issues.

There are four approaches to crime prevention and community strengthening:

- criminal justice approaches, by which a strong and well-equipped Police Force enforces the law, and a tough but fair justice system convicts offenders and holds them accountable for their actions;
- situational approaches, which reduces opportunities for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour through well-designed public spaces and the effective coordination of services;
- community approaches, involving interventions which seek to change the social conditions that influence offending; and
- developmental or early intervention approaches, where the risk and protective factors related to offending at a later age are identified and addressed.

The Crime Prevention Framework outlined in this document focuses on the second aspect; crime prevention through changes in the physical environment and to services and facilities.

Crime prevention and reduction is not just the responsibility of the NSW Police Force; everyone has a part to play in this important work. Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies can all contribute significantly to reducing 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 and reduction approaches and initiatives.

Crime prevention programs have been operating in different locations, targeting different crimes, with management by different agencies for some time, with varying results.

Often these activities have not been well coordinated, resulting in a duplication of activities and an increase in red tape.

### **A new Crime Prevention Framework for NSW**

The NSW Government has developed a Crime Prevention Framework which substantially refocusses, strengthens and coordinates activities at both the State and local levels which aim to reduce crime levels, deter criminal

activities, increase community safety, and minimise the occurrence of anti-social behaviour. The Framework ensures a coordinated approach to the achievement of crime reduction goals identified in the NSW State Plan.

### **Meeting the goals of the State Plan**

In the NSW State Plan released in 2006, the Government committed to reducing crime rates (State Plan Priority R1), re-offending rates (R2) and levels of anti-social behaviour (R3) over a period of 10 years. Broad targets have been set including a:

- 15% reduction in the incidence of property crimes against households;
- 10% reduction in the incidence of violent crime against individuals; and
- 10% reduction in the proportion of offenders who re-offend within 24 months.

See <http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/> for more information.

In addition to these State-wide issues, different locations around NSW have different local crime issues.

The Crime Prevention Framework recognises that, to achieve its objectives, initiatives must target specific crimes using hard data to identify priority areas both at a State and local level. This ensures there is a focus on the most prevalent crime types and the communities that experience the most crime.

The Crime Prevention Framework is designed to achieve the targets for crime reduction identified in the State Plan. Under the Framework, the broad State-wide priorities are translated into tangible extended local targets, utilising agreed crime data, and with consideration given to the current local crime environment and agencies' capacity to respond. Participating agencies focus on these prioritised crimes and locations. While each agency maintains responsibility for its core service delivery, coordination of efforts targeting agreed priority locations and crime types prevents duplication and reduces crime.

### **Oversight by the Crime Prevention Steering Group**

At a senior, State-wide level, the coordination of crime prevention is situated with the Crime Prevention Steering Group.

The Steering Group is made up of Executive Officers from three agencies that are central to the implementation, operation and coordination of crime prevention and reduction activities in NSW: Attorney General's Department, NSW Police Force, and Department of Premier and Cabinet. Specifically, the Steering Group consists of:

- Assistant Director General, Crime Prevention and Community Programs Division, Attorney General's Department
- Deputy Commissioner Field Operations, NSW Police Force
- Director Operations, Department of Premier and Cabinet

While individual agencies maintain their commitment to a range of crime prevention and reduction initiatives, the Steering Group has a mandate to ensure cross-agency collaboration on agreed priority strategies.

Secretariat support for the Steering Group is provided by the Attorney General's Department.

Data analysis is performed by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, with input from other agencies. The results of this process will be released publicly as part of the Government's reporting on the State Plan.

### **Improved coordination and cooperation between Government and non-Government agencies**

Through the Crime Prevention Steering Group, the Attorney General's Department, NSW Police Force, and Department of Premier and Cabinet work closely together and coordinate crime prevention and reduction activities and strategies in NSW.

Given the broad range of agencies that can contribute to the reduction of different crime types, the Steering Group engages with different stakeholders as appropriate. Stakeholders may be engaged through Working Groups, whose membership is drawn from a number of key agencies (such as the Departments of Corrective Services, Juvenile Justice, Community Services, Local Government, Housing, Health, and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing). Working Group membership depends on the issues to be addressed.

The Steering Group regularly consults stakeholder representative groups (such as the Victims' Advisory Board, the Local Government and Shires Associations, the Australian Hotels' Association, and Clubs NSW) and provides them with a forum in which to raise crime prevention issues with the Steering Group, by inviting them to Steering Group meetings on a regular basis.

The Crime Prevention Steering Group reports to the Cabinet Standing Committee on the State Plan, which is chaired by the Premier, through the NSW Police Force State Plan Priority Delivery Committee, which also reports to the Human Services and Justice CEOs Forum.

As needed, the Steering Group requests the assistance of Regional Coordination Management Groups (RCMGs), which are comprised of senior agency representatives at the regional level. RCMGs meet regularly to consider matters of significance to the relevant region. As no RCMG exists in the Sydney Metro region, an existing Senior Officers' Group in Sydney is utilised for this purpose. Members of the RCMGs and the Senior Officers' Group may be called on to facilitate the re-prioritisation of resources and the removal of roadblocks to project implementation.

## **Coordinated crime prevention funding**

There are a range of agencies funding crime prevention in NSW. In order to maximise the effectiveness of funding, align efforts, avoid duplication, and improve crime prevention and reduction outcomes, the Steering Group coordinates program and grant-based crime prevention funding. Funding from agencies not represented on the Steering Group is negotiated by Steering Group members with Executive members of those agencies.

