

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

2016-2019

Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations and acronyms

BOCSAR	NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and	LAC	Local Area Command
	Research	LGA	Local Government Area
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse	NSW	New South Wales
CPTED	Crime Prevention through	SABRE	Smoke Alarm and Battery
	Environmental Design		Replacement for the Elderly
DCP	Development Control Plan	SEIFA	Socio-economic indexes for areas
DV	Domestic violence		

Executive Summary

The City of Canterbury Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan sets out the new priority areas and strategies to be used for crime prevention in Canterbury for 2016–2019.

Overall, Canterbury has a young and diverse population; 44.7% of the population was born in Australia, compared to 55.9% in the Greater Sydney area, and the median age of residents is also one year younger than the Sydney average. It is relatively densely populated, with 41 people per hectare (in 2011), compared to 26 in Auburn and Bankstown. Canterbury also faces a higher level of socioeconomic disadvantage than many other areas in Sydney.

Crime in Canterbury, along with many other areas in Sydney, has been declining over time. Stealing, robbery and drug offences are among the many types of offences that have significantly declined in recent years. In addition, Canterbury has a lower level of most types of offences than neighbouring areas, when adjusted for population size.

There are two types of offences that have increased in recent years, and are considered to be a priority for the community. These are fraud, and domestic violence (DV) related assault. The incidence of

fraud in Canterbury increased significantly over the past 5 years, and is now the most common offence reported in the LGA. DV related assault has also increased in the official statistics; the extent to which this is an actual increase in offending behaviour, or reflects the fact that people may be more likely to report this offence, is not clear. Other issues that the community (through the consultation process) agreed were important and worthy of focus in this Plan, were related to community engagement, young people, and driving offences.

Following this analysis of crime data, and the process of community consultation, the following strategies will be pursued to address community safety and crime prevention in 2016–19 (see Table 1).



Table 1. Priority areas and strategies, City of Canterbury Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan
 2016-2019

Priority area	Strategies
Domestic violence	 Facilitating a coordinated DV service sector Building service system capacity to work effectively with victims from CALD backgrounds Increasing awareness Demonstrating leadership
Fraud and fraud-related theft	 Increasing the awareness of fraud and fraud-related theft Reducing the incidence of mailbox theft through building design
Community engagement and cohesion	Maintaining and promoting community gardensActivating public areas
Young people in Canterbury	 Strengthening partnerships with local youth organisations to support late night activities Increasing access to recreational spaces Workplace experience/ mentoring opportunities Extend the Youth Outreach Program
Safer streets	Coordinated response with Road Safety

1. This Plan

This document is the City of Canterbury Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan for 2016–2019. It follows on from the previous Plan that was implemented through 2012–15¹. The Plan sets out the new priority areas and strategies to be used for crime prevention in Canterbury.

The Plan incorporates two objectives, as its name suggests: crime prevention and community safety. Crime prevention refers to the strategies and initiatives that are implemented by individuals, communities and all levels of government that target environmental and social factors known to increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation. Crime prevention is successful when the incidence of criminal behaviour is reduced.

Community safety is often defined as the freedom from crime and violence, as well as freedom from the fear of crime and violence.

Community safety can be seen as a subset of broader 'health and wellbeing' issues that are integral to a liveable community. Increasing community safety goes beyond looking simply at crime rates - for example there are strategies that might increase community safety, and importantly, community perceptions of safety, without directly reducing the incidence of crime.

Due to the localised nature of many types of crime and antisocial behavior, Local Government is in an advantageous position to implement effective crime prevention strategies, and to increase community safety. The City of Canterbury has a long-standing commitment to community safety and crime prevention. Since the introduction of the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997, which provides for councils to lead the development of crime prevention plans, the City of Canterbury has demonstrated its commitment to community safety through the appointment of a Crime Prevention Officer, the establishment of a Community Safety Advisory Committee and the development of a number of successful crime prevention plans.

