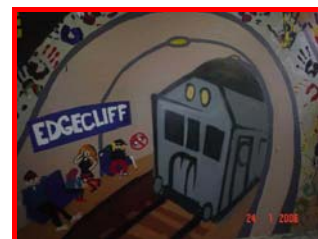




Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan 2007 - 2010



Adopted 29 January 2007

Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Crime Prevention Plan (the Plan) has been developed to reduce the public's fear of crime and actual crime from occurring in Woollahra. It aims to provide Woollahra Council (Council) with a framework to implement strategies to prevent crime so that public and private spaces are safe, attractive and well cared for. This will encourage the prevention of criminal activity so the community can freely interact in all aspects of community life.

Council has a long commitment to community safety and crime prevention, commencing in 1988 with the establishment of the Community Consultative Committee. This commitment is demonstrated through the current Community Safety Committee, where issues regarding crime and safety are discussed. The Plan incorporates issues arising from consultations with the Police, the community and service providers, analyses the crime statistics of Woollahra and identifies various crime prevention strategies for implementation.

Across Australia crime rates are declining, perhaps because of improved socio-economic conditions overall. Although there is no crime wave in Woollahra and its rate of crime can be considered to be stable overall Woollahra has rated in the Top 50 Local Government Areas in NSW over the past two years in the offences of steal from person, steal from a motor vehicle, break and enter, robbery and motor vehicle theft.

1.1 Aims of the Crime Prevention Plan

The Crime Prevention Plan aims to identify and address crime prevention to:

- make Woollahra a safe place in which to live, work and visit;
- identify priorities for strategic action to decrease crime, fear of crime and to reduce anti social behaviour;
- ensure that public places are safe, attractive and well cared for so that fear of crime is reduced and spaces are well used by the community;
- ensure that community services and activities which prevent or deter anti-social behaviour and/or support vulnerable groups and victims of crime are available;
- facilitate development of a community with strong social bonds, where people take a pride in their neighbourhood and public spaces;
- raise awareness of home and community safety measures through promotion and availability;
- ensure that crime prevention programs and projects are accessible to people with a disability and provided in a manner that is linguistically and culturally appropriate; and
- monitor priority crime problems.

1.2 The Role of Council, the Police and the Community

A number of agencies have a role in the prevention of crime, including Federal, State and Local Government, the Police and the wider community. Council has four important roles in crime prevention that include; designing out crime, addressing the social causes of offending, coordinating safety strategies in partnership with others, and the promotion of crime prevention awareness.

The community at large can assist crime prevention efforts by providing information about crime to Police and by working in partnership with Police through initiatives such as Volunteers in Policing, Neighbourhood Watch, and Community Safety Committees.

1.3 Key Strategies

This Plan identifies crime prevention strategies in the priority areas of public safety, property crime, personal safety, drugs and alcohol and crimes against children.

The following crime issues have been prioritised with community education identified as a key strategy to address each of these issues:

- Malicious damage (graffiti)
- Stealing in Paddington
- Break and Enter (dwelling)
- Steal from a motor vehicle
- Motor vehicle theft
- Domestic Violence
- Assaults
- Steal from a person (seniors)
- Illicit drug usage
- Child Protection

This Plan will detail the community education and associated projects that aim to reduce crime and fear of crime in Woollahra over the next three years, 2007 - 2010.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Plan Rationale

The Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan is designed to guide the efforts of Woollahra Council in implementing projects to improve crime in the Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA). The suburbs that are part of the Woollahra LGA include: Bellevue Hill, Darling Point, Double Bay, Edgecliff, Paddington, Point Piper, Rushcutters Bay, Vacluse, Watsons Bay and Woollahra. Woollahra has a population of 49,911, with 24% of the population over the age of 55 (ABS, 2001).

The wider community has long expressed its interest in identifying safety issues and finding ways to prevent or reduce opportunities for crime, to make public places safer and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Plan builds on the efforts of many local residents, Councillors, Council staff, local business groups, community groups and the Police who have worked together since the first Police Community Consultative Committee was established in 1988. The role of this Committee was to identify and respond to community concerns about crime and safety. Now named The Woollahra Community Safety Committee it will discuss priorities for projects to be undertaken and provide advice to Council on implementation of the Plan.

This Plan details a list of projects determined by the local community that can improve the safety of the community at large, encourage community members to take action to protect their own safety and to implement projects to safeguard the most vulnerable groups in Woollahra. In preparing the Plan, Woollahra Council has adopted a comprehensive approach to identify crime and safety issues by looking at the broad range of risks faced by all age groups in the community. The Plan also examines crime statistics showing which crimes are most prevalent.

Finally, the crime prevention strategies are based on sound research, and the projects that we undertake will be evaluated to see if they have had the intended effect in reducing risk and improving crime prevention fostering a greater sense of community safety. This plan includes methods of evaluating the effectiveness of projects undertaken, looking at measurable outputs and intended outcomes. The plan will be reported to Council annually.

2.2 The Role of Council in Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention is the responsibility of the Police, the wider community and Local, State and Federal Governments. The combined efforts of these groups contribute to the reduction in crime and fear of crime in our community. This Plan concentrates on the role of Council in crime prevention.

Council has four important roles in Crime Prevention, including designing out crime, addressing the social causes of offending, coordinating safety strategies in partnership with others and the promotion of crime prevention awareness.

"Design out" Crime

Council can assist significantly with situational crime prevention measures by "designing out" crime:

- from public spaces, by ensuring that public spaces are designed to maximise safety through removing objects or situations that may create the chance for crime to occur.
- from private spaces by encouraging residents and commercial property owners to adopt safe design measures for their private property.