In addition to engaging support from the private sector, the Steering Group negotiates with the Commonwealth Government to better coordinate and focus Commonwealth and State crime prevention funding and to align funding with State Plan objectives.

The Steering Group also encourages relevant agencies to fund crime prevention and reduction activities through the re-prioritisation of existing resources and budgets.

## **Strengthened local crime prevention**

Under the Framework, there are two separate but related approaches to crime prevention and reduction planning at the local level across NSW. In the majority of local government areas, crime prevention planning occurs through the creation of Safer Community Compacts led by the local council. In some priority locations there is a more focused approach through the creation of Crime Prevention Partnerships.

### *Local council crime prevention planning*

Local councils have long had a close and essential involvement with crime prevention at the local level. Local councils have statutory responsibility for the creation of Safer Community Compacts, which are local crime prevention plans approved by the Attorney General, through which local councils can access funding from the Attorney General's Department for crime prevention and reduction initiatives.

Revised Crime Prevention Planning Guidelines developed by the Attorney General's Department prescribe a streamlined, evidence-based approach, which encourages a situational approach to crime prevention. The Attorney General's Department's Guidelines identify NSW Police Force as the co-lead agency with local council in the development of Safer Community Compacts.

Under the Framework, crime prevention plans developed by local councils are submitted to the Attorney General for approval as Safer Community Compacts. Local councils whose crime prevention plans are endorsed by the Attorney General as Safer Community Compacts are eligible to apply to the Attorney General for funding to implement strategies from the plan.

Copies of approved Safer Community Compacts are provided to the relevant RCMG and the Steering Group to ensure members are aware of local crime prevention and reduction activities and are able to provide their support as

needed. Where a Safer Community Compact is not achieving its goals, the Compact is referred to the Steering Group for consideration and action.

### *Crime Prevention Partnerships*

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 extended CPP 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.

CPPs meet regularly to develop local solutions to local crime problems. CPPs focus on all non-domestic violence crime-related State Plan targets. Domestic violence is a priority area for the Government and a separate strategy is being developed to coordinate activities aimed at preventing this serious crime.

CPPs are chaired by the NSW Police Force Local Area Commander, with the Deputy Chair being a representative from the local council.

In priority areas, CPPs are tasked with developing Crime Prevention Partnership Action Plans which align their local crime prevention and reduction objectives with the extended targets set by the Steering Group. Local councils have a key role to play in the development of these Action Plans in locations where CPPs are operational.

CPP Action Plans are submitted to the Steering Group for assessment against the targets and objectives identified by the Steering Group and which are aligned with the State Plan. Once approved by the Steering Group, an Action Plan can also be submitted by the relevant local council to the Attorney General for evaluation and endorsement as a Safer Community Compact in order to access funding as regulated by the legislation.

The participation of local councils in CPPs and the development of Action Plans ensures that crime prevention planning undertaken by local councils and CPPs are complementary and do not lead to duplication of resources.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has lead responsibility for initiating and supporting CPPs across NSW, working closely with the NSW Police Force and Attorney General's Department to do so.

### **Opportunities for increased community participation**

Non-Government agencies and community members are encouraged to participate in crime prevention planning at both the State and local levels under the Crime Prevention Framework.

The Steering Group engages stakeholder representative groups on relevant issues and ensures they are provided with an opportunity to participate in crime prevention planning by inviting them to Steering Group meetings on a regular basis.

Community Safety Precinct Committees are the vehicle through which the NSW Police Force and Government agencies consult with the community and other key stakeholders on crime prevention and community safety issues at a local level. Precinct Committees are being established in Local Area Commands across the State. Where CPPs are established in priority areas, Precinct Committees comprise their formal consultative arm. Precinct Committees also provide an opportunity for Local Area Commanders to disseminate accurate local crime information and raise awareness of local crime prevention and reduction approaches. Precinct Committees will replace Police Accountability Community Teams.

Other forums for community participation in crime prevention planning around specific issues continue to exist, such as the Aboriginal Community Working Party.

### **Victims of crime will have a voice**

The Crime Prevention Framework acknowledges the important role victims' groups can play in crime prevention. The Steering Group will be advised on a regular basis by the Victims' Advisory Board. Victims' groups operating at a local level are encouraged to participate in local crime prevention activities through the Community Safety Precinct Committees.

### **All relevant crime prevention initiatives will come under the Framework**

Other initiatives designed to prevent crime, reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, reduce crime levels, improve community safety and address the public's fear of crime are also coordinated at the State level by the Steering Group. Examples include Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot Projects and Youth Conduct Orders.

At a local level where a Crime Prevention Partnership has been established, all crime prevention initiatives, including the Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot Project and Youth Conduct Orders, are coordinated through the local CPP. In



non-CPP locations the arrangements in place prior to the implementation of the Framework continue to apply.

### **A separate, dedicated strategy for domestic violence**

The Crime Prevention Framework addresses a broad range of crime types and crime-related issues. However, domestic violence is the subject of a separate, specific strategy. Domestic violence is a shameful crime that erodes the safety, security and happiness of too many families across NSW. The safety of NSW families is a vital issue which must receive the full focus of dedicated interventions.

# Crime Prevention Framework Structure

