Crime Prevention as a Planning Issue Realization or Faith?

By

Jinglang Yan

(3126490)

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School of Town Planning

Faculty of Built Environment

University of New South Wales, Sydney

To my parents, my sister and moumou

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Crime and its prevention is fundamentally a social and moral issue. However over the past few decades, numerous criminologists and built environment professionals have suggested it should also be considered as a serious planning issue. Oscar Newman's research on crime prevention throughout built environmental design has indicated that the improvement of the physical built environment can reduce the opportunities of victimisation in the community. A range of other researchers also suggest implementing this approach, together with social planning and community development in dealing with crime prevention at the local scale. The main purpose of this thesis is to explore the planning dimension of crime by reviewing crime prevention initiatives throughout Australia. Of particular interest are local government's role in dealing with issues of crime prevention and the relationship between local government and planning in Sydney. Comprehensive literature review is undertaken to outline the definition, nature and different approaches of crime prevention. Four case studies are selected to examine the effectiveness and limitations of undertaking crime prevention at the local scale. Interviews are conducted with a community safety officer and a planner to explore both sides of local crime prevention programs. The thesis also makes several recommendations on problems that are involved in undertaking local crime prevention initiatives.

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"The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise."

Senator and a historian of the Roman Empire
Publius Cornelius Tacitus

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter one – Introduction

1.1 Background

Centuries ago, a Chinese emperor built the Great Wall of China in order to protect his kingdom and people from outside aggressors. Today, we place closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) inside and outside of buildings, set alarms in our cars and houses, build gates to keep strangers away from our neighborhoods, and employ security guards on the streets, during parties and important events, so that people can both feel and be safe.

Decades ago, Abraham Maslow first developed a pyramid that consists of five levels which represents the hierarchy of human needs. These five levels of human needs are Physiological needs, Security needs, Social needs, Esteem needs and Self-actualization needs. (See the following figure 1.1)
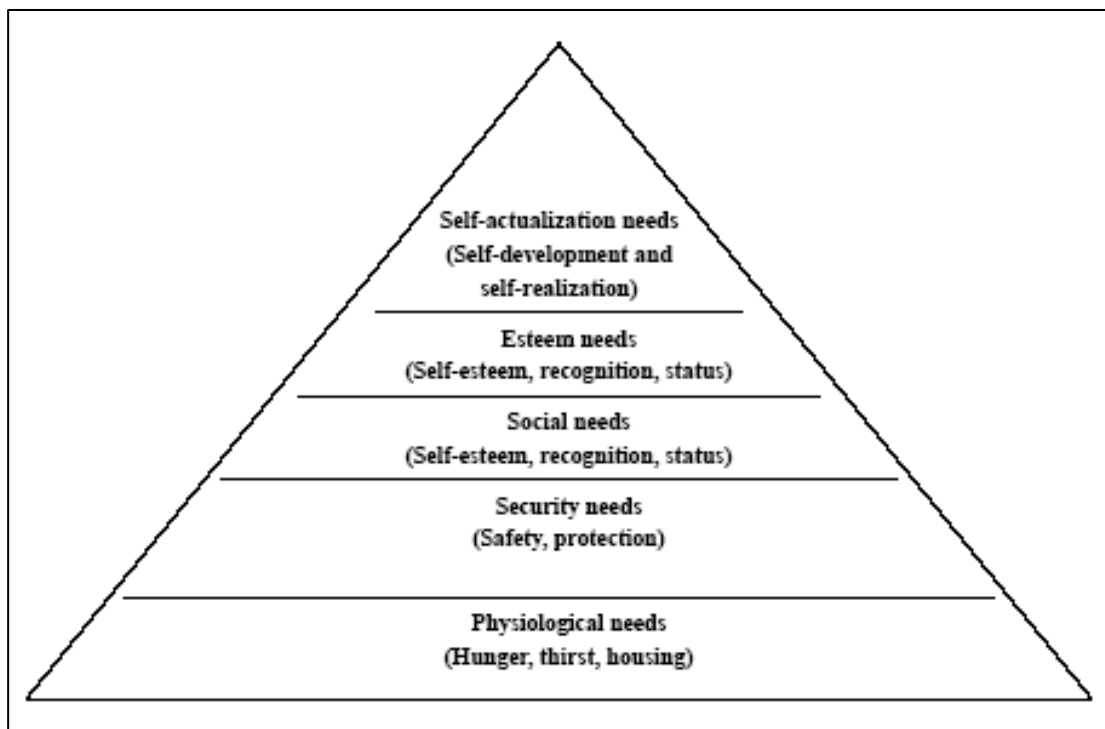
Figure 1.1 - Maslow's hierarchy of human needs Source: Kotler 1984 P.138

Security needs are second only to basic needs in the hierarchy. Once we have shelter and food, our attention turns to security, i.e. to the desire to be protected from harm in general. This means

that being safe is one of the fundamental human needs which consequently should not be ignored by governments or relevant authorities.

It is generally believed that Australia is one of the safest countries in the world. However, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) indicates that crime, and the fear of crime, consistently rate amongst the highest concerns of the Australian public. Crime costs across all levels of government amount to approximately $32 billion every year. (AIC website Information, 2008) Although the Australian Government has undertaken many initiatives and programs since the early 1990s, there is still room to improve and to promote a more attractive living area for people in Australia today.

Over the past few decades, a range of criminological researchers have drawn attention to the relationship between crime prevention and the design of the physical built environment. To many built environment professionals, for instance town planners, crime is no longer just a social issue, but also part of planning issues. In earlier years, planning for crime was implicit in the more general investment in economic growth, or in health, education, housing and welfare investments, rather than an individually formulated goal in and of itself. (William, C 1978) Today, specific planning legislation has been implemented to address the issues of community safety in the process of undertaking developments, for instance, the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No. 65 - Design Quality of Residential Flat Development indicates that one of its aims is to "maximise amenity, safety and security for the benefit of its occupants and the wider community". (Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000, Division 3)

During this period, a range of theories were also developed by different built environment professionals, in relation to preventing crimes and building design, which included Jeffery, C.R, Oscar Newman and Bill Hillier. Their work on developing theories of design principles for crime prevention will be expanded on in later chapters, with more details.

While many argued that there is a strong connection between the physical built environment design and crime prevention or fear reduction, others also argued that the design of the physical

built environment alone cannot significantly contribute to the reduction of crime. Henry Shaftoe and Time Read (2005) argue that there are certain limitations, and a number of problems, with trying to blend physical planning/environmental design with effective crime prevention measures. They suggest that a more significant and satisfactory result can be achieved by integrating the process of physical planning with that of social planning and community development. One major objective of this thesis is to explore both sides of the argument and provide built environment professionals with more comprehensive understanding of crime prevention.

Crime prevention is normally associated with multiple organisations, which can include both government and non-government organisations. This thesis however has only focused on the role of local governments in dealing with social problems in the community, and their policies in responding to these issues. More detailed reasons will be provided in the later chapters for explaining the special place of local government in dealing with crime prevention in Australia.

1.2 Summary of the thesis

1.2.1 Purpose

The main purpose of this thesis is to explore the planning dimension of crime by reviewing crime prevention initiatives throughout Australia. Of particular interest is the role of local governments in dealing with issues of crime prevention, and the relationship between local government and planning in Sydney.

1.2.2 Objectives

The objectives of this thesis include:

i.   Review crime prevention initiatives across the different levels of government in Australia.

ii. Outline the relevant strategies or plans that have been initiated by local governments in the Sydney regional area.

iii. Compare the different roles of Sydney's local governments in dealing with crime prevention.

iv. Evaluate initiatives/strategies in terms of their effectiveness in the community.

v. Provide case studies for detailed discussion of local government's role in dealing with crime prevention.

vi. Provide a clear indication of the planner's role in dealing with crime prevention at the local scale.

vii. Discuss the limitations of undertaking crime prevention at the local scale, and provide recommendations for each problem.

viii. Indicate the problems or limitations of this research and its results.

1.2.3 Methodologies

● Literature review

A literature review is undertaken for generating more understanding of crime and crime prevention. It includes works from Jane Jacobs – The Death and Life of American Cities (1962), Ray Jeffery - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (1971),Oscar Newman – Creating Defensible Space (1996), Lynn Hancock - Community, Crime, and Disorder : Safety and Regeneration in Urban Neighbourhoods (2001); Nick Tilly – Handbook of Crime Prevention and Community Safety (2005), and numerous other researchers across different fields. Their views and main concepts are utilized throughout the whole thesis, and are outlined in detail in chapter two.

● Crime prevention initiatives/programs review

A brief study is undertaken for the sake of reviewing crime prevention initiatives and programs throughout all states in Australia. A more detailed examination of crime prevention, in relation to Sydney's local governments, is also offered. Research for these initiatives covered twenty-one

inner ring local government areas, as well as seventeen outer ring local government areas in Sydney. A number of discussions and analyses are developed, based on the list of all these initiatives and programs, in later chapters of the thesis, and a complete list of all primary research result is included in the appendix of the thesis for reference.

- Case studies

Four local government areas are selected for case studies in order to examine the role of local governments in dealing with crime prevention at a more detailed scale. Reasons for selection are provided below, together with research results for each case. In completing the case studies, the relevant sites of each local government area were visited and photos/important notes taken. In-depth face to face interviews were also undertaken with planners and community officers in order to explore both sides' opinions on crime prevention at local scale. All of this was recorded to help the reader visualize and comprehend each site, and to underscore the analyses offered of each.

- In-depth face to face interviews

A small number of face to face interviews were conducted with local government planners and crime prevention officers. The main purpose of including these interviews is to present different opinions on crime prevention from different professionals and government organizations, to understand the limitations and problems of each perspective, and to seek better solutions to the underlying crime prevention issues. Results for these interviews are provided in a later chapter of the thesis, together with general discussion.

1.2.4 Data sources

Primary data include safety auditing reports from site visits, visual notes, and interview responses. Secondary data included:

i.   Government research papers, Conference paper, public policy, crime prevention initiatives and plans

ii. Statistical data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, community profile from Council websites, crime profiles from Lawlink New South Wales and the Australian Crime Institute.

iii. The Legislative context, such as the Environmental Planning and Assessment plan 1979 and the Local Government Act 1993.

iv. Planning books and journals, which are introduced in the literature review.

1.2.5 Chapter Summary

As Figure 1.2 below demonstrates, the main structure of this research moves from the more general approach of reviewing crime prevention throughout all levels of government in Australia to a more specific focus on particular local government areas in Sydney.

The thesis begins with a brief introduction to crime and crime prevention. A list of crime prevention initiatives throughout different States of Australia are outlined in chapter two. Chapter three begins the examination of the role of Australia's local governments in this regard, and explains the reasons for choosing local government, in particular, as a means to reduce or prevent crimes in the community. In this chapter, a brief indication of the planner's role in dealing with crime prevention, and its relationship to local government will also be made. Chapter four focuses on crime prevention in Sydney's local government areas, and the differences/similarities in terms of crime prevention initiatives. A summary of crime prevention in all Sydney local government areas, and a crime rank table for these local government areas, is also included in this chapter. The fifth chapter introduces four case studies in order to examine the role of local governments in handling crime and initiating crime prevention programs, across different local government areas. Finally, the thesis concludes with a number of general comments concerning the problems and limitations of undertaking crime prevention at the local scale. Possible solutions and recommendations will also be provided in response to these problems and limitations.

Figure 1.2 research structure
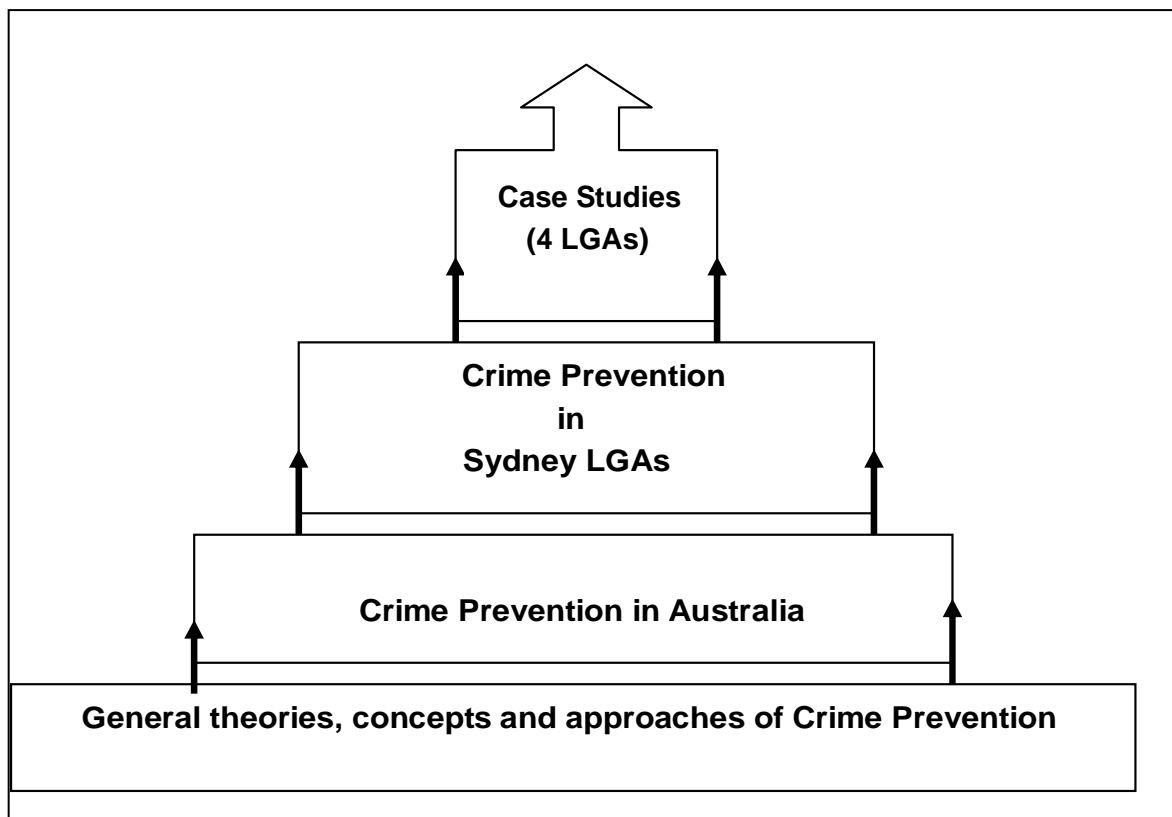
In seeking to answer the principle question of the thesis, planning's role in dealing with crime prevention will be discussed throughout the whole thesis, and particular focus will be addressed in studying the planner's relationship with local government in the area of crime prevention and fear reduction for the community.

"The Approach of the 21st century has turned the attention of many of us to the future and to the kind of society we want to live in, Crime has a major effect on the quality of our lives and it is timely that a fundamental review should be made now as to the way we deal with it."

Minister for Justice, Australia
Senator the Hon. Michael Tate, 1992

Chapter 2 – Crime Prevention Initiatives in Australia

Chapter two - Crime Prevention Initiatives in Australian

2.1 Understanding the nature of crime

Crime refers to behaviour that is against the law and is subject to punishment; it takes many forms, e.g. rape, murder, stealing and property vandalism. The Cambridge Dictionary defines 'crime' simply in terms of "illegal activities" or acts. Originally crime research was strongly focused on the sociological perspective and particularly concentrated on the relationship between high crime rates and the youth demographic in terms of the causes of crime.

Over the decades, this tradition has been reformed by an impressive amount of information from fields such as economics, sociology, political philosophy, psychology, biology and physical environmental design. In 1985, James Wilson and Richard Hernstein published their book, Crime and Human Nature: the Definitive Study of the Causes of Crime, which was considered one of the most exhaustive studies of the causes of crime. In this book, the authors argued that there are three main factors which can affect the long term rate of crime. These main factors are: 1) the age structure of the population, specifically the proportion of young males; 2) the net benefits of crime, including the number of criminal opportunities and the legal disincentives in place; and 3) social or cultural changes that reduce or increase 'social investment' in institutions that encourage law-abiding behaviour. (p24) They explain that, based on previous studies, young males that had low intelligence, a short time horizon and an aggressive temperament, were more likely to become criminals, and that if this demographic becomes proportionately larger, the rate of crime will proportionately increase as well. For the second factor, Wilson and Hernstein also suggested that whilst the actual risk of punishment may rise or fall over time, this may or may not correspond to the perceived risk of punishment.

In regards to the third factor, the authors believed that if children are brought up to have a conscience, they will not commit a crime. Institutions including schools, churches and families all play a role in encouraging children to develop their feelings to appreciate the interests of others, and to accept common rules. (Wilson, J.Q and Hernstein, R. 1985.)

In this sense, crime prevention can be understood as positive intervention to prevent crimes, which targets the factors that can cause crime or the fear thereof. However, debates about the definition of crime prevention, its approaches, patterns and effectiveness have been numerous and frequent.

2.2 Understanding crime prevention

Over the past few decades, a number of researches have summarized different crime prevention methods and patterns based on their individual studies. Brangtingham and Faust (1976) first divided crime prevention into three parts: 'primary', 'secondary' and ''tertiary' prevention. They suggested that crime prevention refers to the prevention of the crime event in the first place, the prevention of criminality among those at risk of becoming involved, and the prevention of continued criminal behavior among those already involved in it. In 1995, Tonry and Farrington classified crime prevention into three kinds: 'situational', 'community' and 'developmental' prevention. In Australia, this pattern has been widely accepted and is probably the most commonly utilized concept by many organizations at present. In recent years, Tilly and a number of other researchers(2004), have also disambiguated 'crime prevention' into 'policing and criminal justice mechanisms', 'social intervention mechanisms', 'individual treatment mechanisms', and 'situational mechanisms' of prevention. This schematization was substantially influenced by Tonry and Farrington's original three phases model.

2.3 Understanding Crime Prevention as a planning issue

Today, crime prevention has become a problem that requires multi-profession cooperation, not only from traditional organisations such as the police, but also from more recent professions such as urban design and town planning. As it will be noted later in this chapter, some State Governments in Australia have already addressed the importance of urban planning approaches for the purpose of crime prevention. In recent years, many criminological researchers have also turned their attention to the urban context of crime.

Some criminological researchers believe theories of crime can be divided into those that seek to explain the development of criminal offenders, and those that seek to explain the development of criminal events. In the development of criminology, the dominant focus has been for the most part on the offenders. However, recently more researchers have begun to give their attention to the task of explaining crime rather than the criminality of people, and a heightened concern with place is very much the key point of this approach. (Clarke, R.V. 1980)

Cornish and Clarke (1986) suggest three recent theoretical perspectives for understanding crime: 1) rational choice theory, 2) routine activity theory, and 3) crime pattern theory. They believe these three recent theories to be major resources for understanding the importance of place in crime prevention efforts.