In partnership with others, Council can encourage management of public spaces to ensure that they are well cared for and encourage a sense of ownership by residents. When trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, safety audits of existing or planned facilities may be undertaken to increase crime prevention and reduce risks to residents.

The role of Council is increasing in regards to the security of residential buildings. This occurs through planning controls and the Development Application (DA) approvals process. The Woollahra Residential Development Control Plan (RDCP) 1999 has regard to safety in the public domain applying to residential areas. "The General Controls for 5.1 Streetscapes has an objective 04" *"to ensure a safe environment by promoting crime prevention through design"*.¹

In regard to motor vehicle theft, Council has a role in ensuring that car parks are well designed and well lit to minimise opportunities for theft. Council's important role is ensuring that public spaces are made safer by design.

Council also has a role in creating safer environments for women through the application of CPTED Principles in public areas. Local community groups can assist in identifying areas that feel unsafe or where attacks have occurred so that a local safety audit can be undertaken. An environment which is safe enough for women is safe for all the community.

Address social causes of offending

Council can have a role in addressing the underlying social causes of offending by seeking to influence the behaviour of those most likely to offend. This can be done by strengthening social infrastructure and putting in place social support services to reduce risk factors associated with offending, e.g. youth services, community drug action programs. Council can undertake or support others in developing programs to address social issues.

Coordinate safety strategies in partnership with others

Council has a major administrative role in coordinating implementation of crime prevention strategies. Council convenes and services regular meetings of the Community Safety Committee to co-ordinate community efforts. Council can also work in partnership with the Police e.g. to encourage residents to report crime. It may negotiate with local service providers or State government agencies to ensure that victims of crime receive information and referral support.

¹ Under 5.1.3 Performance Criteria in regard to the Pedestrian environment contain safety by design provisions such that:

P9: Major pedestrian, cycle and vehicle thoroughfares are identified and reinforced as safe routes through: appropriate lighting; casual surveillance from houses; minimised opportunities for concealment; landscaping which allows long distance sight lines between buildings and the street; and avoidance of blind corners.

P10: Lighting is provided to pedestrian ways, dwelling entries, driveways and car parks to ensure a high level of safety and security at night

P11: Individual dwellings are well lit and readily identifiable by visitors and emergency vehicles through clear house numbering and visibility.

Council may work directly with local residents and community groups to participate in local safety audits, and local safety campaigns and activities.

Promote Crime Prevention Awareness

Council can assist to maximise community awareness of safety issues through improving the availability and accessibility of safety information. Options to be considered include:

- Providing information about Community Safety on Council's website. This site could collate existing materials and provide links to other sites of safety information.
- Council's Annual Report
- Council's Management Plan
- Wentworth Courier
- Community Safety Committee meetings
- Woollahra/Waverly Youth Safety Network
- Safety booklets and brochures can be distributed through pamphlet racks in the Library and its branches, and at Customer Services areas at Council Chambers.

2.3 The Role of the Police in Crime Prevention

Traditionally, the role of Police was reactive rather than preventative. In their reactive role Police respond to actual incidents of crime, attend the scene, collect evidence and pursue investigations to apprehend and prosecute offenders. However, in the last twenty years there has been a growing emphasis on Police having a pro-active role in crime prevention.

Police now use *a problem oriented policing* approach to crime using several strategies. The main strategy used is called *directed patrols*. Police gather intelligence, analyse crime patterns regularly, target known criminals and direct police patrols to trouble spots.

Through *community policing* initiatives Police carry out community safety information programs, undertake social prevention activities such as Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) activities and engage in partnerships with residents and business groups through Community Safety Committees and the Police Accountability Community Team (PACT). PACT is the most recent state wide Police initiative aimed at finding local solutions to crime, improving service delivery and accountability and allowing community input into the deployment of police resources. Rose Bay Local Area Command (LAC) holds regular PACT Executive and public meetings. By fostering close links with residents, Police are more aware of local issues, such as anti-social behaviour that may lead to crime. They can then undertake proactive crime prevention activities tailored to local needs, such as distribution of appropriate crime prevention information and by increasing police patrols of problem places at appropriate times.

Paradoxically improved Police effectiveness in proactive policing can lead to higher crime figures rather than lower statistics. For example, rises in the incidence of street offences, drug detections and receiving stolen goods can indicate that Police are detecting more crime. A successful community campaign to encourage reporting of crime would also result in an apparent increase in crime statistics.

2.4 The Role of the Community in Crime Prevention

The community at large can assist crime prevention efforts by providing information about crime to Police and by working in partnership with Police through initiatives such as Volunteers in Policing, Neighbourhood Watch, and Community Safety Committees.

Reporting Crime

- An accurate statistical record of the level of crime in a community depends upon crimes being reported to Police. If crimes are not reported they cannot be resolved or prevented. However many victims of crime do not report crime or attempted crime to the police for a variety of reasons. Police have attempted to make it easier for the general public to report crime by setting up hotlines such as:
 - PAL (Police Assistance Line 131 444) for minor crimes which are not in progress, do not involve traumatised victims or require urgent police attention or attendance.
 - Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000) for reporting information about crime or criminal behaviour. Police use this information to solve crimes and to apprehend offenders.

Neighbourhood Watch

This program encourages individual and community participation in preventing and reducing property crime and improving personal safety. It encourages higher levels of safety and security (household, business and personal) among members and others through activities such as marking and engraving property, recording property details etc. It assists Police intelligence gathering by encouraging members to report crime and suspicious activity in their neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood Watch groups also assist Police with community awareness activities such as distributing crime prevention information in shopping centres and in letterboxes in their area.

