

MAXIMISING OUTCOMES IN COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION PLANS

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Slideshow presented at:

Delivering crime prevention : making the evidence work

Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney

21-22 November 2005



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This conference was organised by the Australian Institute of Criminology in conjunction with the Crime Prevention Division of the New South Wales Attorney General's Department.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2005-cp/>

Maximising outcomes in community crime prevention plans

Patrick Shepherdson

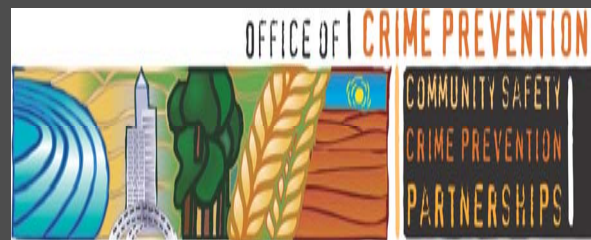
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Delivering Crime Prevention: Making the evidence work



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Disclaimer

This research presentation does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Australian Government.



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Workshop Overview

This workshop aims to:

- Demonstrate the response of the OCP and CPD to the challenges in promoting CP
- Provoke thought on practical crime prevention (CP) implementation



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This workshop will discuss:

- NSW experience
 - Evaluating crime prevention three years on
 - Implementing evaluation findings
 - Challenge and response
 - Where to from here
- WA experience
 - Current processes used
 - Experiences so far
 - Strengths and challenges
- Lessons learnt (AIC)



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...Overarching questions...

- An evidence-based approach to crime prevention planning suggest crime prevention agencies allocate resources to priority areas. How do we then maintain effective support for other areas to continue their involvement in crime prevention?

- Given that it is often difficult for us to demonstrate an outcome through crime statistics, what other evidence can we use to demonstrate a crime prevention outcome from our work?



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NSW Crime Prevention Planning Model

- Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997
- Local govt- led planning supported by advisory committee
- Priorities informed by crime data and community input
- Act provides for assess to funding for endorsed plans



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Strengths of the model

- Changed perception of causes of crime/ broader responsibility for responding
- Advisory committees nurtured improved collaboration-utilised for other “whole of government” strategies
- Many demonstrate crime reduction particularly property crime strategies (B&E; steal from dwelling, steal from retail) and alcohol related offences



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Challenges and Responses

- Legislation only provides for Councils to lead
 - Some councils lack resources, willingness and/or capacity
- Response:
 1. Consider options for other lead
 2. Strengthen resources and support
 3. Streamline and simplify the model
 4. Align model with council's mandated responsibilities



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Challenge and response:

Challenge: Encouraging evidence-based approach in absence for mandate

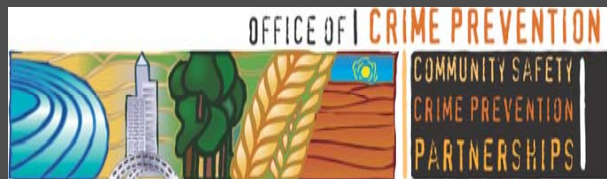
Response

1. Division to develop crime profile, focussed on one or two priority offences
2. Provide examples of projects that have successfully impacted on the crime
3. Local participation of agencies with expertise and access to the target audience



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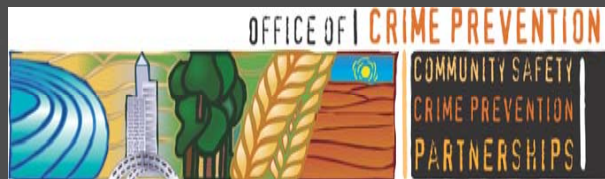
Challenge and Response NSW

- Challenge: Negotiating “whole of government” participation
 - Model suggests whole of government, yet many councils have difficulty in engaging key agencies. Regional services burdened by myriad of ‘whole of government’ programmes
- Response:
 1. Formalise central support and proactively engage at a local level (WA approach)
 2. Allow model to complement other ‘whole of government’ strategies (eg Community Drug Action Strategy)



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Challenge and response

- Challenge: Linking early intervention strategies to crime prevention outcome
- Response:
 1. Focus on offence, rather than risk
 2. Early intervention strategies and agencies engaged for broader strategies to underpin offence reduction strategies



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The Office of Crime Prevention

