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Speech presented by Adam Graycar, Director,
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"Crime and community safety"

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Australian Institute of Criminology



<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Crime and Community Safety

Dr Adam Graycar



Crime Prevention

- Reduce the supply of potential and motivated offenders**

- Make crime harder to commit**



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Crime follows opportunity



Crimes in Order	Number 2000	Trend 1995-2000
General theft	674,813	Sharp rise (+38%)
Unlawful Entry/ Burglary	436,865	Slight rise (+13%)
Assault	141,124	Sharp rise (+39%)
Motor Vehicle Theft	139,094	Up & down (+9%)
Robbery	23,314	Sharp rise (+60%)
Sexual Assault	15,630	Up & down (+19%)
Homicide	346	Decline (-3%)



The key aims in developing a strategy against crime and disorder in any community, focus on:

- **Reducing the community's vulnerability to crime and violence;**
- **Diverting potential offenders into more constructive activities; and**
- **Supporting and empowering those who have become victims of crime.**



The key features are:

- **The involvement of community members and workers in projects, strategies, networks and committees to prevent violence and crime; and**
- **The creation and expansion of opportunities for all people to live, work, socialise and play without feeling threatened or harassed.**



Community strengthening will give outcomes such as:

- 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.**



Three processes which shape crime prevention are:

- **Instil respect for the law**
- **Regulate the conduct of people**
- **Afford protection to persons and property by routine precautions and security measurement.**



Situational crime prevention involves:

- **Increasing the effort**
- **Increasing the risks**
- **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.**