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Opening address presented by Adam Graycar, 
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"Small business against crime: situational strategies in action"


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Small Business Against Crime: Situational Strategies in Action

Dr Adam Graycar
Crimes against the retail sector (from Australian Bureau of Statistics):

- 1 in 5 burglaries
- 2 in 5 thefts
- 3 in 5 armed robberies
- 1 in 5 unarmed robberies
Crime against Small Business survey (N=4210 respondents):

- 51% experienced some form of crime
- 21% experienced burglary
- 16% experienced vandalism
- 21% experienced theft from premises
- Theft comprised the majority of all reported crime with an average of 404 incidents per 100 premises.
Repeat victimisation

Businesses experiencing:
- theft averaged 19 incidents
- cheque/credit fraud averaged 7 incidents
- employee theft averaged 6 incidents
- assault/intimidation averaged 5 incidents
over a one year period
Multiple victimisation

- 33% of all respondents experienced more than one instance of crime
- 63% of those who experienced some crime suffered repeat and/or multiple victimisation
The table shows the mean number of incidents per business type:

- Pharmacies: 16
- Newsagents/PO: 14
- Service stations: 12
- Hotels/motels: 10
- Supermarkets: 8
- Retail food: 6
- The theft from premises graph color codes are:
  - Red: Completed
  - Green: Attempted
- The x-axis represents the type of business, and the y-axis represents the mean number of incidents per business type.
Mean no. of incidents per business type

- Retail food: 2.5
- Supermarkets: 1.5
- Hotels/motels: 1.0
- Service stations: 0.5
- Newsagents/PO: 0.0
- Pharmacies: 0.0

Employee theft

- Completed
- Attempted
Type of business

Mean no. of incidents per business type

Cheque/credit fraud

Completed
At tempted
Type of business

Mean no. of incidents per business type

Assault/threat
- Completed
- Attempted

Retail food | Supermarkets | Hotels/motels | Service stations | Newsagents/PO | Pharmacies
Business type and vulnerability to crime

• Theft from premises associated more with supermarkets and pharmacies
• Employee theft associated more with retail food outlets
• Cheque and credit card fraud associated with services stations and newsagents/POs
• Assault/threat associated with service stations
Security measures employed by businesses

- 6 in 10 businesses had a burglar alarm
- Of those experiencing crime, 7 in 10 had a burglar alarm
- Businesses with > 20 staff more likely to have burglar alarm (83%) than businesses with 5 or less staff (57%)
Percentage of businesses with burglar alarm

![Bar chart showing the percentage of businesses with burglar alarms by type of business.]

- Retail food: 30%
- Supermarkets: 60%
- Hotels/motels: 70%
- Service stations: 80%
- Newsagents/PO: 90%
- Pharmacies: 100%

Type of business vs. Percentage with burglar alarm.
Other security measures in place

• 21% had electronic floor surveillance
• 13% had dummy cameras
• 43% had security lighting
• 44% had window protection

• Only 7% of all respondents had no security measure in place
Summary of main findings

• Repeat victimisation is high and accounts for majority of reported crimes.

Need detailed knowledge of characteristics of repeat victims and surrounding environments. Preventing repeat victimisation may also prevent a substantial proportion of crimes.
Summary

• A small number of premises account for a large proportion of reported crimes

CPTED principles do not work in isolation or across the board – they need to be tailored according to the situation. This means identifying risk factors and implementing an appropriate CPTED strategy.
Summary

• Different types of business experience different types of crime

Understanding which crimes affect which businesses will allow better and more effective intervention strategies
Summary

• The majority of businesses have some form of security measure. Smaller businesses are less likely than larger businesses to have a burglar alarm.

Implementing security measures are weighed against losses from crime. Security measures need to fit the crime.