Firstly, a rational choice perspective provides the basic rationale for defining what makes a particular place or location a more or less likely target of crime. Secondly, the theory of routine activity explains the occurrence of crime events by suggesting that crime is the result of the confluence of several circumstances, which include a motivated offender, a desirable target, and a location where both of them happen to be at the same time. In addition, there must be no third party involved in managing the place or guarding the targets.

Finally, in their opinion, the crime pattern theory is particularly important in developing an understanding of crime and place. This theory emphasises the concept of place and the associated factors which influence the likelihood of crime, such as the quality of place management and the existence of guardians. It also links the "places" and "desirable targets" with the focus on how places come to the attention of potential offenders.

The concept of 'place' which has been addressed by these criminological researchers is strongly associated with planning professionals and their influence on the community. Urban designers and planners are probably the most influential professionals responsible for making changes to a place's characteristics. In this sense, crime prevention can be logically considered as a planning issue, and, as a result, the mission of building a safer community has become the planner's unavoidable responsibility. A number of studies have been conducted over the past few decades

in order to establish and address this significant relationship, which involves planners, architects and landscape architects.

As early as the 1960s, Jane Jacobs argued for the importance of keeping the streets and sidewalks safe and outlined strategies for neighborhood safety improvement. In her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities,* she states: *"To keep the city safe is a fundamental task of a city's streets and its sidewalks"*. (1962, page 76) She also believed that the main qualities of successful city neighborhood include:

- a clear demarcation between what is public space and what is private space
- must have eyes upon the street
- the sidewalk must have users on it fairly continuously

In the 1970s, the concept of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) was first formulated by Criminologist C. Ray Jeffery. In 1971, Jeffery's book "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" was published. In his book, Jeffery introduced three major models of crime prevention:

- the deterrent model (i.e criminal law, punishment and behaviour control),
- the rehabilitation model (i.e roots factors, individual offenders study) and
- the new model: crime control through environmental engineering: This model is known as the approach that has the strongest link with planners and urban designers today.

Jeffery's new approach of advocating the link between environmental engineering (designers) and issues of crime prevention is very similar to Architect Oscar Newman's approach of improving the safety of the environment through the implementation of design principles. These principles were formulated in his book *Defensible Space: Crime Prevention Through Urban Design* in 1972.

In a subsequent book, *Creating Defensible Space* (1996), he discusses how different elements in residential environments can be combined to make a defensible space, which discourages crime

and disorder. Newman also proposed a range of mechanisms that can be used to enhance an area's sense of community, and to create physical fabric that inhibits crime. These include different family-type and building-type combinations, as well as design guidelines for walk-up buildings, for families with children, and for elevator buildings. (Newman, O.1996)

Barry Poyner believes that Newman's arguments share much in common with Jacobs' views. However, Newman furthered the findings by providing more research on problems of housing design and crime. In any case, the methodology Newman used in his book made many people believe that the form of modern buildings might have something to do with the increase in crime. Jacobs' and Newman's research have proved the importance of good design and management of the urban environment, in relation to crime prevention. However, one question they didn't solve was: to what extent can crime be prevented by the effective design and management of the environment? (Barry Poyner, 1983)

Lynn Hancock also introduced discussion of how the urban environment has changed, and its relationship to crime and disorders, in her book –*Community, Crime and Disorder* (2001). In this book Hancock examined the community responses to crime, and addressed the power relations, conflicts and compromises in crime prevention "partnerships" between different authorities.

Up to the present day, the concept of CPTED has been widely accepted and practiced by many countries, for instance the UK, America and Australia, with a mix of success and failure.   In the state of NSW in Australia, the Department of Planning adopted guidelines under section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act 1979) to help Councils consider and implement CPTED principles when assessing development applications.

Although many criminologists and planners have agreed that crime prevention is a planning issue, debates remain about whether it is possible to eliminate crime through design, and whether planning and urban design measures can reduce crime and insecurity.

In the book *Handbook of Crime Prevention and Community Safety* (2005), Shaftoe and Read

argue that planners can make a significant contribution to the safety and security of the built environment. However, they also believe that planning and urban design measures alone cannot significantly and permanently reduce crime, and that in some cases planners can worsen the situation by applying the same design principles across areas to which they may not be equally suited.

Osborn and Shaftoe (1995) claim that there is no good reason to believe that the concept of crime prevention through design can be significantly effective, and argue that there is already too much focus on the physical environment aspect of security, rather than on the social and developmental aspects, which present issues largely impervious to design-based remedies.

In other words, they accept that good design can reduce some of the opportunities for committing certain types of offences, such as burglary and vehicle crime. However, they believe that the design of the physical environment cannot determine a person's behavior directly, and that some of the planning mechanisms and concepts only have a small impact on reducing offences like domestic violence, child abuse or fraud.

2.4 Crime prevention in Australia

Australia is one of the most developed countries in the world. It has a better living environment compared to many countries, in terms of economic and political stability, housing quality, environmental protection and safety. Based on the perceived reputation of Australia, most people feel safe to travel, study, and live in the country. However, safety remains a fundamental concern of the community.

The latest safety statistics indicate that whilst the rate of incidence for many offences has been decreasing, a number of offences remain of serious concern to the public. The Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) records that, compared to 2006, the number of victims recorded by Australian state and territory police agencies in 2007 decreased for many offences, such as manslaughter, murder, blackmail/extortion, motor vehicle theft, unlawful entry with intent and other theft.

The ABS Crime and Safety Survey Report, 2005 also indicated that, from 1996 to 2002, the victimization prevalence rate for total selected household crimes in Australia was down from 9.0% to 8.9%. From 2002 to 2005, the rate was down by 2.7% from 8.9% to 6.2%. However, the result for total selected personal crimes in Australia in the report was not as positive. It stated that, from 1998 to 2002, the victimization prevalence rate increased from 4.8% to 5.3%, and that the rate did not decrease until 2005. Furthermore, the recorded data only included the statistics from the number of cases reported to the police. In other words, there were probably more victims than we have records for.

The Australian Government shares the concerns of the public and remains focused on the importance of improving personal and community safety. The following part of the present chapter provides a list of examples of crime prevention initiatives which have been undertaken by the different levels of government in Australia.

2.4.1 Australian Institute of Criminology

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is Australia's leading national research and knowledge center for crime and justice. It was established in 1973, and operates under the *Criminology Research Act 1971*. The Institute has conducted an extensive amount of research, and given numerous presentations at conferences on crime prevention. It also formed a large number of projects in the area of crime and violence prevention. Some of these include:

- Australian crime and violence prevention awards
- Crime reduction and review program
- Crime prevention research register
- Crimes against small businesses
- Farm crime surveys
- Interventions to prevent crime against older Australians
- Reducing young people's involvement in crime

(Source from AIC website: www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/)

The Institute has not only contributed to crime prevention research but also provided valuable resources and information for other organizations across the country. It has played a significant role in developing crime prevention in Australia, in terms of providing valuable resources and government grants.

2.4.2 National Crime Prevention Programme (NCPP)

In early 1988 the National Committee on Violence was established, based on an agreement reached between the Prime Minister, the State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory during meetings held the previous year. The Committee was required to examine a number of issues, including the contemporary state of violent crime in Australia and related social, economic, psychological and environmental issues.

In 1997, the Australian Government launched its 'national campaign against violence' with the aim of preventing and reducing fear of crime. The new NCPP was established seven years later, with funding of $65.5 million for four years (i.e. until June 2008). This program was designed to provide funding for community safety and crime prevention projects at the local level. It provided the funding for a national community grants program, and an additional program devoted specifically to the Greater Western Sydney region.

It was announced in May 2007, that there were 417 Small Grants projects funded under this program, with a maximum of $5000 funding available per grant. (AIC website information)

2.4.3 State and Territory initiatives

In Australia, all State and Territory governments have initiated crime prevention programs. The tables below are summaries based only on the information recorded on the AIC website, which may present incomplete results.

Figure 2.1 below indicates that five ACT government bodies were involved in crime prevention: ACT Health, Department of Justice and Community Safety, ACT Office for Aging, ACP Planning and Land Management and ACT Policing. The ACT government's crime prevention initiatives include community project development and safety through design principles. For instance, the ACT Office for Aging initiated elder abuse prevention and assistance to promote the safety of elders in the community, and ACT Planning and Land Management adopted the ACT crime prevention and urban design resource manual, in order to properly integrate considerations of community safety and urban development.

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Australian Capital Territory	**1. ACT Health**- From harm to hope - ACT drug strategy 1999 **2. Department of Justice and Community Safety** - ACT criminal justice strategic plan 2002-2005; ACT property crime reduction strategy: building a safer community**. 3. ACT Office for Aging** - Elder abuse prevention and assistance. **4. ACT Planning and Land Management** - ACT crime prevention and urban design resource manual**. 5. ACT Policing**- Community programs
where to find them:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/act.html**

Figure 2.1 –ACT Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

Compared to the ACT, less government organizations were invoked with the task of crime prevention in the Northern Territory. Only two organizations addressed crime prevention issues: the Department of Justice and the Northern Territory Police. Generally speaking, this government has undertaken a more community driven approach. Both organisations have emphasized the concept of community involvement, and of creating a safer community through community development. For instance, the North Territory Police initiated the Neighbourhood Watch program. This program was designed to increase the surveillance capacity of a community by encouraging neighbours to watch over each other's houses, gardens, etc, in order to increase safety and community spirit. (See the following Figure 2.2)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Northern Territory	**1.Department of Justice**- Building safer communities : a framework for crime prevention and community safety, 2004-2009 - Office of Crime Prevention - Community involvement - Regional and Indigenous crime prevention councils 2.**Northern Territory Police**- community safety and crime prevention - Northern Territory Neighbourhood Watch
where to find them:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/nt.html**

Figure 2.2 - NT Government Crime Prevention Summary Table

In Queensland, the crime prevention initiatives are involved by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, the Department of Communities, the Queensland Police Service, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Compared to the previous States and Territories, a particular effort was made by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strategy Islander Policy to promote harmony in the Aboriginal community. In addition to that, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet also specially addressed issues of crime prevention in this state. (See Figures 2.3 below)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Queensland	**1. State Government in general** - Meeting challenges, making choices - Queensland Government's response to Justice Fitzgerald's Cape York Justice Study - Crime prevention partnerships in Queensland: evaluation of a pilot program 2.**Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy**- Healing for harmony 3.**Department of Communities**- Queensland crime prevention strategy - Best practice in community partnership to reduce youth offending 4.**Queensland Police Service**- Crime prevention programmes 5.**Department of the Premier and Cabinet**- Responding to crime: countering crime and promoting prevention - Developmental crime prevention - Crime prevention from a Queensland perspective
where to find them:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/qld.html**

Figure 2.3 – Queensland Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

South Australia is the only State with just one organisation devoted to crime prevention. It is also the only State that has not provided any online information comparable to that provided by all other State Governments. (See Figure 2.4 below)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
South Australia	**South Australia Police**- Crime Reduction Section (Website currently not available)
where to find them:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/sa.html**

Figure 2.4 – SA Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

Compared to the rest of the States in Australia, Western Australia is the only state which does not have any crime prevention initiatives from the State Police Department for crime prevention in the State. However, it is also the only State which has established a particular office for preventing crimes. In addition to the Office of Crime Prevention, crime prevention in Western Australia is also overseen by the Department for Communities, as well as the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Western Australia	**1.Western Australian State Government in general** - Freedom from fear : campaign against domestic violence - Drug and Alcohol Office **2.Department for Communities** - Community safety and crime prevention - Family and domestic violence initiatives **3.Department of the Premier and Cabinet**- Burglar beware **4.Office of Crime Prevention**- Office of Crime Prevention - Community violence among young people : a research report prepared for Injury Control Council of WA
where to find them:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/wa.html**

Figure 2.5 – WA Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

In Tasmania, the responsibility for reducing and preventing crime is shared by the State Government, the Department of Justice, and the Tasmania Police. The Government initiatives do not include any particular planning authority as part of the crime prevention organisation. However, the concept of community development is promoted by the Department of Justice, as a Social Planning concept for building a safer community. (See Figure2.6 below)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Tasmania	**1. Tasmanian Government in general** - Southern community safety project: final report - Burglary and repeat victimisation in Tasmania - Truancy and juvenile crime **2.Department of Justice** - Safe at home: a criminal justice framework for responding to family violence in Tasmania Department of Health and Human Services- Community building: children and families John Ramsay. Children, young people and communities: the future is in our hands conference, 2001 - Community building: housing Bridgewater urban renewal project (Malcolm Downie). **3.Tasmania Police Service** - Crime Prevention and Community Safety Council - U-Turn program
where to find:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/tas.html**

Figure 2.6- Tasmania Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

Crime Prevention in Victoria involves many government bodies, including the Department for Victorian Communities, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Office of Women's Policy, and the Victoria Police.   Victoria is one of two states which devote specific attention to the issue of women's safety. (See Figure 2.7 below)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
Victoria	**1.Victorian Government in general** - Implementing Communities that Care in Australia: a community mobilisation approach to crime prevention **2.Department for Victorian Communities** - Victorian Government programs and projects : crime **3.Department of Human Services** - Drug-related services in Victoria - Hand brake turn project - Young offenders pilot program - Early School Leavers Program **4.Department of Justice** - Community safety - Safer streets and homes: a crime and violence prevention strategy for Victoria - Rhetoric and reality: a flexible framework for crime prevention evaluation in Victoria - Strategic planning: state and local government working with the community **5.Office of Women's Policy**- Women's safety strategy **6.Victoria Police** - Community consultation and crime prevention
where to find:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/vic.html**

Figure 2.7 – Victoria Government Crime Prevention Summary Table

As the following table indicates, the state of New South Wales has not only initiated the most crime prevention programs, but has also involved the most government organisations in dealing with crime issues of any state. NSW, together with the ACT government, are the only two states which address crime prevention initiatives with the assistance of planning authorities. The ACT government advocates the concept of preventing crimes through urban design, and the NSW government also addresses concerns for issues of crime prevention through the assessment of development applications. (See Figure 2.8 below)

Government Name	Government Initiatives
New South Wales	**1.New South Wales Government:** - NSW government graffiti information page - Closed circuit television in public places : guidelines - Evaluation of the NSW Government's CCTV guidelines **2.Attorney General's Department:** - Crime Prevention Division - Directory of NSW Government crime prevention programs - Local government crime prevention planning - Applying for safer community compacts - Crime prevention resource manual - Developing a crime prevention plan - Evidence-based crime prevention planning tool - How to develop local crime prevention plans - Property crime victimisation and crime prevention on farms - Violence Against Women Specialist Unit **3.Office of Children and Young People**- Getting in early to prevent crime **4.Department of Gaming and Racing**- Liquor accords - local solutions for local liquor problems - Underage drinking prevention program - Young people and alcohol **5.Department of Urban Affairs and Planning** - Crime prevention and the assessment of development applications (PDF 33kB) **6.Department for Women**- The safe women project **7.New South Wales Police Service**- Community safety and crime prevention - Policing, communities and crime prevention - a co-operative approach. Fourth national outlook symposium on crime in Australia, 2001; -Strategic Treatment Options for Police (STOP) in the rural context
where to find:	**www.aic.gov.au/research/cvp/localgovt/nsw.html**

Figure 2.8 – NSW Government Crime Prevention Initiatives Summary Table

2.4.4 Perception of crime trends

In 2006, the AIC released the results of The Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA), which was first carried out by the Australian National University's Centre for Social Research in 2003. The survey showed that most respondents believed that crime has increased over the past two years in Australia when they were asked the following question - whether the respondent believed crime had increased, decreased or remain the same over the past two years. (See Figure 2.9 below)

Figures 2.9– Perception of crime trend between 2000 and 2003
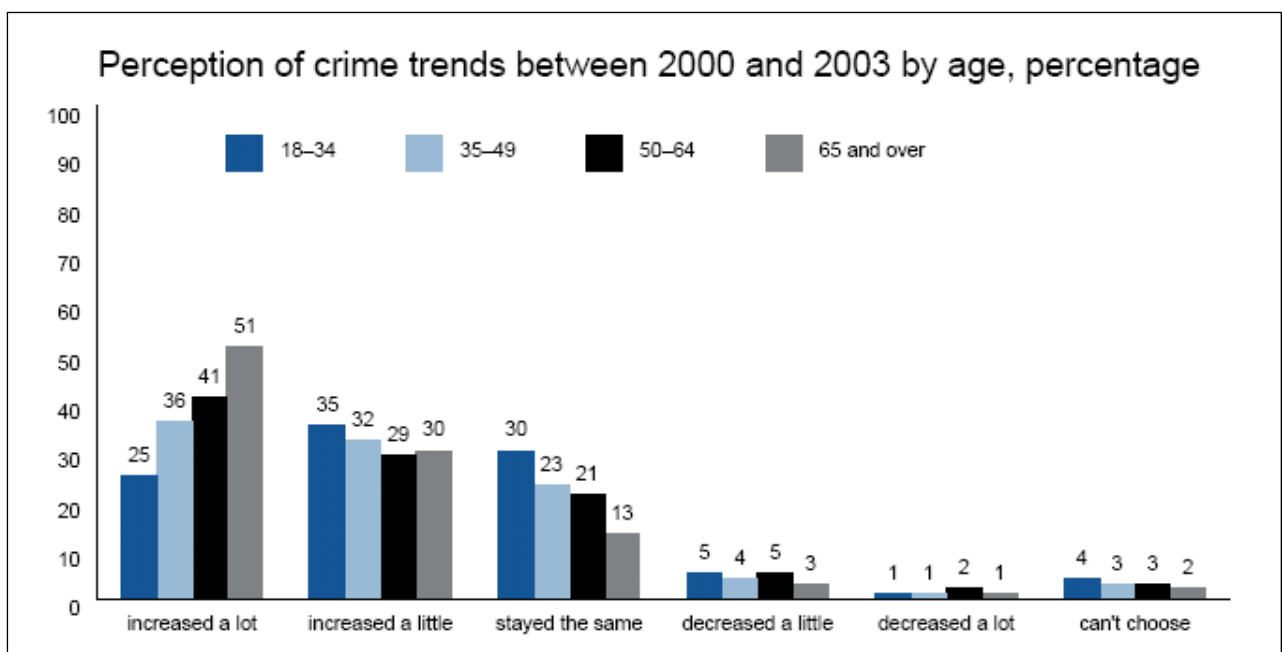
Srouce: Indermaur D & Roberts L 2005. 'Perceptions of crime and justice', in Wilson S et al. *Australian Social Attitudes : The First Report*. Sydney: UNSW Press: 141-160

An effective government ought to share the concerns of the public and deal with the problems in order to alleviate this concern. The results released by AIC has sent a strong message to the Australian Government that crime and its prevention has become a major public concern which should not be ignored by all levels of Australian government. For those states that have not been involved much in dealing with crime prevention, more effort is required in the future.

