



The Crime Reduction Strategy is available on the Continuous Improvement Program intranet home page at the following site address: <http://norlaw/cip/>  
Telephone contact 08 8922 3735 ~ PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821



# Crime Reduction Strategy

A problem solving approach to crime prevention and reduction

## The challenge: 'To reduce crime'

We, as police practitioners together with civilian support staff, come to work to reduce crime<sup>1</sup>.

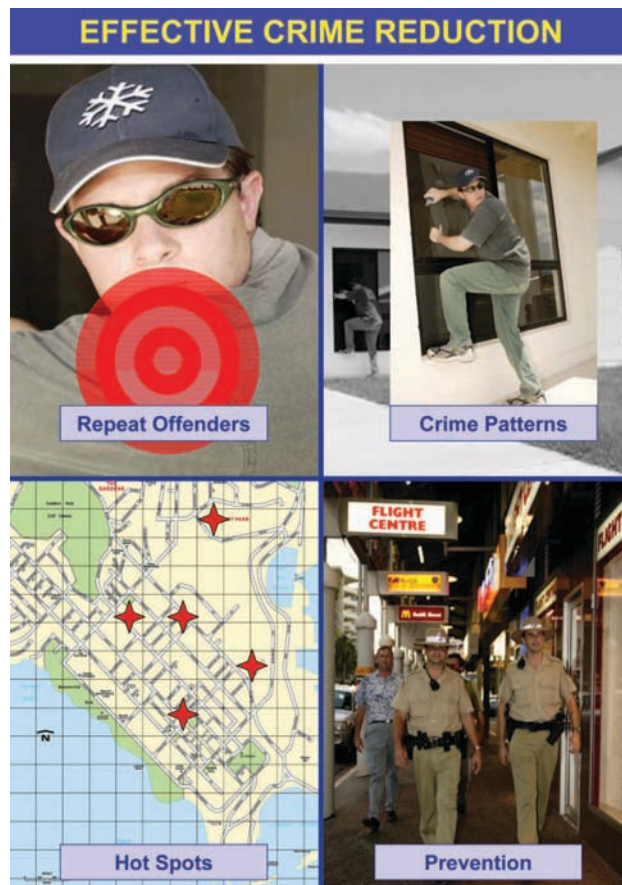
With the aim of reducing crime throughout the Northern Territory clearly in mind, the Crime Reduction Strategy is provided as a blueprint for action by all police practitioners and support staff.

Understanding there are three distinct stages is vital in our efforts to reduce crime. These stages incorporate a problem solving model, a tool kit and a tactical action plan.

Crime Reduction begins by knowing what the picture of crime looks like, and then working to reduce crime through the three stages:-

1. problem solving
2. the tool kit
3. tactical action

Ultimately, effective crime reduction is achieved by using the three stages to target repeat offenders, identify crime patterns and 'hot spots', and to undertake preventative patrolling.



<sup>1</sup> Policing is a team effort and all employees of the police force have a role to play in crime reduction, whether it be the receipt, assessment or response to all matters of service delivery.

## A picture of crime on one page

Basically there are four levels of crime. Often they overlap.

### What, where, when, how, who and why

#### Neighbourhood crime

- Crimes such as graffiti, property damage, anti-social behaviour, dangerous and noisy driving
- Occurs in built up residential areas
- Occurs at all times but predominately during hours of darkness
- Vehicles, tools and other implements or objects may be used
- Usually involves small groups or gangs on foot or in vehicles
- Alcohol and drug abuse are often associated with anti-social behaviour including public drunkenness and disorderly and offensive behaviour

#### Property crime

- Often referred to as 'volume crime'
- Houses, businesses, motor vehicles and shops
- In residential areas during the day and in industrial areas during the night
- Particular methods used include stilsons, removal of window louvres or access through unlocked doors. Property is usually disposed of through friends, acquaintances or second hand dealers
- Often committed by repeat offenders who commit a disproportionate amount of crime
- Often drugs are a motivation for this type of crime
- Drug dependent offenders are likely to be involved