Community Safety Committee

By participating on a Community Safety Committee members of the community can identify issues of local concern, and suggest strategies that are appropriate to local circumstances and most likely to be effective in their community. Committees identify priorities for crime prevention. Committee meetings can provide opportunities for co-operation between Police, Council and other agencies and authorities and Committee members sometimes participate in research activities such as conducting safety audits and evaluation or monitoring activities.

2.5 History of Community Crime Prevention Initiatives in Woollahra

In 1988, The Rose Bay Police Commander, Inspector Ray Durham established a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) as part of a statewide Police initiative to provide a consultative process between the general community and Patrol Commanders in support of Community Based Policing.

The emphasis was on stopping crime before it happened by pro-active community based policing rather than reactive policing measures. It aimed to achieve a decrease in criminal activity, an increase in perceptions of personal safety, better reporting of crime and increased protection for potential victims of crime. The CCC undertook a survey of community attitudes and perceptions of police. It soon decided that its priorities would be:

- welfare of teenagers
- personal Safety

- protection of property

Sub-committees were established and developed projects on these issues.

By 1992 the Committee's main aims were to:

- conduct a program on alcohol education in schools to reduce under age drinking.
- give instruction to the elderly in self help methods.
- provide a bus service throughout the area of operation, extending from parts of council areas in South Sydney, Woollahra, Waverley and from the suburbs of Rushcutters Bay to Watson's Bay.

In 1994, the Rose Bay Patrol Commander, Colin Campbell sought the community's assistance in crime prevention. The major issues / aims at that time were to:

- reduce property crime by working with local residents to further develop the Neighbourhood Watch program.
- reduce vandalism and offensive behaviour by working with the community to target problem groups and locations.
- reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and property stolen from motor vehicles by deploying police to problem areas.
- reduce alcohol and drug related offences by working in consultation with the community to target problem locations.

In 1995 the NSW Council on Crime Prevention was established by the Premier with the participation of the Minister for Local Government. The Crime Prevention Division was set up within Attorney General's Department and local government was encouraged to participate in Crime Prevention. The NSW Police Service moved to establish regional and local "Patrol Customer Councils" to replace Community Consultative Committees, but the new name was not adopted by the Rose Bay CCC.

In April 1998, the inaugural meeting of the Woollahra Community Safety Council was held. Taskforces were established to focus on personal safety, youth safety, and graffiti issues. Representatives from these taskforces and delegates from Neighbourhood Watch groups met together on the Community Safety Council.

In October 2002 the first PACT meeting was held. This new NSW Police initiative invited community members, Members of Parliament, representatives from Council and its staff, to meet with police at regular intervals. This forum established a formal mechanism to ensure that Police from the LAC communicate directly with the community on a regular basis and are more accountable to local communities about their concerns.

In 2002 Council established the Woollahra / Waverley Youth Safety Network. This group includes representatives from both Councils, Waverley Action for Youth (WAYS), Point Zero, Bondi Outreach Project and Youth Liaison Officers (YLO's) from Waverley and Rose Bay LAC's and meets monthly to respond to issues or youth problems arising.

In June 2003, after a consultation process with all community members who had participated on the Community Safety Council, new Terms of Reference for a Council Advisory Committee to be known as the Community Safety Committee were adopted by Woollahra Council.

In 2006, consultation with community committees and individuals were undertaken to confirm and re-categorise priorities for the Plan. The groups/people involved with this process were as follows:

Woollahra Council Community Safety Committee
Woollahra Councillors
Superintendent, Commander Rose Bay Local Area Command
Youth Liaison Officer, Waverley Local Area Command
Woollahra/Waverley Youth Safety Network
Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Network
Rose Bay/ Paddington Liquor Accord
Waverley Aged Care Assessment Team
Rose Bay North Neighbourhood Watch
Rose Bay Neighbourhood Watch South
Double Bay Neighbourhood Watch
Watsons Bay Neighbourhood Watch
HarbourView Residents Group
Little Paddington Task Force
Point Zero Youth Services
Waverley Action for Youth Services
Bondi Outreach Project
Rose Bay Rotary
Member for Bligh Representative
Wentworth Courier
Volunteer in Policing
Local representatives from various Chambers of Commerce
Waverley Domestic Violence Court Assistance
Staying Home Leaving Violence, Eastern Sydney
Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women
The Deli
Randwick Road Safety Officer
Office of Gaming and Racing
Randwick Community Drug Action Team
Woollahra Council Community Services Staff
Local Business
Local Residents

The Community Safety Committee along with the Woollahra/Waverley Youth Safety Committee formalises Woollahra Council's commitment to crime prevention and the implementation of the Crime Prevention Plan, once adopted.

3.0 Background to Crime Prevention Planning

3.1 Understanding Crime Prevention Principles

*Effective crime prevention is any action that causes a reduction in the level of criminal activity and resulting harm or in the number of criminal offenders and their victims. The focus is on the causes of crime rather than its effect, aiming to significantly reduce or eliminate the factors that can lead crime.*²

Crime prevention can be initiated and implemented on three levels - primary, secondary and tertiary crime prevention.

Primary crime prevention means addressing the problem before it happens. This involves reducing opportunities for crime and strengthening community and social structures. Primary prevention focuses on social and situational factors.

Secondary crime prevention aims to change those people who are at high risk of criminal behaviour. This involves rapid and effective early interventions particularly in high-risk neighbourhoods.

Tertiary crime prevention means apprehension and punishment of offenders through the criminal justice system.

This Plan will implement primary and secondary crime prevention through a range of effective measures, including situational crime prevention and social crime prevention. By addressing primary and secondary crime prevention it aims to reduce the need to undertake tertiary crime prevention.