"Safety and security are essential to successful, sustainable communities. Not only are such places well-designed, attractive environments to live and work in, but they are also places where freedom from crime, and from the fear of crime, improves the quality of life."

Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety
Hazel Blears, 2004, UK

Chapter 3 – Local Government Crime prevention

In Australia, local government is considered a relatively small part of the total governmental system. The local government sphere raises less than four percent of the public revenue, spends less than five percent of government funding, and accounts for no more than ten percent of the public sector workforce. (Chapman. 1997) The question raised here is – *why local government?* More specifically, what role do local governments play, and why is it different from the other government bodies?

The main purpose of this chapter is to provide understanding of local government's general role in this country and to explain why local government has been chosen as the key sphere to examine social policy in dealing with public social problems, for instance, in dealing with crime prevention/reduction polices and other safety plans

3.1 Local Government's role in Australia

In Australia, local governments are also known as local councils. They are established by the governments of the states and territories. The state and territory governments define the powers of the local governments.

Local governments handle a diversity of issues in the community, such as social issues, employment issues and community service issues. Local governments are also committed to meeting the needs of the community, which include water supply, public recreation facilities, and town planning matters.   (Australia government website information, 2008)

The following table from the NSW Local Government Act 1993, indicates a council's function under the Act and a council's service functions in general. (See Figures 3.1 below)

Figure 3.1 Local Government General Function

SERVICE FUNCTIONS	A COUNCIL EXERCISES FUNCTIONS UNDER				
	THIS ACT	OTHER ACTS			
	REGULATORY FUNCTIONS	ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS	REVENUE FUNCTIONS	ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS	ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS
For example: • Providing community health, recreation, education & information services•Environmental protection• Waste removal & disposal • Land & property, industry & tourism development & assistance.	• Approvals • Orders • Building certificates	• Resumption of land • Powers of entry and inspection	• Rates • Charges • Fees •Borrowings • Investments	• Employment of staff • Management plans • Financial reporting • Annual reports	•Proceedings for breaches of the Act •Prosecution of offences • Recovery of rates and charges

(Source: Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 5)

The Local Government Act 1993 also indicates that the service functions of councils can be classified into three parts, which are:

Part 1 – General
Provision of goods, services and facilities, etc

Part 2 – Public Land
- Classification and reclassification of public land
- Use and management of community land
- Miscellaneous

Part 3 – Restraints and qualifications that apply to service functions
- Tendering
- Water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage works and facilities
- Private works
- Graffiti removal

Source: The Act, Chapter 6,

The functions listed above possess strong connections to crime prevention, and they also reflect the requirements for the major design principles of CPTED. Consequently, the quality of the implementation of these functions by local governments is directly relevant to the consideration of crime prevention in a community.

For example, providing street lighting in the community is one of the local government's general services. If the street lighting is provided sufficiently for footpaths and other pedestrian-accessible areas in the community, a person's visual ability can be increased and surveillance from the public can consequently be maximized. This also serves to increase the public perception of safety.

Design principles also contribute to furthering crime prevention in the management of community land; for instance, providing attractive landscapes to the community, and displaying security system signs at access points leading to areas where surveillance is unavailable or low, are now both functions performed by local governments as ways of managing community space.

Finally, graffiti removal work is a necessary service for local governments to provide, as part of their overall crime prevention programs, specifically, to mitigate the extent and frequency of property damage in the community.

The following figure gives an overview of the major elements in the system of local government in NSW and how these elements are related to each other. It indicates a close relationship between the council and the local community. Council is the only government body that directly connects to the local community and can most effectively convey the needs of the community. In addition, it bridges the gap between the local communities and government bodies through information sharing and collaborative community initiatives. (See Figure 3.2 below)

Figure 3.2 – Work Relationship Map
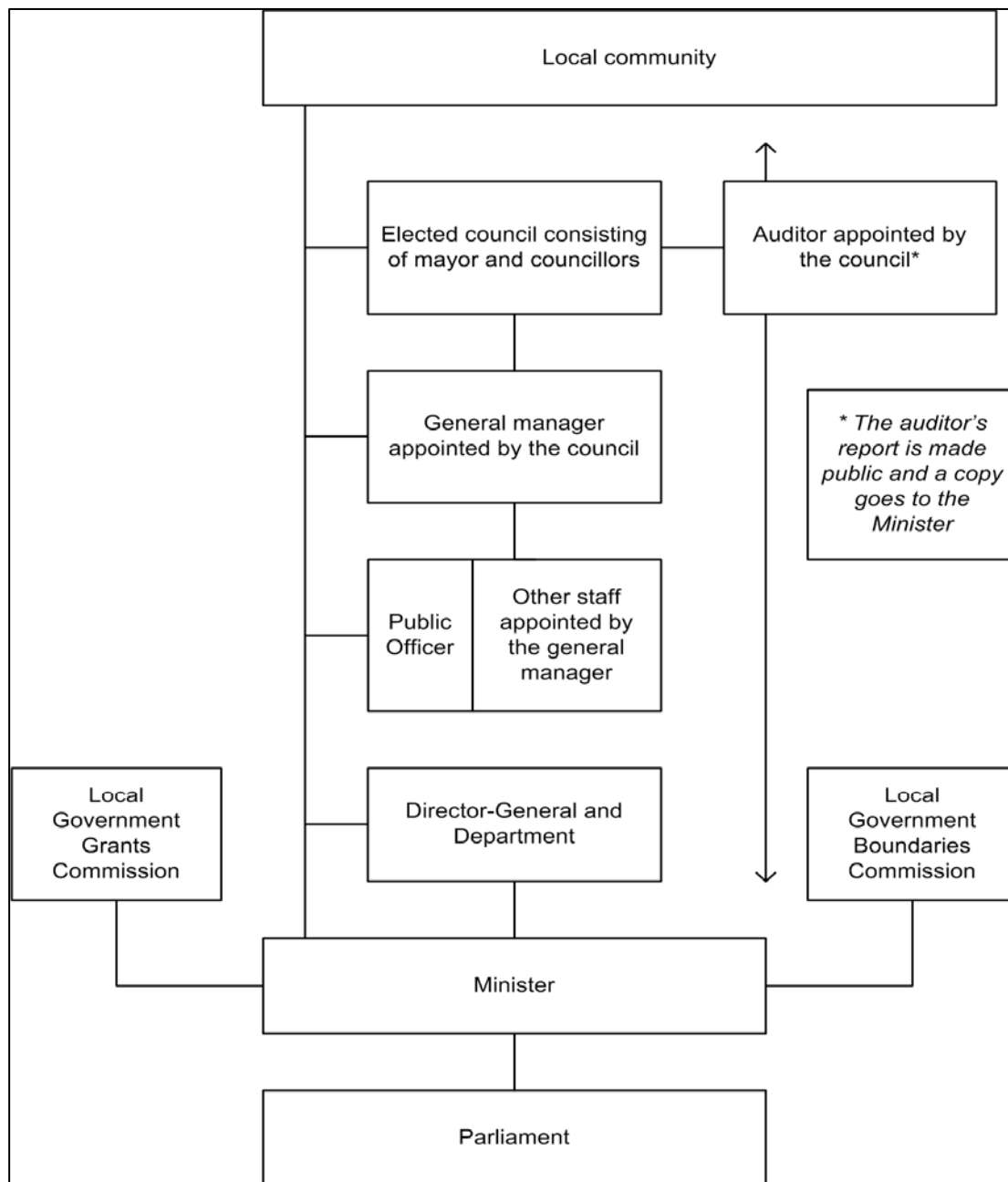
(Source: Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 2)

3.2 Local Government's role in dealing with crime prevention

In 1997, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) stipulated the role of local government in Australia.

As the ALGA stipulates (1997), in Australia, Local Government is elected to represent the local community, i.e. to be a responsible and accountable sphere of democratic governance. As such, local government has the duty of providing appropriate service both in the sense of meeting the community's needs, and in the sense of fostering community spirit and shared identity.

At the same time, the Association also clarified the roles and responsibilities which local governments have in relation to the Australian public. (ALGA home website)
These include:

- Must be a partner in the federal system
- Will be responsive and accountable to the local community
- Will provide good local governance
- Must exercise local autonomy
- Will provide leadership and advocacy
- Will promote active citizenship at the local level
- Will foster local identity and civic pride
- Will maintain community cohesion
- Will ensure the delivery of local services
- Will facilitate community development
- Will foster regional cooperation
- Will adapt to change

This list indicates that local government has an essential role in dealing with the social issues of the community, for instance crime prevention. Developing and initiating crime prevention programs is part of the local government's response to the concern for safety which the local community has. By implementing community programs to improve community safety, the local government also helps to cultivate civic pride, and a sense of shared identity. Good initiatives and projects for crime prevention can be considered part of the mechanism which local governments utilize for maintaining community cohesion. Finally, projects for crime prevention have already been initiated across the country via the different levels of government, which

include the regional government agencies. Local government, in this sense, is in an ideal position for developing partnerships with regional agencies. In addition to the above list of specifications from the ALGA, the involvement of provisions for planning and urban development, in the purview of functions of local government, gives further reason for focusing on the later chapters when examining crime prevention.

Since the 1970s, Australian Local Governments have experienced numerous pressures for change. These pressures came both from within the inner circles of local government, as well as from the State and Commonwealth governments. Councils now have moved to a new era of policy development, strategic planning and competition in service delivery after the reforms of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. (R, Chapman, M, Haward and Ryan, B. 1997) This is particularly true in relation to the local government's planning powers and powers of approval for development and redevelopment. (Lang, J, 1991)

In the modern system of today, local government holds prime responsibility for both subdivision approval and development approval, both of which bear a direct strategic relation to crime prevention. The popular notion of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is realized in the community through the way backyards are designed (i.e. fence height), the provision of street furniture, public open spaces, and security facilities. Projects of this sort must obtain approval from the relevant council or government body, which also provides financial support in certain instances.

By including all of this within the purview of functions of the local government, the authority of the latter in dealing with planning issues in the community has been increased. It should also be noted that most government crime prevention agencies have included local government in the development and delivery of crime prevention strategies in Australia. The Australia Institute of Criminology (AIC) indicates in a paper entitled: *Why local government has a major role in crime prevention*, that local government has increasingly come to be seen as a key player in developing and implementing crime prevention programs at the local scale. (AIC reduction matters, ISSN 1448-1383, No.19, 2004) A number of reasons were summarized in the paper, which reflects the

growing recognition of the role of local government in dealing with crime prevention in the community. These include:

- "Research shows that a great deal of crime is very local in nature (e.g.domestic burglary, anti-social behaviour, and certain forms of violence)."

- "Local government is frequently well placed to coordinate and manage crime prevention responses across the community".

- "There is an increasing community expectation that local government will assume some level of responsibility for initiating or directing action for crime issues that are seen to be affecting local amenity and quality of life."

- "Local government frequently has the most appropriate management infrastructure and skill for delivering the multi-agency programs that are often required. Typically services provided by local government that may be relevant to the crime prevention process include: environment design; land use and zoning (including the establishment of alcohol free zones); waste management; provision of street lighting; pubic events management; local human services; and community recreational services."

(Source from: PDF, "*Why local government has a major role in crime prevention*", PDF, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Planning Documents produced by Office of Crime Prevention March 2005.)

The listed reasons above have again proved that local government plays a key role in dealing with issues of crime prevention, not only because of its unique position between other government bodies and local communities, but also because of its political obligations and community duties. Furthermore, local government, due to its special place in the local community, can capture more direct information as well as respond more effectively to local community issues. This has, as a result, provided local governments with a better chance of developing more adequate policy solutions to community issues, one of which being the reduction and prevention of crime in the local community.

"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is also true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."

Thirty-fifth President of USA
John F. Kennedy

Chapter 4 – Crime Prevention in Sydney LGAs

Chapter 4 - Crime Prevention in Sydney LGAs

Sydney is situated on the south east coast of Australia. (See Map) The city includes seventeen local government areas in its Outer Ring, and twenty one local government areas in its Inner Ring.

Figure 4.1 map of Australia

Figure 4.2
Inner Ring LGAs
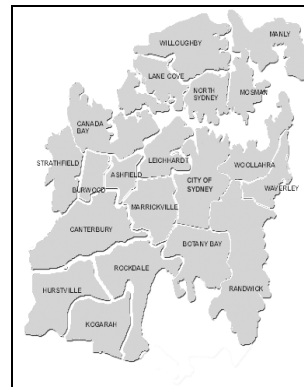
Figure 4.3
Outer Ring LGAs

Source: DLG website

Source: Travel- Australia Website

The twenty-one Inner Ring local government areas are: Manly, Willoughby, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Mosman, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Woollahra, City of Sydney, Ashfield, Strathfield, Burwood, Marrickville, Waverley, Canterbury, Hunters Hill, Botany Bay, Randwick, Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah. The seventeen local government areas in Sydney's Outer Ring are: Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Camden, Cambelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Ryde, Sutherland and Warringah.

In order to explore the Local Government's role in dealing with crime prevention, a comprehensive review of crime prevention initiatives in Sydney LGAs is necessary. This entails reviewing the information, on each council's website, concerning community safety and crime prevention, and looking at what the AIC website has to say about local government crime prevention initiatives. The results of this are given in the appendix section of this thesis.

4.1 Local Government crime prevention initiatives review

The present study has found that most Local Governments have played an important role in dealing with issues of crime prevention and fear reduction. They have not only adopted safety plans and social plans in order to address the issue of community safety, but have also implemented specific crime prevention programs in order to target major offences in the community. It should be noted, however, that different councils have approached the issue of crime prevention in different ways. In particular, some councils gave more emphasis to community development strategies, whereas others put the focus on improving the physical environment.

Based on the information provided by both Council websites and the AIC website, Canterbury Council developed the most crime prevention initiatives in Sydney's Inner Ring LGAs. However, most of its crime prevention initiatives were focused on community development in its local area; for instance, giving Home and Street Safety Information Sessions for Elderly Residents, providing Home and Street Safety Kits in the neighbourhood, providing Business Safety Tips for local businesses, and initiating the Boxed Art Project for youth crime prevention. Pittwater initiated more crime prevention programs compared to most other LGAs in the Sydney Outer Ring. In contrast to Canterbury, Pittwater has given more attention to the physical built environment improvement. The Council not only initiated an enormous project of graffiti removal and property vandalism prevention, but also introduced Alcohol Free Zones in the neighbourhood, in order to reduce alcohol related offences.

Many councils have established Community Safety Committees or Safety Officers as part of their crime prevention programs. The creation of these officers, in councils such as Canada Bay Council, Manly Council, Randwick Council and Woollahra Council in the Sydney Inner Ring, as well as Bankstown Council, Fairfield Council, Pittwater Council and Sutherland Council in the Outer Ring of Sydney, aid the councils in their overall crime prevention efforts.

In order to increase awareness of safety issues, and inform the public of crime prevention initiatives and their progress, councils ought to provide adequate information to the public. However, as we can see a number of councils have not done this.

The present study also has indicated that in the Inner Ring of Sydney region, six out of the twenty one Councils have not provided any information detailing crime prevention initiatives in the local government area, or else have allowed the information provided to become dated due to lack of maintenance. These LGAs are Botany Bay, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Rockdale, Waverley and Willoughby Council.   In comparison to the Sydney Inner Ring Councils, five out of the seventeen Councils in the Outer Ring of Sydney have not provided public information in relation to crime prevention initiatives in the area.   These Councils are: Auburn, Camden, Holroyd, Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai.

Overall, almost one third of the Councils (30%) in the Sydney region have not provided their local communities adequate information regarding crime prevention projects/initiatives, on either their home websites or the AIC home website.   From this it is possible to infer a number of tentative conclusions. First, perhaps these Councils have simply ignored the importance of public information provision or have a poor public infrastructure. Second, some or all of these councils could be in the process of preparing and developing plans, studying crime issues etc, after which information will be made available. Finally, these Councils may not have addressed issues of crime prevention in the area at all, and, as a result, there is no information to provide.

Today the internet is the fastest growing media resource, and also one of the most commonly used. The World Usage Statistics indicate that the number of people in the world who use the internet has increased 305.5% between the years 2000 to 2008.   The number of people who use the internet in Australia rose to 16,355,427in 2008, representing 60.9% of the total population. (Internetworldstats website, 2008) Generally speaking, providing adequate and accurate information on the internet is the most effective and cost efficient way of providing public education and helping to mediate and publicise local community issues. Most importantly,

providing information on safety and crime prevention to the public is essential and beneficial both to the Local Government and the Local Community. First of all, it provides a convenient and affordable means of educating the community regarding its safety and protection, increasing public awareness of issues and encouraging a sense of shared responsibility. Secondly, it helps foster a sense of belonging in the community, strengthening relationships between its members and removing the veil of ignorance which encourages apathy. Finally, it helps develop trust between the community and the government, by maximising political transparency.

In addition to providing adequate digital information on the relevant website, educational information can also be provided in a number of other ways, such as brochures, information booklets, posters and media released information, all of which serve to increase the level of public awareness of crime prevention initiatives in the community. These alternative methods are especially necessary for those who have either limited or no internet access.

4.2 NSW Top 50 Selected Offence Ranking List

The Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW developed a list of the Top Local Government Areas for Selected Offences in early 2008. Thirteen criminal offences during the period of January 2007 to December 2007 were selected for ranking: assault (non-domestic violence related), assault (domestic violence related), sexual offences, robbery, break and enter (dwelling), break and enter (non-dwelling), motor vehicle theft, steal from motor vehicle, steal from person, steal from retail store,   steal from dwelling, fraud and malicious damage to property.

The List includes Crime Statistics for selected offences for all the LGAs in NSW, apart from the LGAs with populations under 3000, the Sydney LGA, and LGAs without the offence. The Bureau explains that LGAs with populations lower than 3000 are excluded because rate calculations for these areas are very sensitive to small changes in population size and in the number of incidents recorded. Similarly, rates should also be calculated cautiously when the LGAs have high population mobility or low resident stability, because the rate calculations are only based on estimates of the residential population. The City of Sydney has a large number of

visitors compared to permanent local residents. As a result, this LGA was excluded from the list as well**.** A number of summary tables were designed based on the original information from the Bureau website. These tables are offered below, which gives the data from the ranking list.

