



Wentworth Local Government Area

Crime Prevention Plan

(Adopted by Council 17 October 2007)

(By Order from NSW Attorney General approving Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan as a Safer Community Compact under Part 4 of the *Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997*, effective 30 April 2008 remaining in force until 29 April 2011)

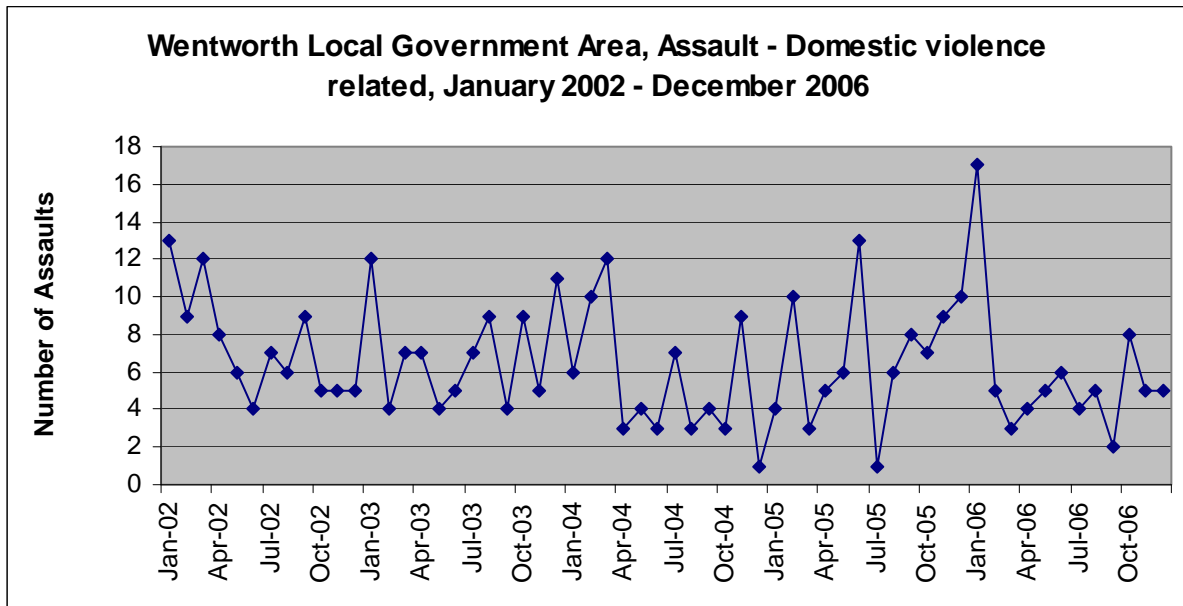
Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)'s most recent figures indicate that Family and Domestic Violence and Break and Enter – Dwelling are the priority offences within the Wentworth LGA.

Wentworth LGA ranked 9th in New South Wales for Assault (Family and Domestic Violence related) in 2006, which is a slight improvement from 5th in 2005. Wentworth LGA ranked 3rd in New South Wales for Break and Enter (Dwelling) in 2006 compared to 16th in 2005, which reflects a strong upward trend in break and enter offences. These two offences have been nominated as the priority focus areas of the 2006-09 Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan.

Priority 1 - Domestic Violence

- There were 69 incidents of Family and Domestic violence in the 2006 calendar year.
- Wentworth LGA was ranked 9th in New South Wales for family and domestic violence in 2006, with a rate of 945.2 per 100,000 population.
- There were only 34 Family and Domestic Violence Related Apprehended Violence Orders issued within Wentworth LGA during 2005.
- The Murray Statistical Division to which Wentworth belongs has the second lowest rate for granting of AVOs in the state
- Breach of apprehended violence orders has remained stable over the last 5 years
- The rate of offending has been stable over the past 5 years
- There are currently limited services available for victims of family and domestic violence, within Wentworth LGA
- There is limited Court Assistance Service for victims of family and domestic violence within the Wentworth LGA



Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Consultation information

*(*Some information will not be published in the Crime Prevention Plan for privacy issues)*

Consultations indicated that there is limited support for victims and survivors of Family Violence and Domestic Violence in the Local Government area. There is some support from Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services including limited Court assistance since 2005. Their offices are located in Dareton and Buronga and have recently established an outreach centre in Wentworth. In addition the Murray Mallee Community Legal Service has assisted since 1996 and can provide some assistance to NSW residents. Support services are also offered by the NSW Police DVLO.