3.2 Situational Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention measures aim to reduce the level of criminal activities by making crime more difficult, risky or less rewarding through:

- target hardening, target removal, target reduction, (e.g. installation of security locks, car immobilisers)
- natural or casual surveillance (e.g. strategic placement of features such as windows, lighting, so that users can be seen; sighting cafes or kiosks in parks so there are more people using the area)
- formal surveillance (e.g. increased police patrols, closed circuit TV, security guards)
- control of crime means (e.g. regulating availability of guns, knives, spray cans, alcohol, drugs),
- access control (e.g. controlling access to certain areas with physical barriers such as fences)
- deflecting offenders to legal activities (e.g. providing alcohol free venues for young teenage dances)

² Australian Institute of Criminology: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/crm/crm001t.html>

The main situational crime prevention measure is CPTED. Using the management and design principles of CPTED provide a guide for situational crime prevention in public and private places.

In 2001, the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning wrote to all Councils with new *Guidelines under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for "Designing Out Crime"* and asked that Council use these Crime Prevention principles in the assessment of DA's.

The Guidelines were developed to help Councils identify crime risk and minimise opportunity for crime through appropriate assessment of development proposals. CPTED principles are now an accepted part of good design and are reflected to some extent in the General Controls in the Woollahra Residential Development Control Plan 1999.

"Criminologists say that design can reduce crime opportunities. A typical offender assesses a potential crime, victim or location before committing a crime. If the risks or costs of committing the crime are greater than its benefits, the potential offender may think twice about committing the crime."

The "Design Out Crime" Guidelines state that: *"Council and Local Police should identify the types of development which will require a crime risk assessment, and prepare a consultation protocol."*

A formal crime risk assessment is needed for any development that is likely, in Council's opinion, to create a risk of crime. Examples include:

- a new/refurbished shopping centre or transport interchange
- a large scale residential development (more than 20 dwellings), or
- development or redevelopment of a mall or other public place, including the installation of new street furniture.

Councils are required to consider the principles in these guidelines when assessing all developments. The four main principles that are used in the assessment of development applications to minimise opportunities for crime in public and private spaces are:

- surveillance
- access control
- territorial reinforcement
- space management

3.3 Social Crime Prevention

Social measures aim to prevent crime by influencing the behaviour of potential offenders and/or influencing the awareness and attitudes of potential victims. Social programs aim to reduce the risk factors associated with offending and victimisation. Early intervention programs aim to reduce juvenile delinquency by supporting positive parenting strategies.

Measures to be considered include community education, social activities, support and referral of young people, education about choices and consequences, provision of parenting education and support. PCYC's traditionally work with high risk communities to target potential offenders and engage them in diversionary activities. These strategies may include long term crime prevention goals as well as having short crime reduction impacts, depending upon the age of the target

group. For example, in some communities juvenile crime is found to be lower at times when youth centres are open.

As well as working to reduce actual crime it is important to take steps to change false perceptions about the type and level of crime committed locally. Fear of crime can change people's lifestyles and day to day routines. Perceptions of crime are distorted by sensational media reporting of isolated incidents and lead to changes in behaviour, which ultimately increase risk to individuals. For example, a public place can become less safe when, out of fear, less people use it, as with reduced usage the level of natural surveillance is reduced. Fear of crime can also detract from health and well-being, contribute to social isolation and have an impact on commerce in some areas.

Conversely, when crime figures reveal that there is an unknown or under-recognised problem it may be necessary to change community perceptions by raising awareness of the true nature of local crime and associated risks. For example, crime studies show that it is young men who are most often the victims of crimes such as assault, yet this is not well known in the community.

Additionally, hidden crimes such as domestic violence may be under reported and strategies may be needed to raise community awareness and ensure that appropriate services are readily available when victims seek assistance. For example, recent research shows that domestic violence victimising older people is more prevalent than commonly recognised, but as yet no age-appropriate telephone help lines or accommodation services are established.³

³. ABS Survey, Women's Safety Australia, 1996 found 1.2% of older women experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. *Survival is Not Enough, Project Reports Two for professionals* Jane Mears and Margaret Sargent, Published by Older Women Speak Up, Sydney 2002 argues that this is an underestimate and that 4.6% of older people are victims of abuse, mostly by family members.

4.0 Crime Profile

4.1 Crime Profile of Woollahra

The following Crime Profile information provides a guide to the categories of crime that require most attention for crime prevention activities in Woollahra. The profile has been compiled from statistics available from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

During the year 2005, crime patterns for most offences largely remained stable or dropped. Table 1 below clearly shows the current crime trends in Woollahra. The table is arranged to show crimes in descending order of frequency.

Table 1. Type of Crime by frequency in Woollahra

	<i>Annual % change 2004 -05</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>Long term trend Annual % change 01-05</i>
<i>Break and enter dwelling</i>	Down -14.4%	1055	1095	876	564	483	Down - 17.7%
<i>Steal from motor vehicle</i>	Down -39.8%	1378	1066	839	871	524	Down - 21.5%
<i>Malicious damage to property</i>	Stable	715	792	515	557	680	Down - 1.2%
<i>Other theft*</i>	Not calculated	735	666	597	431	354	Not calculated
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	Down -34.7%	615	580	351	383	250	Down - 20.5%
<i>Steal from dwelling</i>	Stable	393	404	340	246	196	Down - 16.0%
<i>Other offences*</i>	Not calculated	113	135	109	128	178	Not calculated
<i>Assault - all offences total</i>	Stable	328	352	291	284	276	Stable
<i>Fraud</i>	Stable	216	308	283	268	297	Stable
<i>Break and enter non dwelling</i>	Stable	302	291	196	172	154	Down - 15.5%
<i>Steal from person**</i>	Down -29.0%	179	249	280	176	125	Stable
<i>Steal from retail store</i>	Stable	135	143	132	132	109	Stable
<i>Robbery/ offences against person*</i>	Not calculated	116	89	90	88	54	Not calculated
<i>Drug offences total*</i>	Not calculated	84	80	65	58	100	Not calculated
<i>Against justice procedures total*</i>	Not calculated	66	84	81	76	77	Not calculated
<i>Weapons offences*</i>	Not calculated	42	31	23	38	20	Not calculated
<i>Sexual offences total</i>	Not calculated	42	32	32	49	47	Not calculated
<i>Total Offences</i>		11235	10528	9417	8272	8477	

Statistics collated from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) website.