4.2.1 Findings for Sydney Inner Ring LGAs

- **Number of times ranked**

The list indicates that nineteen out of the twenty-one LGAs in the Sydney Inner Ring Area have ranked at least once in the Top 50 for Selected Offences.

Excluding the City of Sydney LGA, Hunters Hill was the only LGA not to rank at least once on the list. Marrickville and Waverley LGA have both ranked the most (eight times) in the top 50, followed by Ashfield, Burwood, Leichhardt and Randwick LGA, with seven rankings in the top 50. Lane Cove and Mosman LGA are the only two LGAs which ranked once in the top 50. The rest of the LGAs were ranked between three to six times. These are Botany Bay, Canada Bay, Strathfield, Woollahra, Hurstville, North Sydney, Rockdale, Willoughby, Canterbury, Kogarah and Manly. (See figure 4.4 below)

Figure 4.4- Summary Table of Sydney Inner LGAs Ranking

Sydney Inner (SI)	No. of being Ranked Top 50
Marrickville	8
Waverley	8
Ashfield	7
Burwood	7
Leichhardt	7
Randwick	7
Botany Bay	6
Canada Bay	6
Strathfield	6
Woollahra	6
Hurstville	5
North Sydney	5

Rockdale	5
Willoughby	5
Canterbury	4
Kogarah	4
Manly	3
Lane Cove	1
Mosman	1
Hunters Hill	0

(Source: Analysis of information provided on The Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW website)

● 4.2.2 Types of offences which the rankings represent

Inner Ring LGAs ranked in the top 50 for nine of the thirteen measured offences. The four for which they did not rank in the top 50 were: sexual offences, break and enter (non-dwelling), steal from dwelling and malicious damage to property. (See figure 4.5 below)

Figures 4.5 – Summary Table of Inner Ring LGA Selected Offence Ranking

Selected Offences	No. of Council ranked top 50
Fraud	18
Robbery	17
Steal from person	17
Steal from Motor Vehicle	15
Motor Vehicle Theft	14
Break and Enter - dwelling	11
Steal from retail store	8
Assault-Non domestic violence related	1
Assault-Domestic Violence Related	1
Break and Enter - non-dwelling	0
Sexual Offences	0
Steal from dwelling	0
Malicious damage to property	0

(Source: Analysis of information provided on The Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW website)

The list indicates that nineteen out of the twenty-one LGAs in the Sydney Inner Ring Area have ranked at least once in the Top 50 for Selected Offences.

Among the nine offences for which Inner Ring LGAs ranked, fraud was the most common. Eighteen LGAs ranked in the top 50 for fraud. The definition of fraud in law dictionary is *"the intentional use of deceit, a trick or some dishonest means to deprive another of his/her/its money, property or a legal right"*. (Law dictionary website, 2008)

The second most common offences for Inner Ring LGAs were robbery and steal from person. Inner Ring LGAs appear seventeen times on the ranking list for these two crimes. After this, motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicles were the next highest, with fourteen and fifteen appearances on the list, respectively, followed by break and enter (dwelling), which appears eleven times. Overall, for the thirteen offences measured across all LGAs, six were instanced more than ten times by Inner Ring LGAs in the top 50 list. The difference between motor vehicle theft and steal from motor offence is one refers to the activity of stealing the vehicle itself whilst the other refers to the activity of stealing goods from the vehicle. (Law dictionary website)

Lastly, eight Inner Ring LGAs appear in the top 50 for steal from retail stores, which a significant figure is given that none of these LGAs rank in the top 50 for theft from dwelling. Inner Ring LGAs also have comparatively low assault rates, according to the data.

4.2.2 Findings for Sydney Outer Ring LGAs

- **Number of times ranked**

The list indicates that thirteen LGAs in the Sydney Outer Ring Area rank at least once on the Top 50 list. Four LGAs were not included in the list: Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Pittwater.

Campbelltown ranked in the top 50 for ten times, which was the most out of the thirteen LGAs in the Outer Ring. Penrith had the second highest number of rankings, at eight. Three LGAs were ranked seven times: Auburn, Holroyd and Parramatta. Liverpool and Fairfield both ranked six times on the list. Overall, seven out of seventeen Sydney Outer Ring LGAs ranked on the top 50

for the selected offences, more than five times.

Six LGAs ranked between once and five times on the top 50 ranking list. These are Bankstown (five times), Blacktown and Ryde (four times), Sutherland (twice), Warringah and Camden (once each). (See figure 4.6 below)

Figures 4.6 – Summary Table of Sydney Outer LGAs Ranking

Sydney Outer (SO)	No. of being Ranked Top 50
Campbelltown	10
Penrith	8
Auburn	7
Parramatta	7
Holroyd	7
Liverpool	6
Fairfield	6
Bankstown	5
Blacktown	4
Ryde	4
Sutherland	2
Camden	1
Warringah	1
Baulkham Hills	0
Hornsby	0
Ku-ring-gai	0
Pittwater	0

(Source: Analysis of information provided on The Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW website)

- **Types of offences which the rankings represent**

There are three categories of offence for which there is no Outer Ring LGA in the top 50 list: sexual offences, break and enter (non-dwelling), and break and enter (dwelling). This result is similar to the result for offences for which Inner Ring LGAs failed to rank in the top 50, meaning that, for such offences, LGAs outside of Sydney are ranked highest on the list.

The most common offence in Outer Ring LGAs is Robbery, for which there are twelve LGAs in the top 50. Outer Ring LGAs rank eleven times for steal from persons and fraud, which is also a similar result to that for Inner Ring LGAs. Additionally, Outer Ring LGAs rank nine times for

steal from retail stores, seven times for steal from motor vehicles, and six times for break and enter (dwelling). Overall, there were ten or more Outer Ring LGAs in the top 50 for three offences, which is half the number of offences for which ten or more Inner Ring LGAs rank in the top 50.

Finally, four Outer Ring LGAs ranked in the top 50 for domestic violence related assault, two for non-domestic violence related assault, and one for malicious property damage. (See figure 4.7)

Figure 4.7 – Summary Table of Outer Ring LGA Selected Offence Ranking

Selected Offences	No. of Council ranked top 50
Robbery	12
Steal from person	11
Fraud	11
Steal from retail store	9
Steal from Motor Vehicle	7
Break and Enter - dwelling	6
Assault-Domestic Violence related	4
Assault-Non domestic Violence related	2
Malicious damage to property	1
Sexual Offences	0
Break and Enter - non-dwelling	0
Steal from dwelling	0

(Source: Analysis of information provided on The Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW website)

4.2.3 Comparison between Inner and Outer Ring LGAs

Overall, LGAs in both Inner and Outer Ring are quite similar in terms of their least and most common offence types. In each case the most common three offences are robbery, steal from persons, and fraud. Moreover, three of the four offences for which Inner Ring LGAs did not rank in the top 50, were also not represented in the rankings by Outer Ring LGAs. These are sexual offences, break and enter (non-dwelling), and steal from dwelling.

Apart from the similarity in most common and least common offence type, a number of differences can also be discerned from the data.

● Number of times being ranked top 50

The study classified the number of times being ranked in the top 50 into three categories: ranked 0 times, N=0; ranked once or more, but less than five times, N=1 or 1<N<5; and ranked five or more times, N>5 or N=5. The study found that the main category in both Sydney's Inner Ring and Outer Ring was N >5 or N=5, which means most LGAs in the Sydney region feature in the top 50 five or more times. However, the Inner Ring had a higher percentage of LGAs in this category (N=5 or N>5), and, conversely, had a much lower percentage of LGAs in the category of N=0, than did the Outer Ring. This indicates that more LGAs in the Outer Ring fail to rank in the top 50 for any of the selected offences. (See figure 4.8 and 4.9 below)

Figure 4.8 - Summary table for Number and percentage of being ranked top 50

	N=0	N =1 or 1<N<5	N>5orN=5
Inner Ring LGA	5% (1/20)	25% (5/20)	70% (14/20)
Outer Ring LGA	24% (4/17)	29% (5/17)	47% (8/17)

Figure 4.9 – maps for percentage of times being ranked in Inner/Outer Ring LGAs
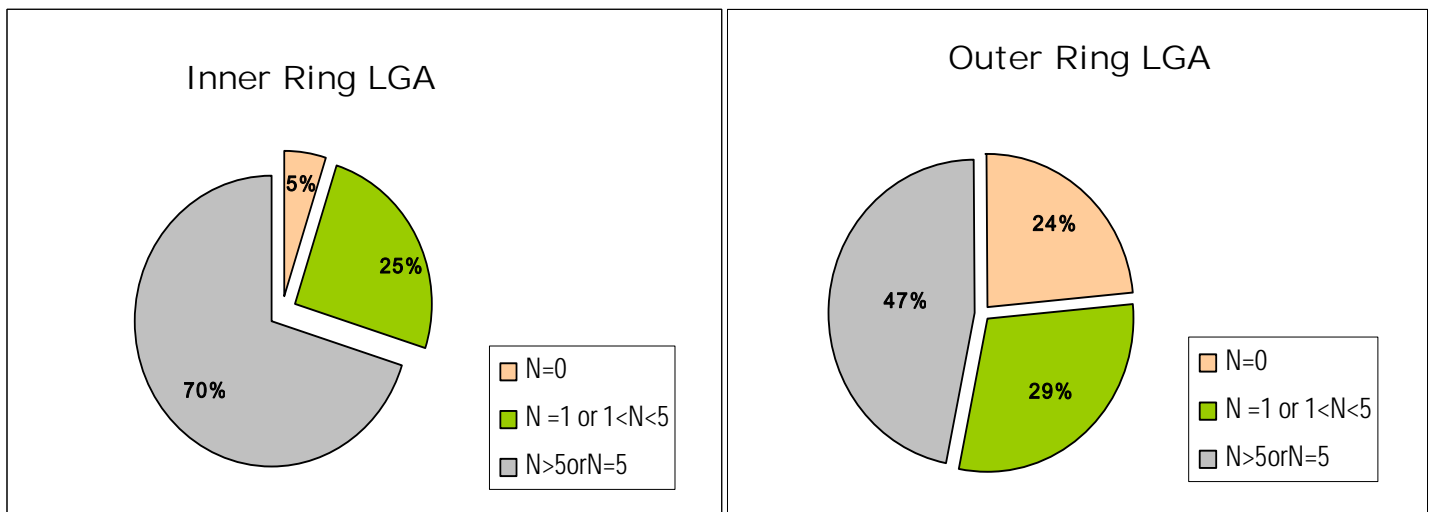
Figure 4.8 above also indicates that, compared to Inner Ring LGAs, Sydney Outer Ring LGAs possess a more balanced percentage across the different categories of times ranked in the top 50.

● **Type of crime which ranked top 50**

The results of the examination exhibit the presence of significant criminal activities in Sydney LGAs, across both rings. Although the most frequent offences are typically not life threatening, they still present serious safety issues for the community. It is thus necessary to address these issues, at the local scale, through the implementation of suitable projects for crime reduction and prevention. (See Figure 4.10 below)

Figure 4.10 - Comparison of Number of Offence Being Ranked
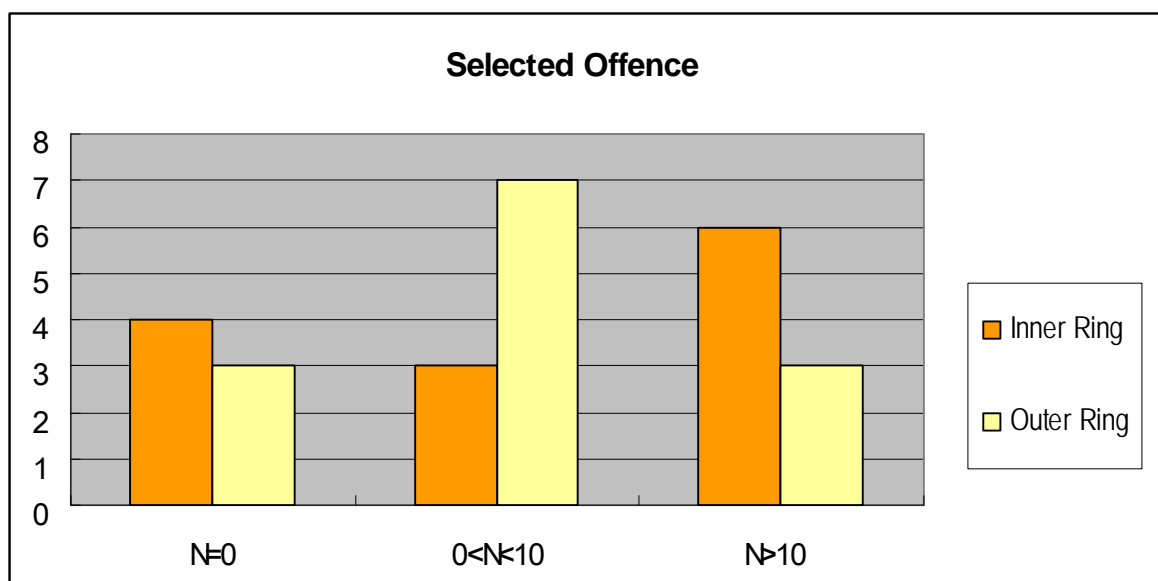
Comparing the data for Inner and Outer Ring LGAs, the result also suggests that there are certain types of offences which are more frequent in the former than the latter, and that whilst the overall number of offences for which LGAs rank in the top 50 are similar in each case, the specific offences in question differ.

The available literature is incapable of explaining these phenomena, and they will not be further discussed here. In the following chapter, four particular LGAs are selected for closer examination, in particular for scrutiny of the role of local government in dealing with crime prevention at the local scale, and the effectiveness of their initiatives.

"There's always room for improvement, you know-it's the biggest room in the house."

Unknown

Chapter 5 –Case Study

Four LGAs have been selected in order to further examine the role of local governments in dealing with issues of crime prevention, and in order to understand better the relationship between LGAs and the task of planning in Sydney. The four LGAs were selected from Sydney's inner and outer rings and a number of comparative analyses developed to gauge the relative effectiveness of various crime prevention initiatives, and to determine the overall effectiveness of such initiatives in general.

The focus of the two Inner Ring LGA cases was to explore professionals' opinions on issues of crime prevention by conducting interviews with them. The focus of the two Outer Ring LGA cases was to examine a particular crime prevention initiative by comparing the approaches and effectiveness from each LGA.

The extensive statistical data included in this chapter originates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census of Population and Housing, as well as community profile information taken from the websites of local councils. Further citation of these sources is omitted below.

5.1 Inner Ring LGA Case Study – Waverley and Marrickville

Two LGAs were selected to form the Inner Ring LGA Case Study: Waverley LGA and Marrickville LGA.

In 2007, Waverley and Marrickville each had the highest number of rankings in the Top 50 amongst Sydney Inner Ring LGAs, with eight appearances. (See Figure 4.4) In the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, Waverley LGA, in conjunction with the surrounding two LGAs - Woollahra and Randwick - shaped a high crime incidence corridor. In 2007, Randwick LGA was ranked top 50 for seven selected offences, and Woollahra LGA was ranked top 50 for six selected offences. Their rankings were much higher than most Northern Suburbs of the City. In the Inner West part of the City, Marrickville together with Leichhardt, Ashfield and Burwood also created a high

crime incidencerea, with Marrickville ranked top 50 for eight selected offences, and the other three all ranked top 50 for seven selected offences in 2007. A map was designed to depict these linked areas. (See figure 5.1 below)

In addition to the above reasons, the two selected LGAs also bear further resemblances in terms of their distance from the City centre, connections to surrounding areas, and demographic data. The high compatibility between these two LGAs makes the results of the comparative analyses between them more comprehensible.

Figures 5.1 – Modified Map of Two Selected Inner Ring LGAs
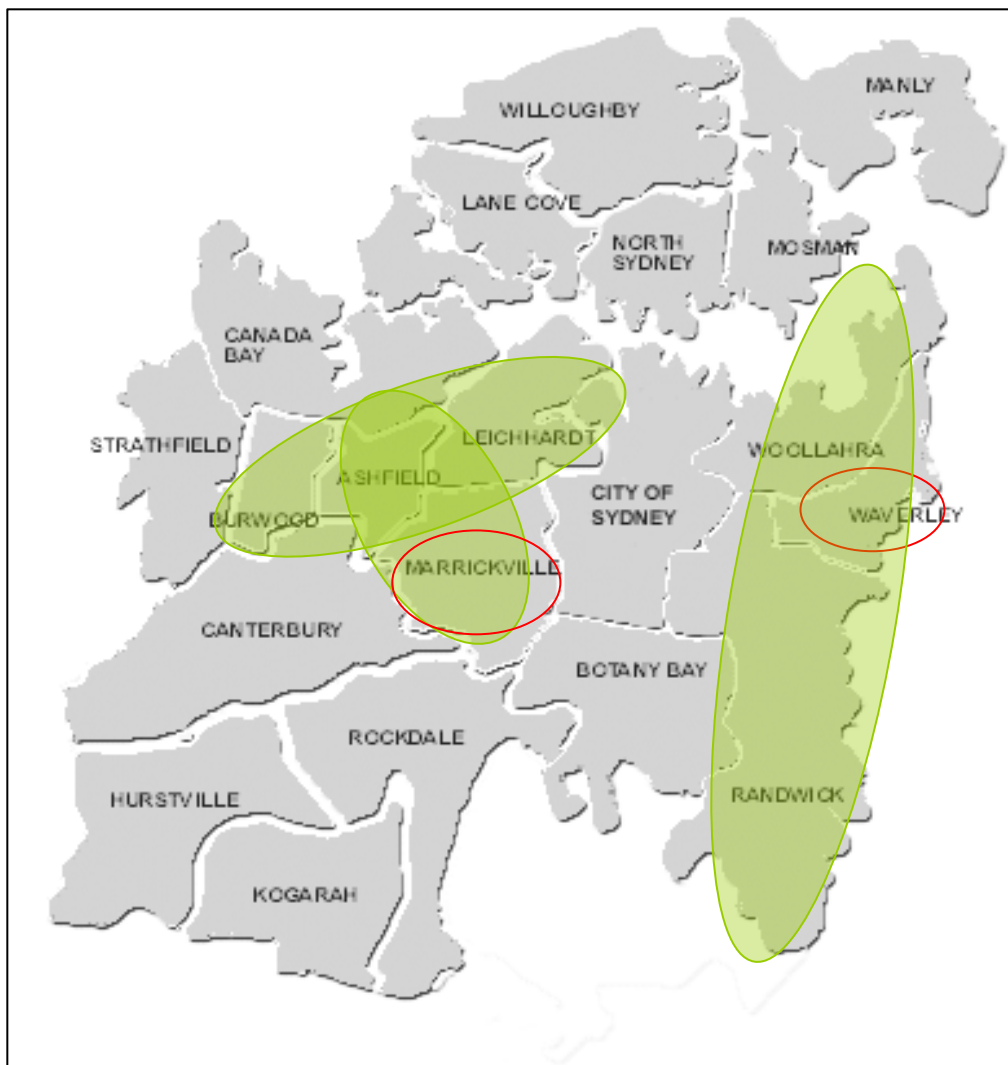
(Original source from Department of Local Government Website)

5.1.1 Waverley

● **Where is it located at?**

Waverley LGA is located on the inner-east side of Sydney, with large areas of residential use and some significant commercial areas. (See Figure-5.2) The LGA comprises eleven subdurbs, which are Bondi, Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction, Bronte, Dover Heights, North Bondi, Queens Park, Rose Bay (part), Tamarama, Vaucluse (part) and Waverley (Figure 5.2, location of Waverley in Sydney, source from Council website)

● **Who lives in this area?**

In 2006, the LGA had an estimated resident population of 61,689 including overseas visitors, and 59,835 excluding overseas visitors. The majority of the population were Australian citizens aged between 18 and 64 years. The number of Australian born residents was greater than the number of overseas born residents, with 28,840 compared to 20,658.