¹ http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/ files/589663c3-5968-43f0-89d3a26f00cb3d3b/comm-safe-plan-12-15.

1.1 Development of the Plan

In developing this Plan, we consulted with a range of stakeholders from the Canterbury LGA to determine what should be focused on in the next Plan (this document). This consultation included:

- interviews with representatives from each of the three Community Centres in Canterbury
- interviews with Police from Campsie Local Area Command and Ashfield Local Area Command a workshop with representatives from the City of Canterbury, other agencies and community organisations within the LGA
- a focus group with 14 young people aged between 12–16 years from high schools in the LGA (this was conducted by the City of Canterbury)
- feedback on a draft version of the Plan provided by the Canterbury Aboriginal Advisory Group.

The Plan draws on publicly available data on offending, obtained from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCSAR)². We report on the most frequently committed offences within the Canterbury LGA, as well as the offences that have either decreased or increased in recent years.

1.2 How this relates to other strategies

In addition to this Plan, the City of Canterbury has also developed other plans and strategy documents that outline the ongoing priorities and actions for the City. The most significant of these is the City of Canterbury Community Strategic Plan 2014–2023. The strategies described in this Plan align with the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan. This Plan also explicitly refers to other activities within the City, namely:

- the Open Space Strategy (upcoming)
- the Lighting of Public Spaces Policy.

1.3 The previous Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

This Plan follows on from the previous Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (2012–15). The focus of the previous Plan was on the primary offence of steal from motor vehicle, and a secondary offence of malicious damage. The following strategies were implemented to address these offences.

Table 2. Strategies in previous Plan

Offence	Strategies
Steal from motor vehicle	Secure car parks projectSecure plates projectVehicle Security Community Education
Malicious damage (graffiti)	 Target hardening public spaces Promoting crime prevention in Council policy, procedure and planning

2. Profile of the City of Canterbury

This section provides an overview of the population within the City of Canterbury, including demographics, density, and socio-economic status.

2.1 Population overview

In 2014, the estimated resident population of the City of Canterbury was 150,626³, with the population at the last Census (2011) being 137,454⁴. Within the LGA, the population is relatively dense, with 41 people per hectare (in 2011)⁵, much higher than neighbouring LGAs such as Auburn and Bankstown (both 26 people per hectare).

At the last Census, the median age of Canterbury residents was 35 years, 1 year younger than the Greater Sydney average (36), and the population was split exactly between male and female (50% each). The three most common household types were couples with children (37.6%), lone person (20.1%), and couples without children (19.6%).

There were 5.3% of the population in the City of Canterbury reporting they need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability, slightly higher than the Greater Sydney average of 4.4%.

2.2 Cultural, language and religious diversity

A high proportion of the population within the City of Canterbury are first or second generation migrants, bringing a high level of cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. The 2011 Census showed that 44.7% of the population was born in Australia, compared to 55.9% of the Greater Sydney population. In Canterbury, the three largest ancestries were Chinese (11.6%), Australian (9.7%) and Lebanese (9.5%) 4. In contrast, the three largest ancestries in Greater Sydney were English (20.4%), Australian (20.4%) and Irish (6.6%)⁶.

³http://profile.id.com.au/canterbury ⁴ http:://www.censusdata.abs.gov. au/census_services/getproduct/ census/2011/quickstat/LGA11550

⁵ Ancestry refers to the cultural association and ethnic background of an individual going back three generations.

⁶ http://www.censusdata.abs.gov. au/census_services/getproduct/ census/2011/quickstat/1GSYD

Less than one third of the City of Canterbury population (29.7%) spoke only English at home, less than half the proportion in the Greater Sydney area (62.2%). Very few (0.6%) of the City of Canterbury's population were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, half of the Greater Sydney proportion of 1.2%.