#### Violent crime

- Homicides, assault, sexual assault, robbery, domestic violence
- Often committed around places of entertainment and licenced premises
- At any time, often at night
- Weapons are often used
- Alcohol or drugs are contributing factors in many cases

#### Criminal networks

- Systematic and often organised crime, particularly involving property or drugs
- Dependent on the crime, can be anywhere
- Timing is dependent on the type of crime, opportunity and network objectives
- The work of the thief and receiver may vary in sophistication
- Can involve a network of financing, production and distribution of illicit drugs
- Usually 2 or 3 or more individuals working together as part of an established criminal network but may consist of a single offender with network connections
- Greater proceeds and shared risk are attractive outcomes for these people

## Problem solving is not rocket science

Problem solving is an important part of crime reduction. Crime is a problem, be it neighbourhood crime, property crime, violent crime or criminal networks.

Problem solving is not rocket science. It is a matter of *properly identifying* a problem, *collecting enough* information to understand the problem, *correctly analysing* all of the information and then *doing something* about it. Solutions can be short term or long term, but the most important thing is to properly identify and analyse the problem.

Effective crime reduction relies heavily on problem solving. By and large, police officers are very good at problem solving because they are used to assessing a range of situations and finding appropriate solutions.

The CAUSE model is a useful guide to problem solving.



## Crime reduction for practitioners in three stages

- 1. Apply the CAUSE Problem Solving Model**
- 2. Use the Tool Kit**
- 3. Engage in Tactical Action**

### Stage 1 – CAUSE Problem Solving Model

- C** **Client** or **community** problems identified
- A** **Analyse** information and assess intelligence
- U** **Use** a **partnership** approach whenever possible
- S** **Solve** the problem through **tactical** responses
- E** **Evaluate** outcomes

### Stage 2 – The tool kit

Identification of the problem, analysis of the information and development of a solution relies upon a range of crime reduction tools available to the practitioner and support staff. Problem solving usually involves selecting one or more of the following tools:

#### *Pre-offence (reduce opportunity)*

- Know the identity of repeat offenders
- Know the location of hot spots
- Know the patterns of crime
- Understand the links between crime and drugs and alcohol
- Undertake highly visible patrolling and checking
- Submit information and field reports
- Reassure the community by speaking to people
- Enter into partnerships

#### *Post-offence (gather information and evidence)*

- Statement from victim
- Statement from witness
- Crime scene examination
- Forensic analysis of evidence
- Information from the community
- Information from Crime Stoppers
- Information from an informant
- Analysis of information (crime intelligence)
- Personal observation
- Interview offender

## Stage 2 – The tool kit (continued)

### *Post-arrest/court appearance*

- Debrief the offender
- Monitor bail and other court conditions
- Prosecution Liaison
- Correctional Services Liaison

All of these tools form part of the problem solving and crime reduction process. You need to decide on what tools you will apply to each particular crime problem. Bear in mind, that some of the tools overlap each part of this stage.

## Stage 3 – Tactical action

Problem solving via the tool kit is then applied to four main elements:

### **Targeting repeat offenders**

The targeting of active criminals who are responsible for repeat offending. This includes monitoring bail conditions or court orders as an effective deterrent to the commission of further offences.

### **Targeting crime patterns**

Where a number of similar criminal acts are linked through the process of analysis or by investigation as probably being committed by the same person or group of persons. Early recognition and early disruption of crime patterns is essential for reducing opportunities for multiple crime.

### **Targeting crime and anti-social 'hot spots'**

Where there is an increase in reported crime and anti-social behaviour over an analysed time. Highly visible policing at times or places likely to have the most impact can often be a key solution to these types of behaviours.

### **Targeting preventative measures**

Involves Government and Non-Government agencies, using the CAUSE problem solving model to identify crime and disorder issues, identify the responsible agency, develop pro-active measures and implement them.

## A diagram of the stages for reducing crime