* Where no trend information is shown it is because these categories were not selected for comparison by the BOCSAR.

** Due to a discontinuity in recording, the trend covers the 17 months from Aug 2001 to Dec 2002. Where a significant trend was found the percentage change shown compared Aug 2001 to Dec 2001 with Aug 2002 to Dec 2002.

According to BOCSAR statistics, crime decreased in Woollahra in the year 2005 compared to 2004. However the long term trends still show that during the period of 5 years between 2001 and 2005, some crimes have remained stable.

- Motor vehicle theft dropped by 20.5%
- Stealing from motor vehicles dropped by 21.5%
- Malicious property damage dropped by 1.2%
- Assault remained stable
- Stealing from a dwelling dropped by 16.0%
- Break and enter dwelling dropped by 17.7%
- Stealing from retail stores remained stable

This does not include offences relating to safety crimes such as driving offenses, suicide and pedestrian safety.

In 2005, there were 276 assaults out of a total population of just over 50,000. Whilst the overall category of assaults remain stable there is some concern to the number of occurrences in the subcategories of domestic violence assaults and sexual assaults. Stealing from a person offence (which involves no threat or violence) accounted for 125 offences. There were 54 robberies (without a weapon) committed in 2005. These occurrences give some indication of the extent to which fear of crime in public places is justified.

There were 47 sexual assault offences, lower than in 2004 when there were 49 offences. This offence category includes indecent exposure and assault. The rate of sexual assaults is considered stable, but of concern to women in the Municipality.

Across Australia crime rates are declining, perhaps because of improved socio-economic conditions overall. Although there is no crime wave in Woollahra and its rate of crime can be considered to be stable overall per head of population, Woollahra has rated in the Top 50 Local Government Areas in NSW in the past two years in five crime categories. It should be noted that there has been some improvement in each of these categories over the past year, as shown below, but concerns still remains.

Offence	2004	2005
Steal from a Person	11 th	13 th
Steal from a Motor Vehicle	4 th	21 st
Break and Enter Dwelling offences	29 th	31 st
Robbery	15 th	28 th
Motor Vehicle Theft	15 th	31 st

4.2 Top Crimes in Woollahra

The top crimes in Woollahra are detailed below. These crimes are addressed in the Action Plan in Section 5.0 of this Plan.

4.2.1 Break and Enter Dwelling - decrease

There were 483 break and enter dwelling offences committed in Woollahra in 2005. This figure is less than the previous year. The rate per 100,000 people is 909.7, the 31st highest rate in NSW. Police report that because of its wealth Woollahra is an attractive location for thieves. The top rate in NSW is 3,644.2 per 100,000 people.

In Woollahra, households today contain many valuable portable and easily resold consumer goods to tempt burglars. There is some anecdotal evidence of repeat victimisation that residents may be burgled repeatedly over a number of years.

The National Crime Prevention Program Report⁴ says; *“Recent victims of burglary are at relatively high risk of burglary re-victimisation. About one in four victim households in Australia is burgled again within a year. Such vulnerability may reflect ease of access generally, the burglar’s familiarity with the premises, the victim’s lifestyle or some combination of these factors.”*

Neighbourhood Watch groups have been set up in several residential areas in the Municipality in response to concerns about home break-ins, robberies, motor vehicle theft as well as anti-social behaviour and malicious damage to property offences.

The Police Crime Data System (COPS) shows that Break and Enter incidents have steadily decreased from 1408 recorded incidents in 2001 to 696 in 2005. Hot spots where crime occurred were Paddington followed by Double Bay, then Bellevue Hill and Woollahra. Incidents in Double Bay, Bellevue Hill and the suburb of Woollahra were almost half of those in Paddington.

A high percentage of property crime is considered to be due to offenders with drug abuse problems. Tertiary crime prevention measures relating to reform of the Justice System, targeting offender rehabilitation and recidivism such as Drug Courts and diversion programs are being piloted to address the causes of crime. Localised programs such as the operation of Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) may also be necessary. In regards to break and enter incidents during 2001 to 2005 juvenile offenders accounted for 10% of perpetrators.

4.2.2 Steal from motor vehicle - decrease

There was a decline in steal from a motor vehicle in 2005, down 18.4% from 2003. However, Woollahra still rates 21st in NSW for this offence, with a rate of 986.9 per 100,000 people. The top rate in NSW is 2,319.1 per 100,000. Police and Council have worked together to distribute *“If it can be seen, it can be stolen”* materials to raise awareness and reduce the incidence of residents leaving valuable possessions in plain view in their cars. In the Rose Bay LAC juvenile offenders accounted for 26% of perpetrators.

⁴ *The National Crime Prevention Program*, Crime Prevention Branch, Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department, ACT 2002.