● **What is the major households and housing type?**

Overall, 18.9% of the residents were purchasing dwellings, and nearly one fourth (24.2%) of the households owned the dwellings that they lived in, but more than one third of the population (38.1%) were renting.

Most households were couples without children, followed by couples with child/children. More than half of the households own at least one vehicle, whereas 18.1% of the households do not own any vehicles. Most households were situated in either medium or high density housing in Waverley, of which 29.6% of them lived in medium density and 40.9% of them lived in high density. In addition to that, a small percentage of households (19.2%) lived in separate houses in Waverley.

- **How much do they earn?**

Waverley LGA had a much higher percentage of population who earned $2,000 per week or more compared to the Sydney Statistical Division SD (10.4% compared to 5.2%). The area also had a smaller percentage of people who received lower income compared to Sydney, for instance 3.7% of them received $1-$149 compared to 6.5% of Sydney SD residents, 6.7% of them received $150 to $249 per week compared to 12.0% in Sydney, 7.7% of them received $250 to $399 per week compared to 10.9% in Sydney SD, and 9.2% of them received $400 to $599 compared to 12.0%.

Weekly income for households in Waverley was correlatively similar, in 2006, to individual weekly income. The area had a higher percentage of high income compared to the Sydney Statistical Division, for instance, 11.4% of the households in Waverley received $2,500 to $2,900 compared to 7.8% in Sydney SD, and 13.4% of them earned $3,000 or more compared to 8.2% of the households in Sydney SD. Waverley also had a smaller percentage of households that received lower weekly income compared to the Sydney Statistical Division, for example, 1.1% them received $1 to $ 149 compared to 1.4% of the Sydney SD households, 3.7% of them received $150 to $249 compared to 4.4% of the households in Sydney SD, 5% of them received $250 to $349 compared to 5.7% of the households in Sydney SD, and 1.8% of them received $350 to $499 compared to 3.9% in Sydney SD.

- **What qualification do they have?**

Most residents living in Waverley had either Bachelor/Higher degrees (31.7%) or no qualifications (26.8%). The number of people who had Advanced Diplomas or Diplomas in this area was higher than the Sydney Statistical Division, 8.8% compared to 8.1%, whilst the percentage of people with vocational qualifications was less compared to Sydney, with 9.5% compared to 14.5%.

How safe is this area?

Data from recent British Crime Surveys suggests that the communities with the highest crime rates are typically characterized by the following features: 1) residents lack economic resources; 2) rental housing tenure predominates; and 3) their demographic composition includes a high proportion of young people (under 25), lone parent households, and single person households. (Hancock, L, 2001)

Overall, local residents in Waverley had comparatively greater economic resources compared to the Sydney average; the percentage of rental housing was larger than the percentage of owned housing but smaller than the sum total of homes either owned or being paid off; the proportion of people aged between 18 to 64 was significantly high, however, the statistics did not specify the proportion of the population aged under 25; finally, Waverley, did not have a large percentage of lone parent households or single person households. As a result of such characteristics, Waverley should be expected to be a comparatively safer area. However, the actual statistics tell a different story.

In 2007, Waverley LGA was ranked in the top 50 Local Government Areas for eight Selected Offences, which was the most of all Sydney Inner Ring LGAs. Fraud, steal from persons and steal from retail stores were the three most significant offences in Waverley, which were ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd in NSW. In addition to this, Waverley was also ranked 14th for Motor Vehicle Theft, 17th for Robbery, 34th for Break and Enter (dwelling), 36th for Assault-Non domestic violence related offence and 45th for Steal from Motor vehicle. Furthermore, Waverley was also the only Inner Ring LGA that ranked top 50 for Assault-Non domestic violence related offence.

What is the role of local government in relation to crime prevention?

The Waverley Council is currently updating a new safety plan for the local government area. No other official initiatives, in this regard, have been announced or documented on either the

Council website, or the State Government website.

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the role of councils in crime prevention, an in-depth interview was initiated and conducted with a community safety officer at Waverley Council.

- **What did local community safety officer say about crime prevention?**

An in-depth interview was conducted with Lisa Simon, who has worked at the Waverley Community Centre as a community safety officer for many years. In regards to the top three offences in Waverley, Lisa explained that Waverley has suffered high rates of theft because of its high tourism rates, i.e. because tourists are largely unaware of the risks of theft and are consequently taken advantage of. In most cases, theft offences are accompanied by fraud offences, for example, a thief will steal a purse and then max out the credit cards it contains.

Two responses to these problems have been initiated, according to Lisa, as part of a project designed by the NSW Attorney General Crime Prevention Division's strategy for theft reduction in the Waverley LGA, and in Bondi Junction in particular. The first response is to raise public awareness of the risk of theft from person offences in Bondi Junction, by handing out bookmarks and advertising information to the public, and putting up signs in retail areas and community centres; second, by initiating programs for youth offenders, in part to keep them away from shopping centres. Apart from these two programs initiated by the NSW Government, the Council has undertaken a number of other actions, for instance providing more safety information to backpackers and tourists, by putting booklets and notices in the hostels and public areas, as well as installing more locker facilities around beach areas and organising outdoor theatre campaigns at the beach during Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Lisa declared that these strategies have been generally successful and that the Council will most likely be running the theatre campaign again next year. However she also stated that:

> "We are not expecting to fix the problem. In long term, this is something that we have to keep at, probably, you know, always…"

Figure 5.3 –Picture of tourists at Bondi Beach (by Jinglang Yan, 2007 November)

Lisa described the relationship between planners and the local government, on the issue of crime prevention as:

"… imperfect, but definitely improving…"

She mentioned that the relationship involved frequent miscommunication, misinterpretation, and conflicts in deadline. More importantly, respect and mutual understanding are required, between professionals from each sector, in order to make the relationship work. The positive news is the State Government, in particular the NSW Attorney General Crime Prevention Division, has been strongly encouraging partnership in Local Government crime prevention initiatives, through the implementation of funding principles such as that which requires local governments to involve partners in the process of gathering evidence and developing policy, before submitting funding proposals to the State Government. On the other hand, the Council has established a safety communittee, which includes people across different sectors, who consult one another when developing solutions to the common issues of the community. Lisa believed that establishing of such a community has definitely helped different professionals to understand each other's language and particular interests, which ultimately also helped to improve the partnership quality.

5.1.2 Marrickville

- **Where is it located?**

Marrickville LGA is located in the inner-western side of Sydney, approximately nine kilometres from the centre of the city. (See figure 5.4) The LGA encompasses eleven suburbs: Dulwich Hill, Lewisham, Petersham, Marrickville, Stanmore, St. Peters, Sydenham, Tempe, Enmore and parts of Newtown and Camperdown.

(Figure 5.4 Location of Marrickville in Sydney, source: SGS Economics and Planning, subregions based on City of Cities: A Plan for Sydney's Future, NSW Government))

- **Who lives in the area?**

For the year 2006 there were 71,812 residents living in Marrickville, not including visitors from elsewhere. The majority of the population were Australian citizens aged 25 to 39 years (total of 32.6%, with 10.3% aged 25-29, 11.6% aged 30-34 and 10.7% aged 35-39). The number of Australian born residents was significantly greater than the number of overseas born residents, with 39,721 compared to 20,454.

- **What is the major household and housing type?**

Overall, one fourth of the occupied dwellings were fully owned, 28% of the dwellings were being purchased, and more than 40% of the remaining dwellings were rented.

Most households in Marrickville were family type, which accounted for 59% of the total households, and the remaining 41% of them were non family type, which included lone persons, shared households or unrelated people. The most common family type in Marrickville was couples with child/children (52%), followed by couples without children (30.3%). The majority of the residents owned at least one car, of which 48% of them owned one vehicle, 20% of them

owned two vehicles and 3% owned three vehicles. However, 23% of the households indicated that they had no vehicles.

Most population lived in medium to high density dwellings in Marrickville. Nearly one third of the residents (36%) lived in separate houses but more than 60% of residents lived in medium to high density dwelling, of which 26% of them were resident in semis/townhouses and 37% of them were resident in flats or units.

- **How much do they earn?**

The average weekly income for people aged 15+ in Marrickville was $769, which was higher than $709, the average weekly income in Sydney SD. Marrickville had a smaller percentage of people who earned weekly income of $1-149, $250-$399, $400-$599, $600-$799 or $2,000+ compared to Sydney SD: 4.7% of Marrickville residents earned $1-$149 compared to 6.5% in Sydney SD; 10.1% earned $250-$399 compared to 10.9% in Sydney; 11.% earned $400-$599 compared to 12% in Sydney SD, 10% earned $600-$799 compared to 10.2% in Sydney SD, and 4.9% earned $2000+ compared to 5.3% in Sydney SD. Therefore, overall Marrickville had a smaller number of people who received lower weekly income compared to Sydney SD.

Average household weekly income in Marrickville was 5% higher than it was in the Sydney SD, $1,656 compared to $1,582. Overall, 20% of the households received an average income of $2,000 - $2,999, 16% of the families received an average income of $500-$999, 30% of them earned $1,000-$2,999, 15% earned $1,000-$1,399, and 15% earned $1,400-$1,999. Almost 20% of the residents aged 15+ in this LGA had bachelor's degrees, 10.9% of the residents had certificates, 8.6% of the residents had postgraduate degrees or diplomas, and 7.5% of them had diplomas or advanced diplomas. In total, 47% of them had some type of qualification, compared to 38.3% of them that had no qualification, or no declared qualification, in Marrickville.

- **How safe is the area?**

Overall, the urban characteristics of Marrickville are quite similar, in terms of the data for

economic resources, proportion of rented housing, proportion of young population, and of housing and household types, to those of Waverley. Moreover, like Waverley, the actual crime rate in Marrickville is higher than recent British Crime Surveys might lead one to extrapolate, and higher than most Sydney Inner Ring LGAs.

In 2007, Marrickville LGA was ranked in the top 50 list of Local Government Areas for eight selected offences. The three most critical offences in Marrickville were steal from motor vehicle, robbery and motor vehicle theft. These however were different to most Sydney LGAs. Marrickville was ranked 1st, 4th and 5th in NSW for these three selected offences. In addition to this, the LGA was also ranked 7h for Fraud, 12th for both Break and Enter-dwelling and Steal from person, 29th for steal from retail store and 50th for Assault-Domestic violence related offence. Marrickville was also the only Inner Ring LGA that ranked in the top 50 for Assault-Domestic violence related offence.

• How Local Government plays its role in crime prevention?

Marrickville Council has implemented two major Safety Plans as part of its crime prevention program: *Safety in Marrickville Plan* (adopted in March, 2003) and *Development Control Plan No.38 – Community Safety* (adopted in May, 2003).

The Council developed the Safety in Marrickville Plan to devise solutions to the problems associated with crime and safety in the community. The causes as well as the risk factors for offending behaviour was given particular attention in the Plan, providing theoretical evidence for the Council to undertake different approaches in dealing with issues of crime prevention and reduction in Marrickville. The process of developing the Plan involved conducting extensive community consultations with community members, examining the safety problems and crimes in Marrickville, conducting safety audits in parts of the LGA, and developing partnerships with a diversity of professionals and organisations, such as the Department of Education and Training, Department of Community Services, Department of Health, New South Wales Police Department and Department of Housing. Finally, a comprehensive literature review was included to ensure the quality of the developed strategies and their effectiveness for the community.

Overall, the plan took a community development or communal project approach. On the other hand, a small number of strategies and programs were developed for improving the physical environment, in order to minimise the possibilities, and opportunities, for criminal behaviour.

There are six key areas of emphasis covered by the plan developed by a Community Safety Committee, from which follow a number of program suggestions:

1) **Community Strengthening Activities** - A Sense of Belonging - including ways of improving the social environment and cultivating a sense of neighbourliness;
2) **Getting Off to the Right Start -** looking at early intervention / developmental approaches to community safety including children and families;
3) **Looking to the Future** - which looks at issues concerning local young people;
4) **Healthy Communities** - which looks at issues in relation to drug use;
5) **Planning for Safer Environments** - which explores ways of planning safer private dwellings and maximising the use of public space;
6) **Beyond the Marrickville Boundaries** - which explores issues which can be addressed beyond Local Government Area boundaries at a regional level

Accordingly to the Plan, a range of crime prevention projects were initiated in these six areas by Waverley Council. Apart from the Plan listed above, Marrickville Council also implemented Development Control Plan (DCP) No.38 – Community Safety in May, 2003. The Council prepared this DCP to meet the requirement of section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Act 1979, to take in considerations of safety design principles when determining development application.

The DCP was developed based on the concept of CPTED and its four fundamental design principles: 1).Surveillance, 2).Access Control, 3).Territorial Reinforcement, and 4).Space Management/Maintenance. The main purpose of the DCP was "to provide objectives, controls and guidelines for how community safety matters can be adequately addressed in developments". (PDF DCP) The DCP specified development scenarios for improving community safety, and also covered all details for major development types in Marrickville. It applies not only to private

development in Marrickville, but also to developments that relate to Councils or other levels of governments.

- **What did the community planner say about crime prevention?**

An in-depth interview was conducted with Sohail Faridy, who has worked at Marrickville Council as an Executive Planner for many years.

In regards to the existing planning instruments for crime prevention, Sohail said that updating work has been taking place on the Marrickville LEP, and that a new LEP and DCP were on target to be completed by March 2009.

Sohail stated that in many well established inner ring LGAs in Sydney, the planner's role in dealing with crime prevention can be very limited. Inner city areas like Marrickville were established long ago, therefore change of the area's and street layouts in order to meet all the safety design principles would be most likely impossible. As a result of such a restriction, the planner's major responsibility shifts to ensuring that the design of individual buildings discourages, to the greatest extent possible, criminal activity in Marrickville. In addition to this, planners also try to establish a link between public and private areas in Marrickville, so that both spaces can be used with better accessibility and increased natural surveillance by local residents.

Sohail believes that planners have been taking crime prevention issues more seriously these days compared to a few years ago. The reasons for this include the changed nature of crime and society over time, people felt much safer back in the old good days, and there were not many criminal activities compared to the number of criminal incidences today. The State Government's recent policy in advising Local Governments to adopt new crime prevention initiatives through design principle DCPs were also the major reason that planners have given increased consideration to safety issues when assessing a DA. Overall, Sohail strongly affirmed the significant use of implementing and applying safety design principles in new development or refurbished development, to achieve a safer community in Marrickville.

In terms of partnership with other sectors, Sohail said that planners didn't really interact with other parts of the Council organisation, in terms of dealing with crime prevention issues. However, when planners assess a larger scale development, for instance a pub or night club in the neighbourhood, they usually referred the DA to the local police commander for more professional comments and recommendations. In most cases, planners found there recommendations and comments were constructive and practical. However, different opinions were often prevalent, because the police only look at the criminal affect of a development whilst the planners also need to look at other effects of a development, such as the amenity of the area.

5.1.3 Discussion on both cases

It was asserted earlier that Waverley and Marrickville LGAs share many similarities in urban characteristics and crime rankings in NSW. The study further found that, although both LGAs have undertaken crime prevention initiatives in their local areas, the actual working approach and main focus were quite different in each case. Marrickville clearly gave more attention to promoting community safety through ensuring individual building design was conducive to crime prevention, whilst Waverley gave greater emphasis to communal projects in order to increase public awareness of crime prevention. Additionally, Waverley was more partnership-oriented, whereas in Marrickville the approach was simpler and more discrete.

A table was designed, based on the resources made available by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research, which indicated the crime trend for three most significant offences for these two LGAs from 2002 to 2006. (See Figure 5.5 below)

The table indicates that, from 2002 to 2006, there was an increase in fraud, malicious damage to property, and theft from retail stores. Two of these were also listed as the top three offences in Waverley. During the same period, theft from motor vehicles and malicious damage to property increased, where the former was also in the top three offences in Marrickville. Comparing the three most significant offences in the two LGAs, we can see that there was a greater increase in frequency for these offences in Waverley than in Marrickville: namely, for fraud and theft from retail stores. That is, crimes whose frequency is already high become more frequent in Waverley,

than in Marrickville, over this period, and by a greater percentage. Marrickville saw a small increase in theft from motor vehicles, whereas the other two major offences in this LGA either remained at a stable frequency, or decreased.

