

Title: National Crime Prevention Framework

Authors: Australia and New Zealand Crime Prevention Senior Officers' Group,
Prepared by the Australian Institute of Criminology,

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Details:

http://www.aic.gov.au/crime_community/crimeprevention/~/_media/aic/ncpf/ncp_framework.pdf

Summary:

Earlier this year the Australian and New Zealand Crime Prevention Senior Officers' Group produced the National Crime Prevention Framework. This resource is important in that this is arguably the first time in history that the Commonwealth Government has articulated its position on crime prevention. The framework draws upon a wealth of literature which outlines the most effective approaches to the prevention of crime.

Key Points

The purpose of the Framework is to:

- support a coordinated approach to addressing crime and safety issues of national importance, including new and emerging crime problems;
- promote an improved level of collaboration between crime prevention agencies operating in each jurisdiction;
- improve the effectiveness of crime prevention across Australia by promoting principles of good practice and successful strategies;
- encourage increased commitment to crime prevention at all levels of government and across different sectors, and;
- assist in guiding the allocation of crime prevention resources to achieve the greatest impact.

Outcomes

The Framework aims to assist in the achievement of the following outcomes:

- a reduction in crime and disorder problems that are of greatest harm and concern to the community;
- increased community safety, security and cohesion, including a reduction in the actual and perceived risk of victimisation;
- increased support for people to cope with the impact of victimisation; and
- a reduction in reoffending among those people who have already engaged in criminal or antisocial behaviour.

Approaches to Preventing Crime

The framework acknowledges that there are a variety of different approaches to preventing crime, and programs which frequently involve multiple interventions delivered at once. Strategies may be directed towards:

- addressing the environmental conditions that promote and sustain crime;
- eliminating risk factors and enhancing protective factors to reduce the likelihood that individuals will engage in offending behaviour;
- strengthening communities by addressing social exclusion and promoting community cohesiveness; and
- enhancing the capacity of criminal justice agencies to prevent crime and reoffending.

According to the framework key features of effective strategies are:

- Problem solving
- Community engagement
- Partnerships and good governance
- Monitoring and evaluation

Key priorities

- *Concentrate efforts on addressing crime problems that present the greatest threat to the safety, security and cohesiveness of communities.*

While each jurisdiction experiences different types and levels of criminal offending and victimisation, a number of issues currently affect communities across Australia and warrant particular attention. The following issues have been identified as requiring a concerted and coordinated response:

- reducing alcohol-related violence;
 - improving the safety of young people;
 - improving the safety of Indigenous people;
 - preventing child abuse and neglect; and
 - reducing violence against women.
- *Continuing to monitor local crime problems, identify local priorities and develop strategies to reduce their impact on the community*
 - *Addressing new and emerging crime problems*
 - *Improving the evidence base for crime prevention*
 - *An ongoing program of capacity building and technical assistance to ensure new knowledge and good practice are actively disseminated and adopted in practice*

According to the Framework recent experience has highlighted the need to direct more focused attention and resources to the task of improving the skills base and access to appropriate resources for those engaged in crime prevention action.

This should include:

- the active dissemination of crime prevention knowledge, including research findings, evaluation and effective interventions;
- the development of physical and online resources, toolkits and other materials to assist in improving the skills and capacity of those engaged in crime prevention work;
- identifying and working with key training providers to assist in the development of appropriate content for training and workforce development relevant to the wide variety of crime prevention practitioners; and
- the development of a model performance measurement and evaluation framework to be used as a tool for assessing progress and emerging priorities for the provision of technical support to the crime prevention field.

The objective of crime prevention can best be achieved in close cooperation with other areas of prevention. Crime prevention strategies and programs therefore need to create professional interfaces, promote reciprocal understanding and acceptance of different prevention objectives, methods, technical expertise and standards, including in the areas of health, education and environmental protection.

Relevance to Local Government

The Framework does not aim to prescribe specific actions that must be implemented by stakeholders involved in the delivery of crime prevention. Rather, it provides guidance by way of information on best practice to assist with the development of appropriate policies, strategies and programs to address crime problems.

The AIC is currently in the process of designing and implementing a technical assistance program that would provide education, training and support to stakeholders working in crime prevention. The objective will be to develop an ongoing program of work to improve knowledge and skills in crime prevention and to help overcome many of the practical barriers to the effective implementation of crime prevention strategies.

Further information:

http://www.aic.gov.au/crime_community/crimeprevention/~media/aic/ncpf/ncp_frameworkwork.pdf