4.2.3 Malicious damage to property – increase

Malicious damage to property in the past three years has increased by 16.6%. This category includes graffiti, damage to properties such as smashed windows in businesses, residences and vehicles, and damage to public property. This offence often arises in the context of domestic disputes, drunken and disorderly behaviour, as well as during property break-in and steal offences. In the Rose Bay LAC juvenile offenders accounted for 28% of perpetrators.

4.2.4 Motor vehicle theft – decrease

Woollahra ranks 31st in NSW for Motor Vehicle theft. The rate has decreased over the past three years by 15.9%. It currently affects 470.9 people per 100,000 with the top rate in NSW reported at 1,503.6 per 100,000. Police report that a large number of vehicles are never recovered indicating that part of this problem is due to organised gangs carrying out car rebirthing operations, particularly on luxury cars.

Other contributing factors are theft by visitors or others to drive home conveniently, joy riding or to use in committing other crimes. National comparative statistics of 2004 and 2005 show that motor vehicle theft has fallen by 9% to 397 victims per 100,000 people (ABS, 2005).

4.2.5 Steal from a person – decrease

There was a decline in steal from a person in 2005, down 31.8% from 2003. However, Woollahra still rates 13th in NSW for this offence, with a rate of 235.4 per 100,000 people. The top rate is 704.5 per 100,000. Police and Council have worked together to raise awareness and reduce the incidences of stealing from a person.

4.3 Specific Crimes

As previously mentioned the priority strategies for Woollahra are categorised under the headings of property, personal, drugs and alcohol and crimes against children. Not only do the above crime statistics determine the need for the strategies to fall under these titles, so do the categories specific statistic outlined below.

4.3.1 Property Crime

Over the past 3 years it should be noted that the crime profile of the Woollahra LGA shows a steady decrease of property crime, except that of malicious damage which had an increase of 16.6% over the past 3 years (BOCSAR 2005).

Australia wide, 70% of all persons 15 years and over believed that neighbourhood crime/public nuisance has been caused by dangerous/noisy driving (40%), housebreakings (33%) and vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (25%) (ABS, 2005).

The strategies in the Plan applying to property crime are guided by CPTED principles. These apply to safety for all community members using public property.

4.3.2 Personal Safety

Personal Safety for Women

Personal safety for women has been a high priority concern for the Woollahra Community Safety Committee after incidents of bag snatching or assault affecting women, usually at night on suburban streets. This has led to demands to lop trees to improve lighting, improve footpaths

and to increase police patrols of some areas. These incidents are uncommon and usually opportunistic, occurring when an offender sees a target and there is little natural surveillance.

Domestic Violence

According to BOCSAR domestic violence statistics have remained stable. However, in consultation with the Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Network (ESDVN) it was revealed that the total number of reported domestic violence incidents according to the COP's database has been increasing, from 373 in 2003 to 392 in 2004 and 402 in 2005. Domestic violence is a hidden crime as it commonly occurs 'behind closed doors' with many cases unreported. It was recommended by the ESDVN that an education campaign is needed to encourage the reporting of Domestic violence. Support is also needed for those who attend court and take out Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO's).

Of all the assaults in Australia, 41% of incidents occur in the woman's home and in 30% of all assault cases on women the perpetrator is a partner, ex-partner or family member (ABS, 2005).

Domestic violence is a hidden problem and an under reported crime in Woollahra. The rate of domestic violence is difficult to estimate. Currently Rose Bay Police attend about 30 call outs per month. Council can assist with preventative strategies in regard to domestic violence such as community education, information distribution and liaison with the Police Domestic Violence Officer. Council can work with community groups to ensure that women of all ages have access to appropriate services such as counseling and accommodation services. Council can assist in developing partnerships to better respond to violence against women in all its forms - as victims of crime, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Personal Safety for Older People

There are no local statistics on crime against older people, but a national study of 1991 crime rates⁵ states that:

- the incidence of crimes generally committed against the person was considerably lower for the 60 years plus group.
- females aged 60 years and over were not as likely as males to be victims of robbery, but they were many times more likely than their male counterparts to be threatened with violence.
- men over the age of 65 years in New South Wales are just as likely as women in the same age group to be victims of robbery and assault, but this is lower than for younger age groups.
- In 1991 the rate of robbery for women and men over 60 was 2-3 per 100,000 persons, compared to the rate for young males aged 16-19 was 80 per 100,000.
- While younger people are more likely to be victims of crimes, of the crimes older people experience financial exploitation and fraud are the most prevalent.⁶

Consultations in 2001 and work with older people through the Personal Safety Taskforce lead to the identification of major concerns for older people in Woollahra and the development of an Action Plan to address the issues. The major issues were fear of crime, particularly of bag

⁵ Crime Prevention for older Australians, Appendix 1, Australian Institute of Criminology.

⁶ National Crime Prevention Program, 2002, op cit p 29. *Crime Prevention for Seniors: A Guide to Personal and Financial Safety* (NCP78) was developed by the National Crime Prevention Program provides comprehensive safety advice for older people.

snatching in public places, and break-ins at home. Other emerging issues are elder abuse including asset stealing (financial and property stealing).

In 1996, Woollahra had the highest number of people aged over 75 and living alone (41.6%) in the South East Sydney Area Health Region. Over 25% of the population in Woollahra are older persons over 55 years. As Woollahra has a higher than average percentage of older people crimes against older people are a concern in this area.

Personal Safety for Young People

Young people are the age group most likely to be victims of crime, and young men are particularly vulnerable to crimes such as assault in public places. Increasingly, it is recognised that young people in Woollahra are victims of crime to a greater extent than they commit crime.