Figure 5.5 –Summary Table for Trends for Waverley and Marrickville

Trends in Recorded Crime Statistics for three selected offences, 2002 to 2006				
LGA Name	**Most significant**	**2nd most**	**3rd most**	**Increased Offence**
Waverley	Annual percentage change for **Fraud** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 15.8%	Annual percentage change for **Steal from person** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable	Annual percentage change for **Steal from retail store** 2006-2007 Down by 15.5% 2003-2007 Up by 20.0%	Annual percentage change for **1.Fraud** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 15.8% **2. Malicious damage to property** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 6.7% **3.Steal from retail store** 2006 -2007 Down by 15.5% 2003-2007 Up by 20.0%
Marrickville	**Steal from motor vehicle** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Up by 5.4%	Annual percentage change for **Robbery without a weapon** 2006-2007down by 33.1% 2003-2007down by15.9% **Robbery with a weapon** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable	Annual percentage change for **Motor vehicle theft** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007 Down by 9.1%	**1. Steal from motor vehicle** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Up by 5.4% **2. Malicious damage to property** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 7.4%

Thus, statistically speaking, Marrickville had achieved better crime prevention results in terms of stabilising or reducing significant criminal instance in the area. However, this result should not

be simply equated with the effectiveness of local government crime prevention initiatives. Other reasons include Waverley's larger commercial areas, such as Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction Westfield shopping centre, both of which attract greater movable (non-resident) population, thus making the task of crime prevention more difficult compared to Marrickville, which only had to deal mainly with local residents. For example, the hotspots map for malicious damage to property incidents below showed that in Marrickville the hotspot for malicious damage in 2006 were Dulwich Hill, Stanmore and part of Lewisham, whilst the hotspot for malicious damage to property in Waverley were Bondi Junction, Bondi Beach and part of North Bondi. (See Figure below)

Figure 5.6 - Hot Spot for Malicious Damage to Property in Marrickville and Waverley
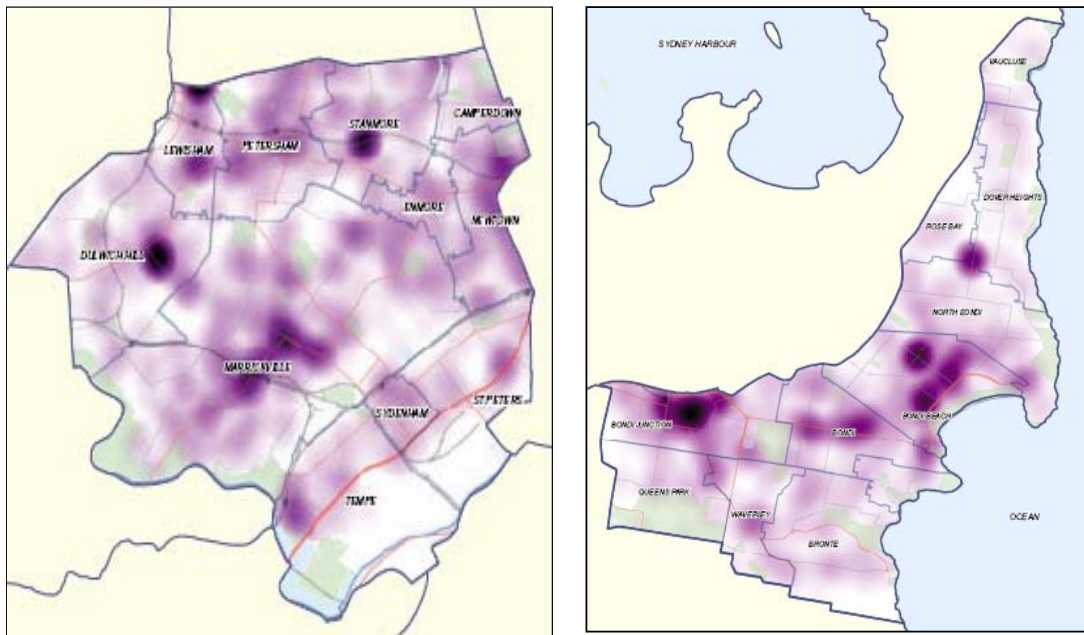
Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research –local government area crime report

5.2 Outer Ring Case Study – Penrith and Campbelltown

Two Outer Ring LGAs were also selected as case studies: Campbelltown LGA and Penrith LGA.

In 2007, Campbelltown LGA was ranked in the Top 50 List of LGAs in NSW for ten selected offences, which was the most among all LGAs in Sydney's Outer Ring. Penrith LGA came in second place, with eight rankings.

These two LGAs, together with Liverpool, are located in the most criminally active part of the Sydney Outer Ring. A modified map was designed to clarify the location of this corridor. (See Figure5.6 below) The general perception of this area is not favourable on this point: in terms of safety, it is held to be unattractive. In order to seek solutions for improving community safety in these areas, it is necessary to study problems in these areas and evaluate the local government's role in dealing with these issues. Improving this area's safety can lead to a number of positive effects, such as promoting a healthier local community, creating a sense of belonging, increasing civic pride, as well as improving the quality of life and working environment for people in general.

Figure 5.6 - Modified map of two selected Outer Ring LGA
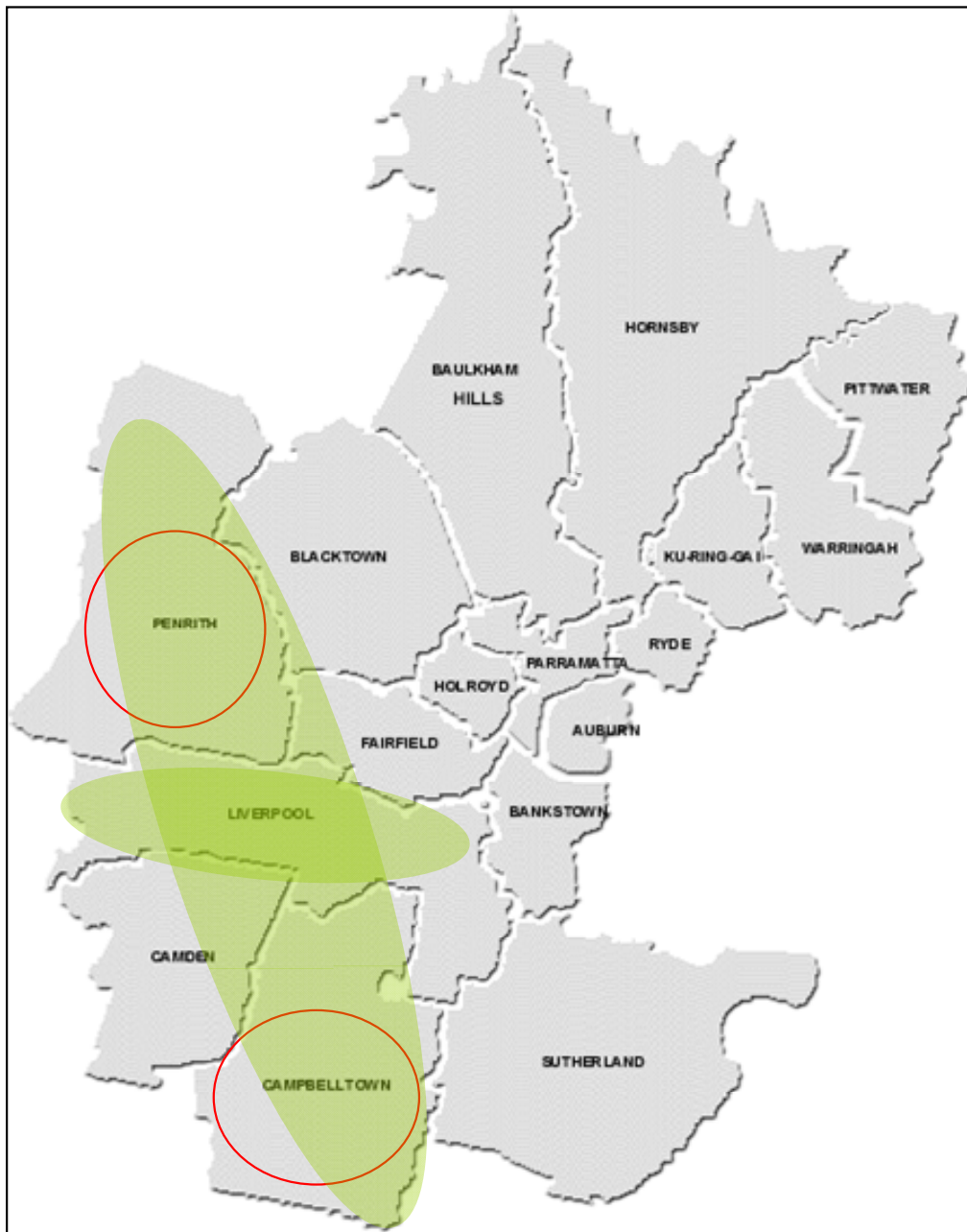
(Original source from Department of Local Government Website)

5.2.1 Penrith

- **Where is it located at?**
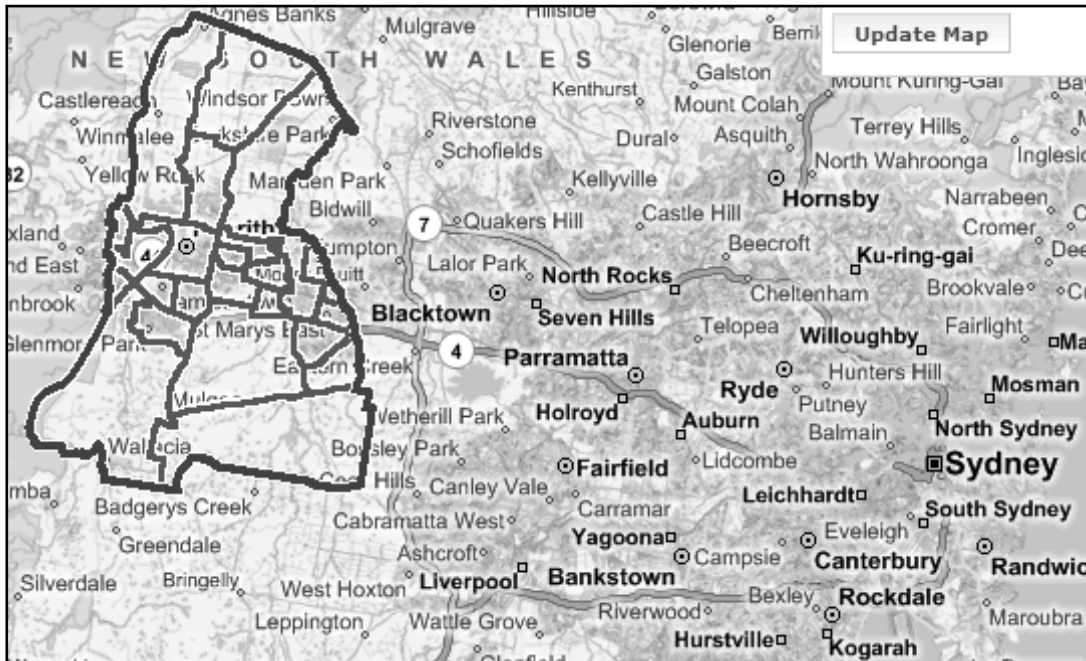
Figure 5.7 - Location of Penrith in Sydney (Source from Penrith Council Website)

Penrith LGA is located in Sydney's western fringe, approximately 54 kilometers from the City center. It is mainly residential, with a large rural area. The LGA encompasses the suburbs and rural localities of Agnes Banks (part), Badgerys Creek (part), Berkshire Park, Cambridge Gardens, Cambridge Park, Castlereagh, Claremont Meadows, Colyton, Cranebrook, Emu Heights, Emu Plains, Erskine Park, Glenmore Park, Jamisontown, Kemps Creek (part), Kingswood, Leonay, Llandilo, Londonderry, Luddenham (part), Mount Vernon, Mulgoa, North St Marys, Orchard Hills, Oxley Park, Penrith, Regentville, South Penrith, St Clair, St Marys, Wallacia (part), Werrington, Werrington County and Werrington Downs. The two major local commercial centers are located at Penrith and St Marys.

- **Who lives in this area?**

The population of the Penrith LGA in 2006 was 171,566, excluding overseas visitors. Overall, 87.9% of the local residents in this area were Australian citizens, and 73.9% of the residents were born in Australia. The most common age group in this area was 18-64 years old (64%), followed by 5-17 yeas old (20.3%).

- **What is the major households and housing type?**

In this LGA, only one fourth of the residents (25.1%) fully owned the dwellings they lived in, one fourth of the residents (24.6%) were renting, and nearly 40% of the residents (39.6%) were purchasing their dwellings.

Families were the predominate household type in Penrith, with 76.6%, compared to 18.0% for single households, 2.4% for group households, and 3% for others. More than half of the households (51.7%); in this LGA were couples with at least one child, followed by couples without any children (28.4%) and lone parent families (18.5%).

In Penrith, 67.7% of the households owned at least one or two vehicles, with 36.4% owning one vehicle and 36% owning two vehicles. More households owned three vehicles or more compared to households with no vehicles, 17.2% compared to 8.7%.

Most residents living in this area didn't have any qualifications in 2006, in fact more than half of the population fell into this category (52.7%). 20.4% of them had vocational qualifications, less than 10% of them had (8.7%) Bachelor or Higher degrees and 6.0% of them had Advanced Diplomas or Diplomas.

Penrith had a significantly high number of detached houses, which occupied 80.3% of total private dwellings; 17.4% of the residents lived in medium density dwellings, and 2.9% of them lived in high density dwellings.

- **How much do they earn?**

Less residents in Penrith had weekly income greater than $1,300 compared to the Sydney Statistical Division average, for instance, 4.8% of local residents received $1,300-$1,599 weekly income compared to 5.1% in Sydney, 2.3% of local residents received $1,600 to $1,999 compared to 3.2% in Sydney, 1.8% of local residents received $2,000 or above compared to 5.2% in Sydney.

On the other hand, more people in the LGA had weekly income from $150 to $1,299 compared to the Sydney Statistical Division average: 11.9% of them received $150 to $249 weekly income compared to 12% for Sydney average, 11.4% received $250 to $399 compared to 10.9%, 13.9% received $400 to $599 compared to 12.0%, 9.8% received $800 to $999 compared to 8.1% and 9.0% received $1,000 to $1,299 compared to 8.2%. 4.2% of local residents in Penrith received a weekly income of $2,500 to $ 2,900, compared to 8.2% in Sydney.

In Penrith, the number of households that received weekly income from $1 to $499 was slightly less than the number of people in the Sydney Statistical Division, of which 1.1% of local residents in Penrith received $1-$149 compared to 1.4% in Sydney, 3.9% of them received $150 to $249 compared to 4.4% in Sydney, 5.3% received $250 to $349 compared to 5.7% in Sydney and 3.7% received $350 to $499 compared to 3.9% in Sydney. However, the number of households earning a weekly income of more than $2,500 was much less than Sydney, for instance, only 5.4% of the local households received $2,500 to $2,999, compared to 7.8% of Sydney households receiving the same amount of weekly income.

- **How safe is the area?**

In 2006 Penrith was home to a high percentage of residents who were purchasing their dwellings, and a comparatively small percentage of renting residents. The percentage of residents receiving medium to high incomes, relative to the Sydney average, was low, whereas the percentage of residents aged 25 or younger was comparatively higher. These facts suggest a high possibility of increased criminal activity in this LGA.

In 2007, Penrith LGA was ranked in the top 50 Local Government Areas for eight Selected Offences, which was the second most in the Sydney Outer Ring. The three most common offences in Penrith were Steal from retail store (ranked 14th), Steal from person (19th), and Robbery (22nd). The LGA also ranked 23rd for Motor Vehicle Theft, 24th for Fraud, 37th for Assault-domestic violence and Assault-Non-domestic violence related offence, and 41st for Steal from Motor Vehicle. Furthermore, Penrith together with Campbelltown were the only two Outer Ring LGAs that ranked top 50 for Assault-Non-domestic violence.

- **How does Local Government play its role in crime prevention?**

Penrith Council has undertaken different approaches in dealing with crime prevention issues in the local community.

First, in order to increase public awareness of crime prevention, the local Council implemented a range of educational and informative strategies, which included: Community Safety Facts Sheets, Park Smarter Campaigns, Community Safety Seminars, the establishment of a Domestic Violence Website, and Emergency Fridge Magnets.

Secondly, the Council initiated a number of community development projects with a social prevention focus, i.e. a focus on people who are offenders or have the potential to engage in offensive behaviour. These initiatives and programs were designed to reduce the risk factors that can possibly lead to a crime or offence, for instance, a place with poor supervision and

drug/alcohol abuse and, at the same time, they were designed to strengthen the positive influences in the Penrith community, such as public education and youth mentoring programs. In addition to the strategies above, the Council also indicated 'concerns for safety' as one of the priority issues in the *Penrith Valley Community Safety Plan 2007 – 2010*. Some strategies were selected to emphasize the issue of dealing with improving residents' perceptions of crime, rather than dealing with actual crime per se: for instance, the Council developed and distributed Community Safety and Crime Prevention kits, in partnership with Community Organisations, to targeted groups across the City, including young people, seniors, women, and various minorities. Resources were provided in multiple languages and in large print.

Finally, the Council has also undertaken crime prevention initiatives via, and in conjunction with, the improvement of the built environment. In 2007, the Council adopted a Development Control plan, known as the Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Control Plan. The main purpose of the Plan was to create a physical environment that can prevent crime across the City of Penrith, as well as to encourage the feeling of safety. The design controls encompassed four major parts, which covered the areas of Lighting, Fencing, Car parking, Entrapment sports and blind corners, landscaping, communal/public areas, movement predictors, entrances, site and building layout, building identification, security, ownership, and means for finding help. The council is committed to ensuring that new developments promote crime prevention through environmental design based on the EP&A Act, Section 79C.

- **How is graffiti dealt with in Penrith?**

Graffiti is defined by the Penrith Council as "a drawing or words written on walls or other surfaces, usually to be seen by the public". (Penrith Council Homepage website)   All graffiti is considered as a type of criminal offence unless permission has been given by the owner of either public or private property. Illegal graffiti has been the second largest crime cost category in Australia, and in NSW alone, more than $250 million is spent on graffiti removal every year.

In order to minimise illegal graffiti in the Penrith LGA, and to give a strong indication to its community that the area is well maintained, the Council initiated a range of graffiti management

strategies. It adopted a "zero tolerance' approach to graffiti on all Council buildings, and created a Graffiti Free Zone by establishing partnerships with local businesses in the area. Secondly, a Citywide Graffiti Minimisation Strategy was developed by the Penrith Valley Community Safety Partnership. Three key elements were included in this strategy: education, prevention and removal. The strategy was set as a major focus in the development of the Council's 2006/2007 Management Plan, and the Plan had an allocation of $661,500 for graffiti management and removal, which was a significant increase from the previous years funding levels.

Figure 5.8 – Example of Graffiti on a commercial building in Penrith

| "Fresh" graffiti on a commercial building | recent cleaned graffiti mark on the same building |

Apart from this graffiti removal strategy, the Council also provided the community with a list of graffiti removal tips for individual households to clean vandalized properties. The list indicated a number of removal products, as well as the rating for each product on removing graffiti from different types of surfaces. Finally, a graffiti hotline was introduced, which encouraged the community to assist the Council in its effort to remove graffiti from the community.

To utilize the hotline the following information was required: a) the location of the graffiti, b) street address, and nearest across street (if know), c) type of property the graffiti is on, i.e fencing, public/private sign, play equipment, and d) information that will assist the identification of the property, e.g private property, Council building.

