

Local Crime Prevention Governance

Prepared by Garner Clancey

In many local government areas across New South Wales, there are a host of structures that guide and support efforts to prevent crime. It is important to understand the role and function of these structures to avoid duplication of effort. Too many committees with similar responsibilities will frustrate members and dilute focus. The following table lists some of the key inter-agency structures contributing the prevention of crime.

Committee	Function	Members
Community Safety Advisory Committee	Some council's operate a specific crime prevention and/or community safety advisory committee. This committee will have responsibilities for coordinating local crime prevention initiatives. Those committees that appear to function best have senior members; a clear mandate; are action focused; report to senior management; meet frequently and interact with all key sections of council and relevant local stakeholders.	Traditionally, these committees include council, police, and community representatives. Other government and non-government organizations will also frequently be invited to participate. Providing committee members with the requisite technical knowledge on crime prevention is frequently a challenge.
Police Accountability Community Team (PACT)	PACTs were established in 2002. The purpose of PACT is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Local Area Commanders are accountable to their local communities • Encourage community partnerships to reduce crime and the fear of crime • Develop local solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders • Improve public safety and reduce the fear of crime at a local level • Raise understanding of the relationship between policing and crime reduction • Ensure Commanders take into account local community views on police visibility, police deployment and crime hotspots when deciding police tasking and deployment ¹ 	Senior police, business representatives, local politicians, local government, community members and other relevant local agencies are generally represented on PACTs. Meetings are often held quarterly and are generally chaired by the local Superintendent. In some respects, PACTs have replaced previous Community Consultative Committees.

¹ http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/pact

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<p>Community Safety Precinct Committees</p>	<p>The establishment of Community Safety Precinct Committees was announced in January 2007.</p> <p>The goals of these committees include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the incidence of crime, and anti-social behaviour, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing community awareness of crime risk and prevention strategies • Encouraging community involvement in local community safety • Identifying real and potential community safety problems • Coordinating multi-faceted crime prevention efforts and • Utilizing local police services regarding early intervention programs to young children ¹ 	<p>This Committee, to be chaired by police (Crime Prevention Officer), will also include local government and local community representatives. These representatives should reflect the local demographic profile of the area. Meetings are held quarterly, although working groups might meet more frequently.</p>
<p>Community Drug Actions Teams (CDATs)</p>	<p>CDATs work to reduce the local impact of drug problems by working with organisations and other community groups on local projects and identifying opportunities for improving services. Specifically, CDATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify drug-related problems in their local community • identify gaps or potential overlaps in local services which work on drug-related issues • work with organisations and other community members to meet community needs • develop a Local Drug Action Plan describing how to take action on local drug-related issues ² 	<p>Project workers established and now manage CDATS. Local community members are invited to participate. CDATS determine the priorities of their work and establish appropriate structures regarding function, meeting regularity and monitoring of progress.</p>

¹ http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/83143/CSPC_Guidelines.pdf

² http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action/info_sheet.html

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<p>Liquor Accord Committee</p>	<p>According to the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, “Liquor accords are voluntary industry-based partnerships working in local communities to introduce practical solutions to liquor-related problems. They reach agreements on ways to improve the operation of licensed venues so that entertainment venues and precincts are safe and enjoyable”. ¹</p>	<p>Most liquor accords include members from the local business community, local councils, police, government departments and other community organisations. In many locations, Road Safety Officers (Council) and Licensing Sergeants (NSW Police) assume a lead role.</p>
<p>Police-Security Committee</p>	<p>In some areas, committees have been established to provide a link between local police and security providers. These committees seek to share relevant information and to provide opportunities to prevent any problems emerging between private and public law enforcement agencies. Some council’s contribute, often through the attendance of rangers.</p>	<p>Membership will vary depending upon the area, but generally, police, security and rangers will be the key organizations or groups represented.</p>
<p>Violence Against Women Regional Reference Groups</p>	<p>“At the regional level the Officers work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify violence against women issues in their region • develop violence prevention plans with local agencies, organizations and communities • develop and improve links within and between government and non-government agencies • facilitate community education programs • facilitate training of workers and specialist staff • facilitate capacity building in communities • and develop, implement and evaluate projects to reduce violence against women”. ² 	<p>VAW Regional Reference Groups operate across NSW. These groups bring together key agencies (including police, health, housing, community services) to consider ways of preventing violence against women.</p>

¹ http://www.dgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_liqaccrds_home.asp

² http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/vaw/ll_vaw.nsf/pages/vaw_aboutus