



Safe City Strategy 2007–2012



city of villages

PREFACE

All over the world the problems associated with crime and safety issues in our cities provide ongoing challenges for the public sector as well as key business groups, community organisations and local residents. Annual spending on law and order in Australia alone runs into several billion dollars and this does not take in to account the significant emotional costs affecting victims, their families and the broader community. While Sydney is by international standards a safe city the Safe City Strategy emphasises that we can always work better together in order to make our city an even safer place.

The Safe City Strategy 2007–2012 provides an overarching framework to guide the City and its partners in tackling the complex range of crime and safety issues affecting both the Central Business District and our urban villages. This is in recognition that the causes of crime are complex, many and varied and that only by working together effectively on a broad range of issues can we continue to create safer, vibrant and more prosperous communities.

SAFE CITY STRATEGY

The Safe City Strategy:

- provides a framework to direct the work of the City of Sydney in addressing priority crime and safety issues;
- responds to a series of identified key issues based on evidence from research and information from the Police and community stakeholders;
- acknowledges the work of other units of council as integral components of a coordinated approach to addressing the identified issues; and
- recognises that the crime and safety issues facing the City are changeable and that evolving practice and unique local conditions will always give rise to new ways of preventing crime and achieving a safer city.

Aim

To improve actual and perceived safety across the City of Sydney.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour – including addressing domestic and non-domestic assaults, targeting steal from motor vehicle offences, reducing steal from person offences, reducing fraud, tackling victimisation of international students and visitors and providing crime prevention information to residents and business.

2. Tackle complex crime and safety issues in areas of public housing – including delivering the Creating a Safer Community Project aimed at addressing fear of crime asocial exclusion, council representation at relevant forums and creating a Public Housing Liaison Officer position.

3. Improve the look and feel of our public spaces – by delivering good urban design, ongoing CPTED Protocol Referral with NSW Police, extending the CCTV Street Safety Camera Network, initiating community safety audits, rapid graffiti removal, delivering high quality cleansing services, improved street lighting and the reactivation of laneways and public parks.

4. Deliver primary prevention and early intervention initiatives – including increasing opportunities for recreation and learning and investing in programs which increase the chances of vulnerable children and young people and their families at key transition points in life.

5. Target first time offenders released from prison – including supporting the StAMP Project which provides a mentoring support program to ex-offenders

6. Strengthen communities and increase opportunities for people to engage in legitimate activities – recognising the specific needs and developing appropriate responses to key community groups including Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD), older people, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities and women.

7. Advocate to higher levels of government for more resources aimed at crime prevention – recognising that the City has an important role to play in ensuring that federal and state government continue to support initiatives aimed at reducing and preventing crime at the local level.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of Sydney is committed to a crime prevention approach that:

- delivers a measurable reduction in crime;
- improves quality of life for all members of the City community;
- delivers best practice, evidence-based and economically viable solutions that provide the greatest benefit to all members of the City community;
- works in partnership and in meaningful consultation with other levels of government, business and residential communities;
- includes an active advocacy role that promotes comprehensive and coordinated public policy responses to crime;
- recognises that crime and the causes of crime are complex and require multi-faceted strategies which address the needs of specific locations and target groups;
- recognises the need for primary prevention and early intervention; and
- respects the right of all community members to use public spaces.

CONCLUSION

The Safe City Strategy recognises that there are many contributing factors to crime and that simplistic solutions such as more police and tougher sentencing do not address the underlying causes of crime. The Strategy has an emphasis on crime prevention, recognising that by investing in building and strengthening our communities at the local level we can in turn create a safer city. Above all, the Strategy has a focus on shared responsibility – that ultimately all of us are responsible for our own and each other's sense of safety and security.