The statistical information used regarding the level of violence could well be understated as these groups have identified that the problem is of much greater concern than the number of incidents reported. Research (including the most recent Commonwealth Women's Safety Survey) suggests that only about 20% of all Family Violence or Domestic Violence is reported to the Police.

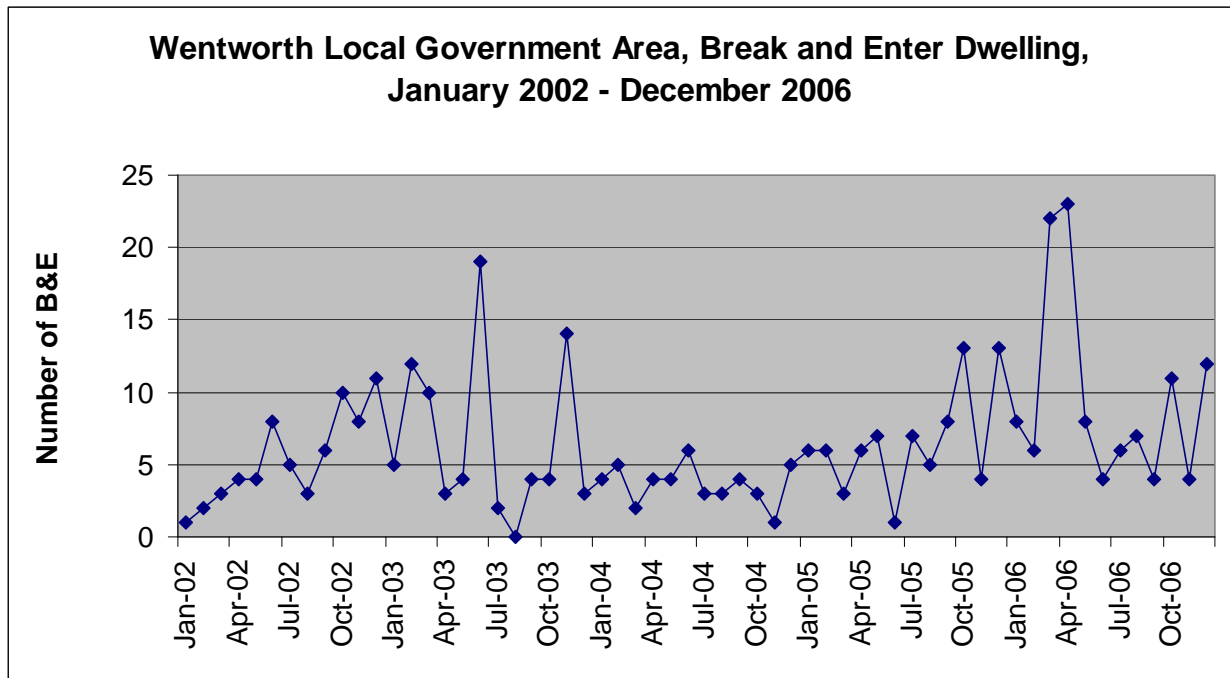
Concerns were also raised regarding the accuracy of statistics about granting of AVO's. NSW Police have been required to apply for AVO's when attending Family Violence incidents for some time, and the Wentworth region Police Prosecutors have adopted a pro-prosecution policy for many years. Since March 2007, Magistrates have been required to issue AVO's whenever there is a charge of assault laid in a family situation, which formalizes the practice already in use by the Wentworth Court.

The Statistics up to December 2006 indicate the need for improved services provision is further articulated by the fact that Wentworth has a high rate for reporting of domestic violence but a low rate for granting of AVOs but statistics are likely to change in the next update. This suggests victims are not being supported to take legal action against perpetrators and are probably remaining in situations of violence and abuse.

It was recognized that two existing youth crime prevention projects, Moopra Noogas and Our Journey to Respect, funded through Council's Safer Community Compact grant, aimed to raise awareness of domestic violence and respectful relationships with young Aboriginal men and women. These projects need to be sustained, but other strategies are needed to educate the broader community about issues such as Apprehended Violence Orders and legal rights and support options relating to domestic violence.

Priority 2 - Break and Enter –Dwelling

- There were 115 Break and Enter Dwelling Offences within Wentworth LGA in the 2006 calendar year.
- Wentworth LGA is ranked 3rd in New South Wales for Break and Enter Dwelling Offences with a rate of 1575.3 offences per 100,000 population.
- There was a **176%** increase in Break and Enter Dwelling offences between December 2001 and December 2006.



Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Consultation information

Consultations were carried out with Police and the Dareton/Wentworth Crime Prevention Committee.

Police advised that the majority of break and enter offences were committed in Dareton, with most offences attributed to children in search of food, through normal school hours and by serial non-attendees of school. Generally, the items stolen were food and small change, as opposed to valuables. Small footprints were identified at some houses that had been entered, and in some instances, the point of entry was so small that only a child could have accessed the premises.

The owner of the Dareton Convenience Store supported this suggestion, advising that children approach the store seeking free food on a nightly basis. Staff of the Aboriginal Community Patrol also indicated that a number of children experienced neglect, which they accredited to problem gambling. A range of community members and service providers on the Wentworth Council Crime Prevention Committee reinforced this perception.

It was agreed that the Crime Prevention Plan should address the motivation for theft (i.e. child neglect) as well as making the offence harder to commit. There was agreement that funding should be sought for a night-time support service where young people could access food and support. The supervisors of such a space could then make referrals to local child and family services. Council has since negotiated access to the vacant Guides Hall as a venue for this service.

There was also support for security audits to be conducted in streets most commonly targeted for break and enter. Division and NSW Police staff will conduct the audits, and support sought from local services to enable free or subsidised access to home security improvements. Good practice personal, home and vehicle security fact sheets will be locally distributed and promoted by local service providers and media.

Note: Further consultation with the Dareton Wentworth Aboriginal Community Working Party has been scheduled for 15 March 2007.

Evaluation of the Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan:

Family and Domestic violence strategies.

After 12 months of the plans implementation Wentworth Shire Council will evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of strategies, using a comparative analysis of the following indicators:

- Number of reported domestic violence related assaults
- Rates of reported domestic violence related assaults per 100,000 pop
- Number of AVOs issued
- Rate of AVOs issued per 100,000 population
- Rates of legal action for breach of AVO
- Reduction in re-offending rates
- Rate of child protection reports per 1000 children aged 0-17
- Rate of children assessed as abused or neglected by type of abuse or neglect.

Wentworth Shire Council will also evaluate if victims of domestic violence are satisfied with the quality, accessibility and timeliness of local services. This will be measured through conducting surveys with consenting clients using the following indicators:

- Increased community confidence in services
- Increased community knowledge of services
- Increased community knowledge of legal processes.

Break and Enter

After 12 months of the plans implementation Wentworth Shire Council will also evaluate the impact that the break and enter strategies have had on the target offence. The target is a 10% decrease within two years, and a 20% decrease within two years in targeted hotspots identified by NSW Police. This will be measured by analysing:

- The gross number of break and enter offences across the LGA
- The gross number of offences in area hot spots

When evaluating this information Wentworth Shire Council will also consider if the strategies had an impact on malicious damage to property offences, as the enhancements to environmental design (through the CPTED upgrades) may have a positive impact on these types of offences.

Wentworth Shire Council will also consider if offending has been displaced to other areas of the LGA due to the increased focus on area hot spots and situational crime prevention strategies. The evaluation will also consider whether strategies have caused an increase in other types of theft offences.

Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan – Action Plan Offence - Domestic Violence

Increase the number of AVOs granted by 5% during the first year of implementation and 15% by the third year of implementation

Strategy	Actions	Performance indicator	Suggested agencies	Timeframes
<p>Establish a Domestic Violence Working Group to audit services and identify priorities for service improvement</p>	<p>Establish Group</p> <p>Conduct service audit, considering suitability, timeliness and cultural appropriateness of services</p> <p>Analysis of Police, health and DV service reports to inform awareness raising strategy</p> <p>Development of new services as identified through audit</p>	<p>Meetings conducted and workplan developed</p> <p>Report identifying services gaps and needs identified</p> <p>Target identified for local awareness raising strategy</p> <p>Establishment of victim support program</p>	<p>VAW specialist DOCS Mallee Family Care NSW Police</p>	<p>To be negotiated with partners</p>

