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Speech delivered by Adam Graycar:

"Local Government's effective community responses"

at the conference 'Reducing criminality: partnerships and best practice', Perth, 31 July to 1 August 2000

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Local Government's Effective Community Responses

Dr Adam Graycar



- How to make crime harder to commit
- How to reduce the supply of motivated offenders



- Improved feelings of confidence, pride and safety within communities
- Enhanced access to employment and training opportunities
- An increase in average levels of education
- Accessible and relevant local services



- Increasing the effort
- Increasing the risk
- Reducing the rewards



- The police alone cannot control crime and disorder
- No single agency can control crime and disorder
- Agencies with a contribution to reducing crime and disorder need to work in partnership
- Evidence-based problem-solving approaches promise the most effective approach to reducing crime and disorder
- Problems of crime and disorder are complex, and there are therefore no panaceas
- Crime and disorder problems need to be understood in their *local contexts* and strategies need thus to be *locally tailored*



Crimes in Order	Number 1998	Trend 1995-1998
General theft	565,214	Slight rise (+15%)
Unlawful Entry/ Burglary	435,670	Slight rise (+13%)
Assault	132,967	Sharp rise (+30.7%)
Motor Vehicle Theft	131,572	Up & down (+3.5%)
Robbery	23,778	Sharp rise (+63.3%)
Sexual Assault	14,568	Up & down (+11%)
Homicide	333	Decline (-6.5%)



1. Local audit of crime and disorder
2. Local consultation based on the audit
3. Formulation of local strategic priorities and target setting
4. Monitoring and evaluation



- Incidents, victims and offenders
- Incidence, prevalence and concentration
- Time, place and movement
- Households, persons and area
- Signs, sights and measurements
- Criminals, targets and crime methods



City of Greater Dandenong

To create a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment for the City of Greater Dandenong, through a partnership involving Police, Council, agencies and the community.



Objectives

1. To develop and monitor Council policies, strategies, business plans and service provision to reflect community safety issues
2. To promote a safe physical environment that encourages community participation and use of public spaces
3. To facilitate community safety awareness in Council and the Greater Dandenong community
4. To undertake research and data collection on community safety
5. To commit resources to community safety
6. To foster partnerships locally and at the State and Federal Government level
7. To facilitate community information sharing
8. To evaluate the City of Greater Dandenong Community Safety Policy and Community Safety Action Plan in December 1997.



City of Gosnells, WA

*To secure a better, safe, City in which to live and work, and to facilitate a sustainable future for all:
and*

To create a proud, positive and harmonious community which provides opportunities for all



1. To develop strategies at the individual, community and social planning levels to improve safety and security in the City.
2. To establish a community based approach to address the issue of crime in our community.
3. To foster strategic alliances at local, State and Commonwealth government levels to develop, resource and implement integrated community safety strategies.
4. To facilitate an awareness of community safety and security in the community.
5. To ensure that community safety issues are considered in all planning, environmental management, economic development and community service provision decisions.



- In terms of geographic area: \Rightarrow “to reduce crime in specific locations”
- By crime type: \Rightarrow “to reduce residential burglary”
- By victim characteristics: \Rightarrow “to reduce crimes against small businesses”
- By offender characteristics: \Rightarrow “to reduce drug-related crime”



Burglary:

- It represents a significant proportion of the totality of crime;
- It represents a larger proportion of crime than in comparable areas;
- Burglary rates are higher than in comparable areas;
- Burglary is increasing faster than other crimes, or faster than in comparable areas;
- It imposes high costs on victims, who may belong to especially vulnerable groups;
- It is a source of public anxiety; and
- There is something we can do about it.



Aim

To reduce property crime against businesses in a designated block.

Crime reduction objective

To reduce burglary by 50%.

Examples of target outputs and outcomes

Output

- Locks to be replaced on 100% of shops
- Security alarms to be fitted

Outcome

- Achieve a 50% reduction in burglary

Performance indicators

- Burglary rates recorded by police
- Crime survey of burglary incidents
- Burglary attempts recorded
- Claims to insurance companies
- Expenditure on crime prevention measures.



Similar targets can be set and monitored in areas as diverse as:

- Reduced fear of crime in city streets at night
- Reduced fear of crime in open spaces
- Encouraging women to report domestic violence
- Reducing drug-related harm among teenagers
- Reducing vandalism and graffiti, etc. etc.