5.2.2 Campbelltown

- **Where is it located?**

Figure 5.9 Location of Campbelltown in Sydney (Source: Campbelltown Council website)

The Campbelltown LGA is located in Sydney's outer southwest. It is a residential and employment area, which includes twenty-one suburbs. These suburbs are Airds, Ambarvale/Englorie Park, Bradbury, Campbelltown/Blair Athol, Claymore, Eagle Vale, Eschol Park, Glen Alphine, Glenfield, Ingleburn, Kearns, Leumeah, Macquarie Fields/Macquarie Links, Minto, Raby, Rosemeadow, Ruse, St Andrews/Bow Bowing, St Helens Park and Woodbine/Blairmount.

- **Who lives in this area?**

The population of the Campbelltown LGA in 2006 was 142,328, excluding overseas visitors. Most residents who lived in this area were Australian citizens, who accounted for 86% of the total population. The major age group in Campbelltown was 18-64 years old (63.4%), followed by 5-17 years old (21.7%).

- **What is the major household and housing type?**

In this LGA, 38.2% of the residents were purchasing dwellings, 28.8% of them were renting, and only 21.1% fully owned the dwellings they lived in.

Families predominate in Campbelltown compared to the other household types. The most common family type was couples with children aged 15 or over, these comprised 50.7% of the total families. More than one fourth of the families were Couples without children (25.3%), which was slightly higher than the percentage of single parent families (22.6%).

Households who owned at least one car comprised 81.3% of the total number of households, with 36.4% owning 1 vehicle, 31.2% owning 2 vehicles, and 13.7% owning 3 vehicles or more.

More than half of the residents in Campbelltown LGA did not have any qualifications, 18% of them had vocational qualifications, less than 10% of them had Bachelor or Higher degrees, and only 6.0% of them had Advanced Diplomas or Diplomas.

Campbelltown had a significant percentage of separate Houses: 76.7% of all dwellings in the area. Medium density accounted for 17.6% of total dwellings, followed by 0.8% for high density dwellings.

- **How much do they earn?**

More residents in Campbelltown had lower weekly income compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (SD), for instance, 7.2% of local residents received $1-$149 weekly income compared to 6.5% in Sydney, 13.4% of local residents received $150 to $249 compared to 12.0% in Sydney, 11.3% of local residents received $250 to $399 compared to 12.0% in Sydney, 14.2% in the local area earned $400 to $599 compared to 12.0% in Sydney, and 12.2% earned $600 to

$799 compared to 10.2% in Sydney.

Conversely, the LGA had less people receiving a high weekly income compared to the Sydney SD, for example, only 1.3% of local residents earned $2,000 or more compared to 5.2% in Sydney, and 1.7% of the local population earned $1,600 to $1,999 weekly income compared to Sydney with 3.2%.

Generally speaking, Campbelltown had a greater percentage of households receiving low to medium weekly income, for instance, 4.8% of the residents in Campbelltown received $150-$249 weekly income compared to 4.4% in Sydney, 6.1% of them received $250-$349 compared to 5.7% in Sydney, 4.4% of them received $350 to $499 compared to 3.9% in Sydney, 9.2% of them received $500-$649 compared to 8.3% in Sydney, and 6.6% of them received $650 to $799 compared to 5.6% in Sydney. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006)

- **How safe is this area?**

Overall, Campbelltown had a high rate of home ownership, but a larger number of residents and families receiving low income compared to the Sydney average, as well as a significantly greater proportion of residents aged under 25. With Hope's three factors theory in mind, we should expect this area to have an increased potential for crime.

In 2007, Campbelltown LGA ranked in the top 50 Local Government Areas for ten selected offences, which was the most in the Sydney Outer Ring. The three most significant offences in Campbelltown were Steal from retail store (ranked 12th), Robbery(14th) and Assault-Domestic violence related offence (15th). The LGA was also ranked 16th for Break and Enter-dwelling, 18th for Steal from dwelling, 19th for both Motor Vehicle Theft and Assault-Non-domestic violence related offence, 22nd for Malicious damage to property, 30th for Steal from Motor Vehicle and 45th for Fraud. Furthermore, Campbelltown was the only Outer Ring LGA which ranked in the top 50 for malicious damage to property offence.

- **How does Local Government play its role in crime prevention?**

The Council has undertaken both communal and built environment oriented approaches to crime prevention in Campbelltown. In recent years, the Council has conducted a range of programs and adopted a number of new plans for creating a safer community in Campbelltown.

In 2005, the Council prepared two separate crime prevention guides to address issues of personal /domestic safety and business crime prevention, as well as to provide advice on these crime issues. The two Guides, *Crime Prevention Guide- Community and Personal Safety* and *Crime Prevention Guide-Business Security,* were considered (developed) as a key part of the council's overall crime prevention strategy.

In the same year, the Council received a grant from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC), and committed to a Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Program beginning with the distribution of free immobilisers to owners of high-risk vehicles. This program was encouraged to run again in 2007 by the NMVTRC, because of the previous effective results in 2005 and 2006.

The Council also established partnerships with other authorities in order to provide better crime prevention information to the community. On the 25th March 2006, a Crime Prevention Information Expo was hold by the Council, in conjunction with NRMA Insurance and the NSW Police.

In addition to these programs, the Council also initiated youth programs to help deal with the problem of youth crime. The *Young Offender Network Program* was developed, along with the establishment of an Offender Taskforce, with the purpose of targeting youth offenders. The Network also provides young people information on the consequences of not paying fines or debts, as well as tips for dealing with either. The *InSpIRE Mentoring Program* was founded through a community grant from the NSW Attorney General's Department, with the purpose of providing support and guidance to local youth in contact, or at risk of coming into contact, with

the Criminal Justice System. Furthermore, the mentors for this project were qualified volunteers recruited from the local community.

Apart from these communal crime prevention strategies, the Council also played a role in improving the built environment. In the plan - *Campbelltown City Crime Prevention Plan 2005-2007*-various projects were included to prevent or reduce criminal activity through improving the built environment.

Firstly, the Council has devoted a good deal of attention to the issues of vandalism and graffiti in the community, by initiating various graffiti removal and prevention activities throughout the Campbelltown LGA.

Secondly, the Council, which included Technical Services, Development Control and Operations, together with the Police, undertook the *Safer by Design* project, aimed at reducing and preventing malicious damage in the Campbelltown LGA.

Finally, the Council also provided its planning and engineering staff opportunities to have specific training (CPTED), in order to increase awareness at professional level. The Council also incorporated its key crime prevention principles into design guides, and incorporated CPTED principles into Council projects, with the purpose of reducing opportunities for malicious damage.

- **How was graffiti dealt with in Campbelltown?**

In dealing with graffiti, and removal of graffiti, throughout the Campbelltown LGA, the council undertook various activities. It committed itself to removing graffiti from all Council owned facilities, as well as from private fencing in the community. Two types of graffiti removal kits were provided to the community without any charge, and which contain all the necessary equipment for graffiti removal. However, these kits were not made available to owners of commercial properties to use. As part of the Council's commitment to reducing graffiti in

Campbelltown, Graffiti Removal Clean Up Days were also coordinated throughout the LGA by the Council.

In order to create an attractive image of the community, and a safer neighbourhood, residents in Campbelltown were encouraged to remove graffiti rapidly and continually - local residents were also encouraged to contribute through their effort to maintain their private properties, and to utilise the principles of CPTED in order to reduce the opportunities for offenders to target individual properties. Finally, as it was introduced in Penrith LGA, Campbelltown Council also created a Graffiti Removal Hotline for residents to report graffiti incidents.

An interesting observation of the 'graffiti wall' was also made during a visit to Campbelltown Centre and its surrounding neighborhood. Paintings were largely placed by Council at the bus interchange station for aesthetic improvement of the area. However the result was not satisfying. As it showed on the photograph below there were still a large number of graffiti appeared on the painted wall.

Figure 5.10 - "Graffiti Wall" at Campbelltown Bus Station Interchange

5.2.3 Comparison of graffiti management strategies

The study found that both LGAs addressed the importance of removing graffiti in the community, and that both have initiated various strategies to prevent or deal with this offence. Based on the availability of information, Penrith Council proved itself an informative resource in relation to graffiti management, via its website, compared to Campbelltown Council. Furthermore, the approaches towards graffiti removal were different between the two LGAs. Penrith Council endeavored to establish more partnerships with local businesses, communities and local residents, as part of the process of dealing with the issue of graffiti removal and prevention. On the other hand, Campbelltown Council played a superior role in directing its local residents and property owners to take action on graffiti remove. Partnership was not established nor initiated. Finally, Penrith Council's graffiti removal resources for local residents were in general more sensible and practical compared to those of Campbelltown Council, for instance the tips it provided for graffiti removal. Generally speaking, Penrith Council's strategies for managing graffiti in its local government area were more effective and significant.

5.2.4 Further discussion on both case studies

Campbelltown and Penrith share many similar urban characteristics, in terms of population, households and housing type, individual and household weekly income, and also education background. Most importantly, both areas have high recorded crimeates. It was listed previously that both local governments have undertaken different approaches to deal with various issues across their local government areas.

A summary table for selected crime trends was designed based on the resources from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research. The table indicates that most of the annual percentage change for these selected offences was stable in these two areas during the period 2002 to 2007. (See figure 5.11 below)

Figure 5.11 –Summary Table Trends in Penrith and Campbelltown

Trends in Recorded Crime Statistics for three selected offences, 2002 to 2007				
LGA Name	**Most significant**	**2nd most**	**3rd most**	**Increased Offence**
Campbelltown	Annual percentage change for **Steal from retail store** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Down by 8.4%	Annual percentage change for **Robbery without a weapon** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable **Robbery with a weapon** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable	Annual percentage change for **Assault - domestic violence related** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable	Annual percentage change for **1. Assault - non-domestic violence related** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 2.6% **2. Malicious damage to property** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 3.3%
Penrith	Annual percentage change for **Steal from retail store** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Down by 8.8%	Annual percentage change for **Steal from person** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Down by 8.9%	Annual percentage change for **Robbery without a weapon** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable **Robbery with a weapon** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Stable	**1. Assault - domestic violence related** 2006-2007Stable 2003-2007Up by 5.4% **2. Malicious damage to property** 2006-2007 Stable 2003-2007 Up by 4.5%

In Campbelltown, robbery and assault-domestic violence related offences were stable, and annual percentage change for steal from retail store was down by 8.4% from 2003 to 2007. These details indicate that the crime prevention programs initiated by Campbelltown Council were generally successful and effective in targeting these significant offences.

However two selected offences increased from 2003 to 2007 in Campbelltown: assault-non-domestic violence related offence, and malicious damage to property. In 2007, Campbelltown was ranked 19th and 22nd in NSW for these two selected offences.

In Penrith, the annual percentage change for both steal from retail store and steal from person

was stable from 2006 to 2007, and the percentage change for steal from retail store in Penrith was down by 8.8% from 2003 to 2007, and down by 8.9% for steal from person. The Annual percentage change for robbery in Penrith was stable from 2003 till 2007. These recorded statistics show that crime prevention, in targeting the most significant offences in Penrith, has been generally effective and successful. Similar to Campeblltown, Penrith also had two selected offences which increased from 2003 to 2007: assault – domestic violence related and malicious damage to property.

Statistically speaking, crime prevention results from both LGAs show that the respective programs have been largely successful in targeting the most significant crimes in each area. However, the increased offence percentage of assault non-domestic/domestic violence related offence and malicious damage to property in these two LGAs also lead to a number of questions for further research: why the incidences are increasing in the area and what can be done in order to reduce the increased incidence?

5.3 Recommendation

In order to increase the awareness of crime prevention in the community, more public information should be released, especially on each Council's website. Crime prevention should be encouraged to undertake different approaches in dealing with all kinds of offences, not only to improve the physical built environment but also to initiate crime prevention through communal projects. Solid partnerships should also be encouraged between different sectors of local government and the community in order to achieve a better result of crime prevention.

Based on the observations made through all site visits, graffiti often appeared to be on properties that are located in isolated areas, i.e railway tunnel, unclear defined territorial area, i.e bus stop and large areas of smooth walls, i.e a private wall that is higher than a person's average height. Recommendations for graffiti management follow: 1) place landscaping along high scale public walls where this is appropriate; 2) place obvious signs for stopping such offence; 3) use rough wall painting material; 4) control fence/private wall height to reduce the opportunities for people to draw illegal graffiti, 5) emphasizing the ownership. A few illustrations are provided below:

Figure 5.12 – Examples of where graffiti normally appears and can be prevented
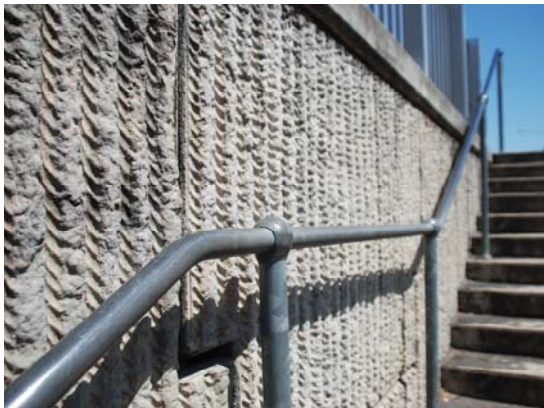
"For every complex and difficulty problem, there is an answer that is simple, easy and wrong…"

American Journalist
H.L Mencken

Chapter 6 – Conclusion

Chapter 6 – Conclusion

This chapter concludes the four case studies in each of three aspects: the role of local government in crime prevention issues, the planner's task perspective on crime prevention, and the limitations of undertaking crime prevention at the local level. The second half of the chapter is comprised of a general review of the whole research project. It also explores further the aspirations of crime prevention as such.

6.1 Local government's role

Based on the review of the crime prevention policies of local governments in previous chapters, as well as the results of the four particular case studies in the previous chapter, it is possible to summarize the role of local government in crime prevention into three core aspects: situational, community, and developmental prevention. (See Figure 6.1)

Figure 6.1 Local government's role in dealing with crime prevention
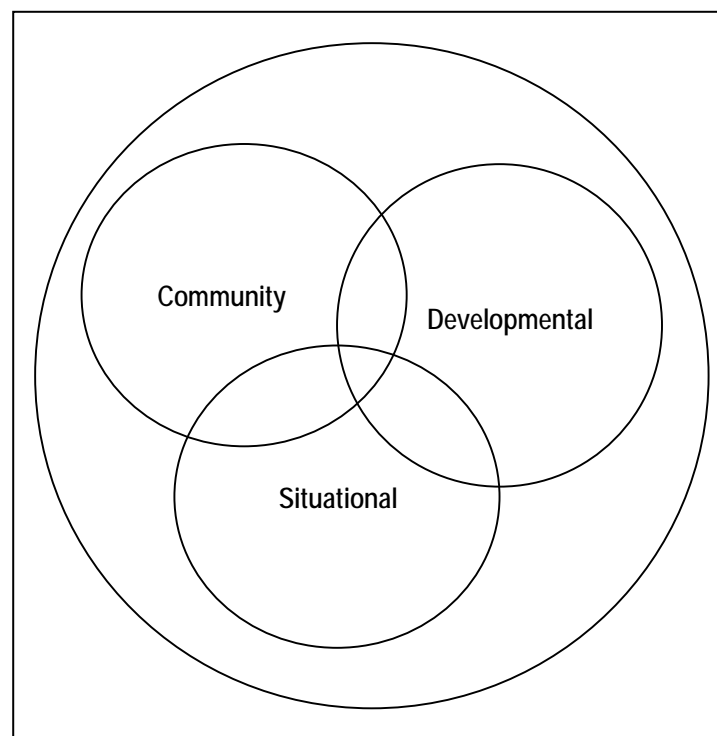
Concerning the community aspect, the local government's role included creating partnerships

with key community and criminal justice stakeholders, initiating research and analysis activities for local crime issues, and leading different groups into communities which are then responsible for improving community safety.

In terms of the situational aspect, Local Government's role included implementing safety design principles for obtaining development application approval; integrating safety concerns into environmental management plans, such as road management plans and recreation space management; and providing adequate safety facilities and infrastructure to the public as well as ensuring the provision of these facilities.

In the area of developmental prevention, Local Governments mainly played an educational role by providing sufficient information to the public, in particular to the young people and school kids, in order to help them understand the issue better and in order to ensure that they develop in a direction conducive to their overall well-being. Most importantly, these initiatives and activities can be overlapped with each other or work in conjunction with each other in some cases.

6.2 Planner's role

Planner's involvement in crime prevention varies given the different approaches which local governments have undertaken. Generally speaking, the planner's role can be classified into two major phases, connected to social and situational crime prevention approaches. A diagram was designed to illustrate each task. (See designed diagram below)

In the area of social crime prevention, a planner is responsible to address safety issues with social planning measurements and strategic planning capacity. In fulfilling such responsibility, planners need to engage in massive community consultation, undertake local area studies, and investigate other major social issues which may possibly relate to the causes of crime. Planners are obligated to take into consideration community safety issues when planning for a local area's future development.

In addition, planners can also promote crime prevention as a priority issue for community development. In the area of situational crime prevention, a planner's role mainly focuses on taking consideration of whether the development will be feasible in terms of meeting safety design guidelines, when formulating a development application. A number of planning principles can effectively reduce the opportunities of being victimized, for example, encouraging mixed land use in the community, in order to increase natural surveillance and reduce the possibility of vehicle theft and sexual assault. In addition to this, the provision of cycling lanes can also increase passive surveillance, whilst the provision of recreational space can enhance community bonds by increasing mutual use of public space and joint community activities.