Strategy	Actions	Performance indicator	Suggested agencies	Timeframes
Promote legal rights, options and support services for victims with the aim of increasing the number of AVOs granted	<p>Conduct information sessions about AVOs, legal process and victim support</p> <p>Promotion of AVO and DV support services through medical services, supermarkets and clubs</p>	Number of sessions held with women's groups, schools, child and family services,	VAW specialist NSW AG's LAC/ALS NSW Police Mallee Family Care Women's Group	TBA
Develop perpetrator program with the aim of reducing the likelihood of recidivism	<p>Conduct a review of best practice perpetrator programs nationally and internationally</p> <p>Negotiate with key agencies for program development and delivery</p>	Program developed and implemented	NSW Probation and Parole Service Two Rivers Aboriginal Men's Group Local clubs & pubs	TBA
Engage Two Rivers Men's Group to challenge tolerance of and promote the criminality of domestic violence	<p>Engage suitably skilled men to conduct workshop</p> <p>Implement the "Public Pledge" program where community leaders pledge against violence</p>	<p>Facilitator engaged, workshop conducted</p> <p>Local Pledge campaign implemented</p>	Two Rivers Men's Group	TBA

Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan – Action Plan Offence – Break and Enter (Dwelling)

Reduce break and enter dwelling offences in Wentworth LGA by 10% within two years.

Reduce break and enter dwelling offences by 20% in two area hotspots identified by Police within two years.

Strategy	Actions	Measures	Suggested agencies	Timeframes
Development of a safe place for young people at risk of offending to access food and support services	Identify an existing location to establish the safe place Negotiate resources from relevant government agencies to fit-out and staff the facility	Facility established Number of young people accessing the service	Wentworth Council DOCS Mallee Family Care Dareton Aboriginal Night Patrol Aboriginal Community Working Party Local pubs and clubs	TBA
Employ a Case-worker at safe place to facilitate referral, follow up and direct service provision for young clients	Recruitment of caseworker Establishment of advisory group to support cross referral of clients Commencement of night support centre for young people	Number of referrals to other support services Monitoring of referrals to support agencies Number of young people case management	DOCS FACSIA Wentworth Council NSW Attorney General's Local business	TBA

Strategy	Actions	Measures	Suggested agencies	Timeframes
Engage Police and Juvenile Justice to promote Youth Justice Conferencing for young people	<p>Formalise partnership between Police and Juvenile Justice to increase referrals and implement “time to plead” process for young offenders</p> <p>Identification of youth support needs included in Conference Outcome Plans</p>	<p>Number of clients accessing YJC</p> <p>Number of YJC clients that do not re-offend</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice</p> <p>NSW Police</p> <p>Community</p>	TBA
CPTED audit for target hardening	<p>Conduct audits of area hot spots and Identify security enhancements</p> <p>Negotiate access to free or subsidised security devices from hardware providers</p> <p>Implement security upgrades</p> <p>Establish system to monitor victimisation and repeat victimisation</p>	<p>Number of audits carried out</p> <p>Locks negotiated</p> <p>Number of upgrades undertaken</p> <p>Monitoring of revictimisation of premises</p>	<p>Wentworth Shire Council</p> <p>NSW Police</p>	TBA
Aboriginal patrol to target operation and increase community surveillance	<p>Negotiate Police participation on patrol committee to ensure patrol operates on nights with highest risk of break and enter</p> <p>Ensure that the patrol provides surveillance of identified hotspots</p>	<p>Break and Enter rates during patrol hours</p> <p>Reports of suspicious activity by patrol</p>	<p>NSW Attorney General’s Department</p> <p>NSW Police</p> <p>Mallee Family Care</p>	TBA

Strategy	Actions	Measures	Suggested agencies	Timeframes
Promote good practice home and business security information	<p>Promote personal and property fact sheets; home security kits; engraving kits; and Biz Safe fact sheets through local businesses</p> <p>Negotiate promotion of home security practices through Mildura newspaper</p> <p>Conduct NSW Police BizSafe workshop</p>	<p>Number of fact sheets distributed</p> <p>Levels of use of engraving kits</p> <p>Media articles promoting home security</p> <p>Number of businesses attending workshops</p>	<p>NSW AGs</p> <p>NSW Police</p> <p>Wentworth Council</p> <p>National Crime Prevention</p> <p>NRMA</p>	<p>TBA</p>
Develop a local campaign promoting awareness of the impact of gambling and services available for gamblers	<p>Develop local communication strategy promoting gambling awareness</p> <p>Explore options for community sanctioned strategies to reduce problem gambling</p>	<p>The number of places and publications that promote gambling awareness</p> <p>Controls on gambling and support group for problem gamblers</p>	<p>Wentworth Council</p> <p>NSW Department of Gaming and Racing</p> <p>Local clubs & pubs</p> <p>Aboriginal Community Working Party</p> <p>Charities</p>	<p>TBA</p>