In 2002 Council established the Woollahra/Waverley Youth Safety Network. This group includes representatives from both Councils, Waverley Action for Youth Services (WAYS), Point Zero, Bondi Outreach Project and Youth Liaison Officers (YLO's) from Waverley and Rose Bay LAC's that meet monthly to respond to issues or youth problems arising.

In 2002 the Youth Safety Taskforce surveyed high schools throughout Woollahra about the level and type of crime being experienced by young people. It found that crime against young people is both high and under reported. As young people in Woollahra are relatively affluent with small, valuable portable items of personal property such as mobile phones, portable MP3 players etc, they make good targets for personal crime.

Young people aged 15-24 accounted for 31% of all victims of crime in Australia and of all victims of crime 66% did not report the crime to Police (ABS, 2005).

4.3.3 Drug & alcohol related crime

In regards to alcohol related crimes recorded liquor incidents have increased by 89% over the past three years in NSW (BOCSAR, 2006). This increase is primarily due to the introduction by Police of linking offenders to where they had their last drink. However the enormity of this number indicates the importance and the necessity of alcohol awareness information.

In a survey conducted by WAYS, it was found that the drug that appeared to be re-emerging as the drug of choice was heroin. In Rose Bay LAC incidents of drug detection have been on the decrease since 2001. In 2005 there were 45 recorded incidents of drug detection. However this is not indicative of ongoing issues faced by outreach services within the area that report the use of drugs by young people congregating in parks is on the increase.

4.3.4 Crimes against Children

Woollahra LGA has 5482 children between the ages of 0-11 and make up 12% of the population (ABS, 2001). The safety of children is generally regarded as the responsibility of their parents and this area has not been the focus of past efforts in crime prevention. However there are some areas of concern that require some action.

Prevention of child abuse is the major concern regarding young children. Child Abuse usually occurs within the home and is one type of domestic violence. Council assists in the provision of preventative services aimed at parents such as playgroups, children's services and family support services within Woollahra. Children who repeatedly witness abuse of their mother / parent can also be badly affected by domestic violence and may need timely intervention through support groups. These groups are run by non-government agencies such as Family Support Services, and assist a child to learn protective behaviour skills to keep themselves safe within their own homes.

5.0 Action Plan

The specific crimes identified in Section 4.0 have been analysed and the following action plan developed to address each of these, aiming to prevent crime in Woollahra.

5.1 Property Crime

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
1	Malicious Damage – Graffiti	1.1	Promotion of Council Policy	To encourage the immediate removal of graffiti	Lead Agency Council	Media campaign	Ongoing	Outcomes: Graffiti removed promptly
		1.2	Consequences of risk taking and the promotion of healthy alternatives to young people	Providing young people with other outlets to express themselves	Lead Agencies: Council, Youth Safety Network (YSN) Partner Agencies: RTA, Police	Seminar Media campaign Young people actively participating in alternate activities.	August 2007	Outcomes: A reduction in graffiti
		1.3	Encourage the reporting of graffiti	To encourage the immediate removal of graffiti as well as establishing graffiti trends in the area	Lead Agencies: Neighbourhood Watch, Community Safety Committee (CSC), Partner Agencies: Police, Council	Media campaign Development of an action plan to address the number of incidents.	Ongoing	Outcomes: Incidents of graffiti reduced
		1.4	Mapping of Graffiti	Target graffiti hotspots in the area and modify the environment to deter graffiti.	Lead Agencies: Neighbourhood Watch, Council Partner Agency Police	Graffiti audit completed and Hotspots in Woollahra LGA determined. CPTED strategies implemented in hotspots.	October 2007	Outcomes: Reduction in graffiti.

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
		1.5	Target suppliers of spray paint with information about the risks of selling spray paint to under age people	To reduce the number of underage offenders	Lead Agencies: Council, Police, Partner Agency: Chamber of Commerce	Promotional material distributed	December 2007	Outcomes: Reduction in spray paint sales to people under the age of 18. A reduction in juvenile offenders.
		1.6	Information sessions for primary school aged children (yr5/6) on the risks of graffiti	Provide information to children before they reach high school	Lead Agencies: Council, YSN Partner Agencies: DOC's, Department of Education, Better Futures, Local Schools	Mail out School Visits	January 2008	Outcome: Increased understanding on the risks of graffiti
2	Stealing in Paddington	2.1	Community Safety Audit	Identifying environmental fixtures that encourage criminal activity so that it can be modified to prevent crime	Lead Agencies: Council Police State MP's Office Little Paddington Taskforce Partner Agencies: CSC Liquor Accord	CPTED recommendation report	April 2007	Outcomes: Environment modified to prevent crime from re-occurring. Reduction in crime statistics
		2.2	Community BBQ in Paddington	To encourage neighbourly harmony and use of crime prevention tools	Lead Agencies: CSC, Little Paddington Taskforce, Clover Moore's Office Partner Agencies: Police, chamber of Commerce	Media Campaign BBQ & crime prevention material distributed CPTED report distributed	May 2008	Outcomes: Stronger support for neighbours and the principle of Neighbourhood Watch enforced

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
3	Break and Enter (Dwelling)	3.1	Repeat Victim Education program	To prevent repeat break & enter crimes	Lead Agencies: Police, Council Partner Agencies: Neighbourhood Watch groups	Repeat victim kits and information distributed to prevent re-victimisation	June 2007	Outcomes: Re-victimisation statistic decreased
		3.2	Awareness program for people living in units regarding forced entry	To prevent tricked or forced entry into homes.	Lead Agencies: Police, Council	Seniors Week Safety day Promotional information distributed	May 2008	Outcomes: Forced entry statistics decreased for people living in units.
4	Steal From a motor vehicle	4.1	Education Awareness - letter drop on car windows	Raise awareness about not leaving valuables in the car	Lead Agencies: Police, Council, Partner Agency: Chamber of Commerce	Information distributed via a letter drop on car windows	January 2009	Outcomes: Reports of steal from a motor vehicle decreased in areas targeted.
5	Motor Vehicle theft	5.1	CPTED of car parks	Identifying environmental fixtures that encourage criminal activity so that it can be modified to prevent crime	Lead Agencies: Police, Council Partner Agencies: Chamber Of Commerce	CPTED recommendation report Preventative signage visible in car parks Promotion material distributed Car parks modified to promote 'safer' and 'friendlier' environments that are more frequently visited by people to prevent motor vehicle theft.	March 2009	Outcomes: Reduction in motor vehicle theft.