Figure 6.2 Planner's role in dealing with crime prevention

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│   ┌──────────────────────┐       ┌──────────────────────────┐ │
│   │ Social Crime Prevention│◄────►│ Situational Crime Prevention│ │
│   └──────────────────────┘       └──────────────────────────┘ │
│              │                              │                  │
│   ┌──────────┼──────────────────────────────┼───────────────┐ │
│   │          ▼                              ▼                │ │
│   │   ┌──────────────┐            ┌──────────────────┐       │ │
│   │   │Social Planning│            │Land Use Planning │       │ │
│   │   │              │            │    (Zoning)      │       │ │
│   │   └──────────────┘            └──────────────────┘       │ │
│   │   ┌──────────────┐            ┌──────────────────┐       │ │
│   │   │Strategic Planning│         │      Safer        │       │ │
│   │   │              │            │ Design Principles │       │ │
│   │   └──────────────┘            └──────────────────┘       │ │
│   │                    Planner                               │ │
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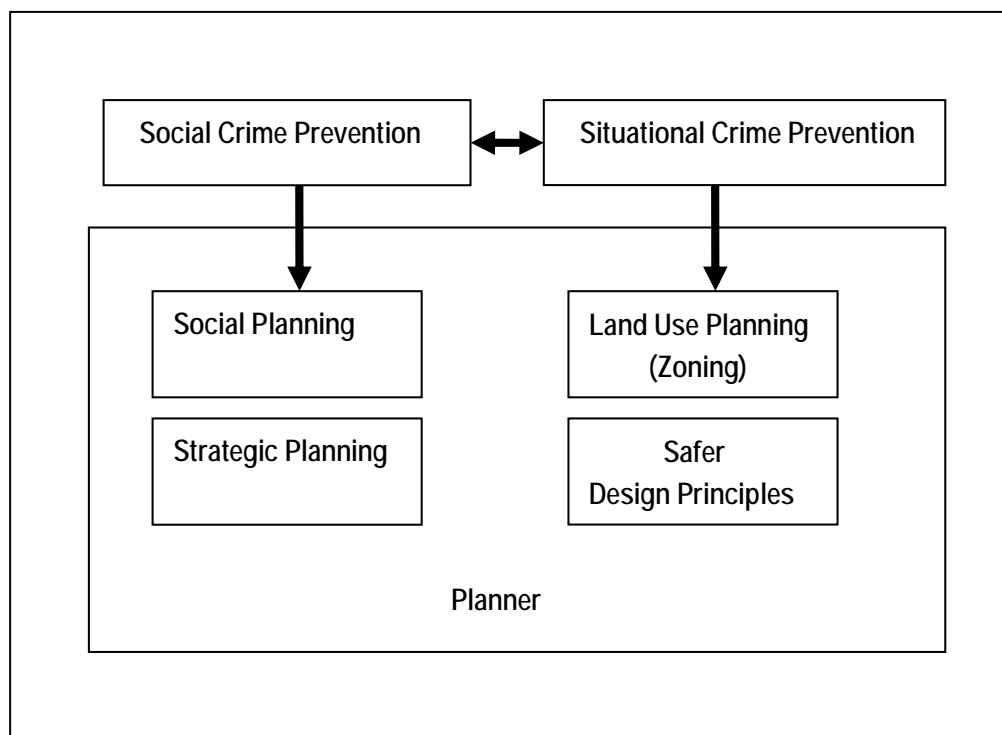
Another major planning principle involving situational crime prevention is encouraging developers to apply safer design principles, also known as the CPTED design principles. In the early part of the thesis, the concept of CPTED and its main principles were introduced and outlined. In the case study chapter, an interview was included, which particularly addressed a planner's opinions on CPTED. As a senior planner who worked in Local Government for many

years, Sohail had no doubt about the effectiveness of applying CPTED principles to individual buildings in order to prevent crime from happening. Despite the arguments which question the significance of implementing the CPTED principles, the principles and guidelines have already become an essential tool for planners in the process of assessing a development application. In recent years, the NSW State Government also implemented guidelines, under section 79C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,* to help Councils consider and implement CPTED principles when assessing development applications. This has certainly helped to promote CPTED's principles in local crime prevention and to encourage planners to play a more central, indeed crucial role.

In order to explore other professionals' points of view on CPTED effectiveness, another interview was conducted with John Maynard who has worked at City of Sydney Council as a community safer officer for five years. John stated that Council obviously should be responsible for the public domain, and the community office has been doing things like improving lighting, installing CCTV, appropriate landscaping and getting graffiti off walls to keep the area clean and looking nice. However, the Council is also trying to initiate crime prevention work by encouraging CPTED principles for new development. Although different opinions might sometimes arise when interpreting specific principles, overall it has been significantly helpful over all in terms of stopping crimes from happening.

6.3 Limitation

Crime prevention is a long term action that requires extensive, consistent operation and nonstop efforts, as it is a complex concept presenting all kinds of problems and limitations.

6.3.1 Misinterpretation

The problem of misinterpretation was addressed by Lisa Simon during the interview, conducted for the case study in Waverley. She noted that during a crime prevention project that involved partnerships, professionals from different background would normally hold their own principles

more steadily than those of other professions, and concepts were often misinterpreted by different professionals because of their different backgrounds; for example, in creating a safer environment for the neighborhood, built environment professionals addressed the importance of providing sufficient lighting on the streets, i.e. that it should not be disturbed by trees, bushes or high fences, etc. In sharing and distinguishing their opinions, Lisa maintained that having trees in the community is just as important as having lights on the streets, and that cutting off parts of the trees was certainly not the solution she was looking for. She insisted that in some areas, the purpose of not providing lights was to lead people away from certain areas, and towards others, when selecting spaces for night-time activities.

- Recommendation:

- Providing different training courses for professionals from various backgrounds
- Encouraging more partnerships over different projects.

Gaps between different occupations and different professionals are unavoidable in most cases. It is important to hold a positive attitude towards learning and communication across various professionals and sectors.

6.3.2 Limited Funding

Crime prevention is a long term investment project. Therefore funding has become a key factor in realizing crime prevention programs. The State Governments and Commonwealth Government only allocate funding to Local Governments based on individual programs. As a result, Local Governments take major responsibility in funding crime prevention programs, which sometimes can be limited and influenced by conflicts of political interest.

- Recommendation:

- Conducting research constantly towards the goal of better targeting problems, and generating

evidence from a range of organizations in order to more effectively persuade higher governments to allocate public grants to Local Governments.

- Initiating more volunteer projects which encourage local communities and young people to promote community safety and participate in crime prevention projects voluntarily.

6.4 Further discussion

Fundamentally, crime and its prevention is a social and moral issue, created by people, which has an immense impart on communities. Crime prevention can be seen in both a simple and complex way. The simple side relates to more everyday, commonsense measures designed to minimize criminal incidents, such as keeping your purse visible when eating at a restaurant, avoiding walking in the dark at night, and locking your vehicle when you park in a public space.

It requires long term investment, is both time consuming and financially burdensome, requires inter-organizational cooperation and, most frustratingly, is fundamentally difficult to develop because of the complex nature of crime itself, and because of the persistent problems of misinterpretation and other external factors.

The complex nature of planning in fact, shares great similarities with the nature of crime prevention. In this case, the goal of this thesis has not been to debate which profession has or will be more effective in responding to the safety needs of the community, but rather to discuss what the planner can do in order to contribute most effectively to this end.

Ultimately, crime prevention isn't only about preventing crimes, minimizing victimizations or reducing the potential for criminal activity. It is about achieving a better quality of life, developing a more attractive and healthy built environment, and promoting the well-being of the general public, which is also the ambition and inspiration of the planner, moving into the future.

Appendix one – Definition of Offence

Motor vehicle theft

The ABS defines motor vehicle theft as "the taking of another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission with the intent of permanently depriving the owner or possessor of the use of the motor vehicle." Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as motor vehicle thefts include only the police incident category 'stolen vehicle/vessel'.

Steal from motor vehicle

The ABS defines theft of motor vehicle parts or contents as "the unlawful taking of parts or contents from another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission".
Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as steal from motor vehicle include only the police incident category 'steal from motor vehicle'.

Steal from retail store

The ABS defines theft from retail premises as "theft from retail premises of goods for sale, other than motor vehicles, by avoiding payment for those goods. This may also include the taking from retail premises of items not for sale, such as tools, equipment or furnishings". Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as steal from retail store include only the police incident category 'steal from retail store'.

Steal from dwelling

Steal from dwelling incidents are not separately defined by the ABS but typically involve stealing from parts of residential premises without breaking into the direct living space (e.g. stealing from verandas, balconies, driveways, sheds, gardens, clotheslines, carports, garages). Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as steal from dwelling include the following police incident categories:
- steal from dwelling and
- other stealing.

Steal from person

The ABS defines theft from person as "taking money or personal goods, whether from the immediate possession or control of a person without the use of force, threat of force or violence or putting the victim in fear". Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as steal from person include only those police incident categories defined as 'steal from person'.

Fraud

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research fraud category is most closely aligned with ABS fraud, forgery or false financial instruments, defined as "inducing a course of action, by deceit or other dishonest conduct, with the intent to obtain money or other benefit or to evade a liability. The making, use or possession of a forged financial instrument with an intention to obtain an advantage". Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as fraud include the following police incident categories: company corporate offence, computer crime, copyright/intellectual property/trademark offences, corrupt commission/practices corrupt payment (receive or pay)

counterfeit currency, deception offence, embezzlement fail to pay fraudulent appropriation, larceny clerk/servant/bailee make/use false instruments, misappropriate cheque/funds, possess false instruments, publish false misleading statement, receiving (fraud related) and other fraud.

Malicious damage to property

The ABS defines property damage and environmental pollution as "the wilful and unlawful destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property or the pollution of property or a definable entity held in common by the community". Incidents classified by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as malicious damage to property includes the following police incident categories:

- graffiti
- malicious damage to property
- public place – damage fountain/wall etc. and
- public place – damage shrine/monument.

Crime prevention in Sydney LGA				
Sydney Inner (SI)	Project listed under the Council website		Projetcs list under the AIC Website	
The Council of the Municipality of Ashfield	No	Unavilable on website	Yes	1.Community Safety Ashfield 2.Social Plan 2001-2006 Ashfield Municipal Council. 3.Ashfield Municipal Council. See part 12 'Community Safety'
The Council of the City of Botany Bay	No		No	
Burwood Council	Yes	1.Burwood Crime Prevention Plan - 26 August 2008 2.Community Safety Audits 3.Safety Brochures - Car Safety - Child Safety - Seniors Safety - Home Safety - Financial Safety - Personal Safety - Property Marking Project 4.Safety Workshops 5.Property	No	
City of Canada Bay Council	Yes	1.Community Safety Committee 2.Crime Prevention Plan 2007-2010	No	
Canterbury City Council	Yes	1.CPTED (DCP) 2.Boxed Art Project 3.Walk safe (signs) 4.It's Safe Again 5.Home and Street Safety Information Sessions for Elderly Residents 6.Business Safety Tips 7.Community Donations Program 8.Youth Crime Prevention 9. Canterbury Community Drug Action	Yes	1.Canterbury/Bankstown community solutions and crime prevention 2.Canterbury Community safety and crime prevention 3.Local government - Canterbury John Hatizstergos, Partnerships in crime prevention conference, 1998 4.Successful application in urban community
The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill	No		No	
Hurstville City Council	Yes	1. Hurstville Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2.Home Safety Brochure	Yes	1. Graffiti solutions local government pilot project final report New South Wales Graffiti Informatio
Kogarah Municipal Council	Yes	1.Crime Prevention and Community Safety Plan 2.Kogarah Crime and Safety Profile 3.Kogarah Community Safety Survey Report	No	
Lane Cove Municipal Council	No		No	
Leichhardt Municipal Council	Yes	1.Crime Prevention Plan 2.Preventative programs (new horizons sailing and boat building program) 3.Community pride (arts project) 4.Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design 5.Graffiti Prevention and Removal (PDF version is not avilable on line)	No	
Manly Council	Yes	1.Community Safety Committee 2.Crime Prevention Plan 3.Manly Late Night Pumpkin Bus 4.Reporting Crime 5.Safe Party Tips 6.Streetwise Safety Tips 7.Graffiti Action Advice 8.Alcohol Free Zone 9.Beach Safety Tips 10.The Steyne Commuter bus service	Yes	1. Manly crime prevention plan
Marrickville Council	Yes	1.DCP 2. Marrickville Strategy	No	
Mosman Municipal Council	Yes	1.Rangers 2.Graffiti and vandalism 3.Local Solutions to Local Crime & Safety Issues 4.Emergency Management 5.Safe Communities Program	Yes	1. Mosman community safety 2. Local solutions to local crime and safety issues: key result areas and activities
North Sydney Council	Yes	1.Community Safety Plan	Yes	1.Community safety plan, September 2005 2.Safe place program 3.Community safety projects
Randwick City Council	Yes	1.A Safer Randwick City 2.Community Safety Committee 3.Randwick City Plan	No	
Rockdale City Council	No		No	
Strathfield Municipal Coucnil	Yes	1.Graffiti Vandalism 2.Community Care Register 3.Crime Prevention Plan 4.Emergency Contacts	No	
Council of the City of Sydney	Yes	1.Alcohol Free Zones 2.Domestic Violence is a Crime 3.Drink Spiking Campaign 4.Drug Safety 5.Education&Safety Campaigns 6.Safe City Program 7.Safe City Strategy 2007-2012 8.Street Safety Camera Program	Yes	1.Sydney safe city strategy 1998-2001 2.Redfern-Waterloo community safety plan, March 2004 3.Redfern-Waterloo Partnership Project 4.An evaluation of the safe city strategy in Central Sydney
Waverley Council	No	under review process under construction	No	
Willoughby City Council	No		No	
Woollahra Municipal Council	Yes	1.Community Prevention Plan 2.Waverley/Woollahra Youth Safety Network 3.Community Safety Committee	No	

total no. of both NO: 6	total no. of both YES : 5	total no. of yes: 14		
Sydney Outer (SO)		Safety Plan/Crime Prevention Iniatives		
Auburn Council	No		No	
Bankstown City Council	Yes	1.Community Safety Committee 2.Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 3.Community Safety Audits 4.Safety Grants 5.Local Committees & Working Parties 6.Bankstown Community Drug Action Team 7.Neighbourhood Watch 8.NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Researc	Yes	1.Canterbury/Bankstown Community solutions and crime prevention 2.Community Safety 3.Community safety and crime prevention plan 2003-2007 4. Youth crime prevention plan 2003-2006
The Council of the Shire of Baulkham Hills	Yes	1.Hills Safety Strategy 2007-2010 2.Safer by Design Guidelines	No	
Blacktown City Council	No		Yes	1.Mt Druitt Community solutions and crime prevention
Camden Council	No		No	
Cambelltown City Council	Yes	1.Crime Prevention Guides and Contact Numbers 2.The Campbelltown City Crime Prevention Expo 3.Cultural Conflict Program 4.Graffiti Iniativities 5.Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Programs 6.Youth Programs -Young Offender Network Program -InSpIRE Mentoring	Yes	1.Community Safety 2.Campbeltown City crime prevention plan
Fairfield City Council	Yes	1.Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2.Safety Audits 3.CCTV 4.Graffiti 5.Community Safety Tips 6.Mayors Crime Prevention Reference Group 7.Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee (FDVC)	Yes	1.Crime prevention program 2.Cabramatta city watch 3.Community safety tips for the residents of Fairfield City 4.Fairfield City Council safety program "implementation of successful strategic and multi agency partnerships to improve community safety."
Holroyd City Council	No		No	
The council of the Shire of Hornsby	No		No	
Ku-ring-gai Council	No		No	
Liverpool City Council	No		Yes	Miller community solutions and crime prevention
Parramatta City Council	No		Yes	Parramatta community safety and crime prevention plan 2002-2005
Penrith City Council	Yes	1.CBD Carpark Signage 2.Community Safety Stand 3.Cranebrook Youth Streetwork Project 4.Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) 5.Emergency Fridge Magnet 6.Glenmore Park Mural Art Project 7.HOST's Pack 8.Park Smarter 9.Graffiti Hotline 10.Re	Yes	1.Penrith Valley Community safety 2.Community safety plan, June 2002
Pittwater Council	Yes	1.Crime Prevenion -Reporting Crime -The Pittwater Crime Prevention Plan -Graffiti and Vandalism -Council Policy 111 - Public Property Vandalism, Reward for Successful Prosecution in September 2002 2.Safer Communities -Property Engravers -Supporting S	Yes	1.Pittwater crime prevention plan 2004-2007
Ryde City Council	No		Yes	1. Ryde projected safe community (WHO Collaborative Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institue, Stockholm)
Sutherland Shire Council	Yes	1.Community Safety Office 2.Vandalism Reward Scheme	No	
Warringah Council	Yes	1.Safe Warringah Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2005 - 2008	Yes	1. Warringah Safe communities
total no. of both NO: 5	total no. of both YES 6		total no. of yes: 10	

* Note: This Summary Table was designed based on resoruce from all Local Government home websites and AIC website.

Top 50 Local Government Areas for Selected Offences (2007)														
Local Government Areas	**Selected Offences**													
Sydney Inner (SI)	Assault-Non domestic violence related	Assault - Domestic violence related	Sexual Offences	Robbery	Break and Enter - dwelling	Break and Enter - non-dwelling	Motor Vehicle Theft	Steal from Motor Vehicle	Steal from person	Steal from retail store	Steal from dwelling	Fraud	Malicious damage to property	Total
Ashfield				6	35		35	20	17	45		27		7
Botany Bay				7	49		3	5	3			5		6
Burwood				3	15		12	6	1	1		2		7
Canada Bay				24	50		32	9	39			35		6
Canterbury City Council				9			16		43			38		4
Hunters Hill														0
Hurstville				8			50		36	34		44		5
Kogarah				19			39		46			29		4
Lane Cove								22						1
Leichhardt				15	40		7	3	15	48		16		7
Manly				32					7			17		3
Marrickville		50		4	12		5	1	12	29		7		8
Mosman								36						1
North Sydney				35	37			15	13			31		5
Randwick				11	38		15	38	16	39		23		7
Rockdale				13			24	42	47			15		5
Strathfield				2	9		4	2	6			3		6
City of Sydney														0
Waverley	36			17	34		14	45	2	3		1		8
Willoughby				28				18	9	4		11		5
Woollahra				23	22		25	12	10			19		6
TOTAL INNER	1	1	0	17	11	0	14	15	17	8	0	18	0	
Sydney Outer (SO)														
Auburn				1	33		2	7	8	25		18		7
Bankstown				12			6	35	31			4		5
Baulkham Hills														0
Blacktown		24		16	26		13	29	24	19		9		4
Camden				43										1
Campbelltown	19	15		14	16		19	30	18	12		45	22	10
Fairfield				18	44		29		32	36		20		6
Holroyd		41		10	21		10		29	42		6		7
Hornsby														0
Ku-ring-gai														0
Liverpool				21			21	19	28	23		13		6
Parramatta				5	27		20	11	5	5		8		7
Penrith	37	39		22			23	41	19	14		24		8
Pittwater														0
Ryde				31					41	15		33		4
Sutherland				44					48					2
Warringah												48		1
Totall OUTER	2	4	0	12	6	0	9	7	11	9	0	11	1	

*Note: This Summary Table was bassed on original source from Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research NSW

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Australia Government website: www.australia.gov.au/Local_Government_(Councils)

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* Also including all Sydney Local Governments Home Websites