- Office of Crime Prevention established in 2001
- Located within Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Develops policy on law and order issues
- Initiates & manages crime reduction projects/programs
- Develops & implements new legislation
- Provides funding to community organisations
- Provides support & funding to Local Government in developing community safety and crime prevention plans



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WA community safety and crime prevention planning strategy

- Review of former crime prevention strategy undertaken in 2002.
- State Crime Prevention Strategy
- Local govt- led planning supported by advisory committee
- Priorities informed by crime data and community input
- Endorsed plans provide access to funding



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Strategy Strengths

- Encourages Community Capacity
- Strengthens Local Government and State Government Relationship'
- Flexibility
- Targeted and Coordinated
- ABS and WA show shared trends



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Challenges

- Local Government Workload
- Sustainability
- Whole of Government Approach
- Evaluation



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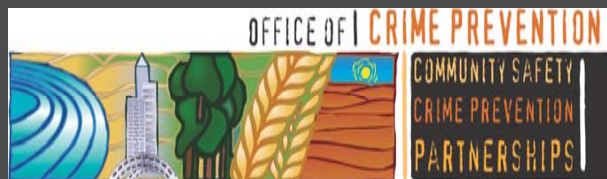
Responses

- OCP Support (LGA Workload)
ideally all LGAs would benefit from an officer who had crime prevention as their core business
- Multifaceted Approach
commitment to partners essential
- Human Services Directors General Group
ensure strong relationship exists
- Qualitative and Opinion
respect multi- evaluation approach



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Future focus

- Endorsement of Plans
 - Recurrent themes aligning with national trends
- Importance of State Government Agency Engagement
- Crime Prevention forming part of core business
- Choice to participate- not legislative



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- Australian Institute of Criminology's role
- Interviews
 - Key stakeholders
 - Opinion of the plans
- Surveys
- Applying what we learnt to WA



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What makes crime prevention plans work: Interviewees

- Enthusiasm and drive
- Good partnerships
- Strong leadership
- Good communication
- Measures to counteract remote LGA problems
- Sustainable funding and plan initiatives



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What we found

- The benefit of structured plans
 - Adds structure, direction
- Funding issues
 - Limited funding can have both good and bad effects
- Importance of flexibility
 - Circumstances change, so plans should adapt



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What we found

- Feedback between lead agencies and local government areas (LGA)
 - Should be constructive and specific
- Need for whole of community approach
 - Strong partnerships essential
- Consider the demographic and social fabric of communities
 - Impacts on project delivery



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LGA issues

- Confusion
 - Role of lead agency
 - Role of the LGA
- Poor evaluation and record keeping techniques
 - Staff turnover
 - No record of activities
 - Limited evaluation
- Funding
 - Unrealistic expectations?



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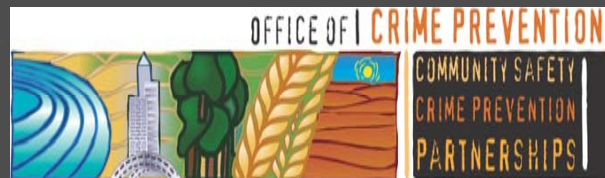
Understanding the causes of success and failure

- Sustainability
 - Aware of financial costs
 - Realistic strategies and objectives
 - Ability to deal with changes
 - Expect the unexpected
 - Evolution of plans
 - Should be expected



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Understanding the causes of success and failure

- Not just relying on numbers
 - Qualitative approaches
- Having concrete plans
 - However should be robust enough to withstand changes
- Evaluation
 - Plan in advance
 - Constantly review performance



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Ongoing questions

- Are we catering to diverse communities?
 - Indigenous issues
 - Minority groups
- How do we assist LGA to choose appropriate strategies?
 - Should we?



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Questions

- What strategies take precedence?
 - Should any?
- How to determine responsibility?
 - Where does the responsibility of the lead agency begin and the LGA's responsibility begin?



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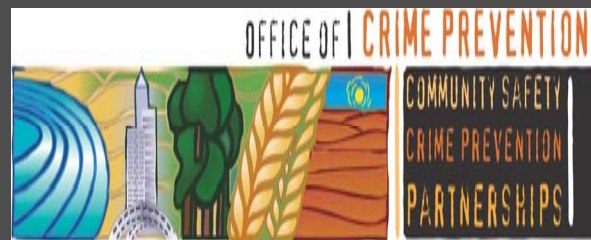
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