5.2 Personal Crime

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
6	Domestic Violence (DV)	6.1	Raise Awareness to encourage the reporting of DV and Elder Abuse	Victims of DV are aware that they have options to report in a safe and supportive manner	Lead Agencies: Council, Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Network (ESDVN). Partner Agencies: Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT), Police	Seniors Week Safety day Attendance and involvement of ESDVN activities and meetings White Ribbon Day Celebrated Promotional Material distributed	Ongoing	Outcomes: Increase in reporting of DV
		6.2	Translation of Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO) and hearing information	To support and encourage women applying for AVO's from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD) to understand the process and go through with the application.	Lead Agencies: ESDVN, Council Partner Agencies: Police	Existing AVO/Hearing information translated and available to DV services throughout the Eastern Suburbs	July 2007	Outcomes: The rate of in force AVO applications and a decrease in cancellations

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
		6.3	Promotion of healthy relationships	To prevent young people from developing unsafe relationship patterns	Lead Agencies: YSN, Council Partner Agencies: ESDVN	Promotional material /seminars for young people & women regarding relationship support and what is considered legal/ illegal in a relationship.	November 2009	Outcomes: Student evaluations reflective of positive relationships
7	Assaults	7.1	Self- Defence Classes – Older women, younger people and Women	Allow individuals to defend themselves against an attacker	Lead Agencies: Council Partner Agencies: YSN, ACAT, ESDVN	3 different self defence classes focusing on 3 different target groups Survey of attendees	January 2008	Outcomes: Attendees evaluation reflective of improved perception of personal safety
		7.2	Encourage the reporting of crime	Trends are established and leads followed to make more arrests and modifications to deter criminal activity	Lead Agencies: Council, Police	Promotional material distributed on how and why to access Crime Stoppers and the Police Assistance Line (PAL)	Ongoing	Outcomes: Crime Stoppers and PAL services more accessible.
8	Steal from a person (seniors)	8.1	Bag Snatching - Promote safe practices	To inform seniors of preventative measures on how to safely carry a bag and what to carry in one.	Lead Agencies: Police, Council Partner Agencies: Chamber Of Commerce	Seniors Week Safety day Promotional material distributed to aged services in the area	May 2009	Outcomes: Feedback from target group Evidence through a decrease in statistics of bag snatching

5.3 Drug & Alcohol Related Crime

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
9	Safe drinking	9.1	Safe drinking information sessions for young women and men on the consequences of alcohol e.g. vulnerable to sexual assault.	To inform young women and men on the dangers and consequences of drinking.	Lead Agencies: YSN, Council Partner Agencies: Police, Liquor Accord	Seminar held for both young people and parents Information packages distributed through schools and youth services.	June 2008	Outcomes: Less reported incidents of unsafe drinking by young people.
		9.2	Information Session for parents on the access to alcohol from home	Through preventing access to alcohol, there will be a reduction of alcohol related youth crime.	Lead Agencies: Council, Local Schools, YSN Partner Agency: Police	Guest speaker at school information nights for parents Information sent home to parents through school	August 2008	Outcomes: Parent feedback Less incidents of underage drinking
10	Safe Licensed Premises	10.1	Promote Alcohol Management Programs with the Liquor Accord	To encourage safe and informed practices of licensed premises in the area	Lead Agencies: Council, Liquor Accord, Office of Gaming and Racing, Council	Continuing support and participation of projects of the Liquor Accord. Working with the Gaming and Racing office on projects and in supportive role.	Ongoing	Outcomes: A reduction in the "last drink " statistics, linking criminal activity to where the offender had their last drink

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Output	Time Frame	Evaluation
		10.2	Awareness packages e.g. drink standards, coasters, posters etc	Assist people who patronise licensed premises to make informed drinking decisions. To support licensees enforce safe alcohol practices.	Lead Agencies: Council, Liquor Accord Partner Agencies: Police, Office of gaming and racing	Distribution of alcohol material Attendance at Liquor Accord meetings	Ongoing	Outcomes: Reduction in alcohol related crimes near licensed premises.
11	Illicit drug usage	11.1	Information session on the risks of illicit drug usage	Parents informed about symptoms and how and where to access help	Lead Agencies: YSN, Council, Schools Partner Agency: Police	Seminars held with parents of young people	December 2008	Outcomes: Positive feedback on how parents would deal with drug usage of a child.

5.4 Crimes against Children

	Crime		Strategy	Rationale	Responsible	Outputs	Time Frame	Evaluation
12	Child Protection	12.1	Information and education promotion	Awareness on the dangers, preventative measures, how to access support and how to report child protection.	Lead Agency: Department Of Community Services, Council Partner Agency: Police	Information packages distributed amongst children services. Seminar for parents on preventative measures. Child protection education offered to all child care workers in the Woollahra LGA.	Ongoing	Outcomes: Child care workers use child protection protocols. Positive feedback in relation to knowledge about preventative measures and how to report child abuse.

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