2.3 Education, employment and income

Overall, the City of Canterbury had lower levels of educational attainment than Greater Sydney. Less than one-fifth (18.6%) of Canterbury residents had a university degree in 2011, compared to 24.1% across Greater Sydney; and 47% of residents reported having no qualification, compared to 40.5% across Greater Sydney⁷. Most (91.8%) of the City of Canterbury residents were employed, of whom 63% worked full time. The main occupations in the City of Canterbury were professionals (19.0%), clerical and administrative workers (15.5%), and technicians and trade workers (14.2%). The median household income was \$1,029, lower than the Greater Sydney median household income of \$1,447.

In 2014, Philips et al. found that Canterbury LGA had the second highest child poverty rate (25.6%) in Sydney. This rate is much higher than the Greater Sydney average, which is 13.6%. In 2011, the City of Canterbury was in the top quintile (20%) of disadvantage for 0-15 year olds, as measured by the Child Social Exclusion Index which accounts for five domains: socio-economic, education, connectedness, housing, and access to health services.

⁷http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/ Discover/Demographics-Statistics

⁸ Phillips et al. (2013) Poverty, Social Exclusion and Disadvantage in Australia, NATSEM, University of Canberra, ACT.

3. Community Safety and Crime Prevention activities in the City of Canterbury

This Plan operates within a larger context of crime prevention activity that the City of Canterbury undertakes on an ongoing basis. This section highlights some of the major strands of activity that are undertaken by the City. The focus areas in this Plan aim to build on this existing work.

3.1 Community Safety Committee

The City of Canterbury has a long-standing commitment to community safety and crime prevention, having established the Community Safety Committee in 1997. Central to the successful work of this committee is the active working relationship with local Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, government and non-government service providers and community members.

The City's community safety goals are to take action to prevent or reduce the incidence of crime in the City of Canterbury, and to prevent and reduce the fear of crime in the community. The approach is to focus on programs that address the needs of the whole community, including specific target groups identified through research and community consultation. These groups include young families, seniors, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and young people.

3.2 Community Safety Inspections program

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) involves assessing how the built environment may contribute to opportunistic crimes in particular areas. CPTED has emerged within the last 30 years as the umbrella term for environmental interventions aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime. CPTED is based on four key strategies of 'territoriality' (encouraging a sense of ownership), 'natural surveillance' (encouraging eyes on the street), 'activity support' (encouraging use over vacancy) and 'access control' (balancing surveillance and use with privacy).

9 http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/ community_issues/crime_prevention/ safer_by_design

The Community Safety Inspections program helps to systematically implement CPTED principles. Community Safety Inspections are conducted with the Community Safety Officer and the Crime Prevention Officers from Campsie and Ashfield Local Areas Commands. Recommendations are then presented to the Committee for endorsement. Referrals can be made by residents, NSW Police, and Community Safety Committee members.

3.3 Graffiti Removal Strategies

Graffiti significantly impacts residents' perception of safety within a community. The Community Services Graffiti Program is a partnership program run with Bankstown Probation and Parole Services. Graffiti sites reported by residents and City of Canterbury staff are forwarded to the Department of Corrective Services for inclusion in probation and parole activities. This program fosters a sense of safety within the community by ensuring the City of Canterbury is kept free of vandalism. The City Works Division implements a separate Graffiti Removal program which sees over 600 graffiti sites cleaned per year through their quick removal strategy.

To complement these initiatives, the City of Canterbury has been working to encourage residents to report graffiti via the Canterbury Connects application or by phoning Customer Services. The Corporate Communications team has actively been working to promote this message via social media, the Council website, Council Column and the eNews Newsletter.



3.4.1 Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee

The City of Canterbury hosts meetings for the Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, which is made up of key stakeholders within the domestic violence service sector. These meetings provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share information and work collaboratively on issues affecting the sector.

In 2014–15, funds were made available to the Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee to offer free driving lessons for victims



¹⁰ Domestic violence is commonly referred to as 'domestic and family violence' to reflect the range of behaviours that this encompasses. In this Plan we use the term 'domestic violence', to align with the phrase used in the official NSW crime data and avoid confusion.

of domestic violence¹⁰ as a means of fostering independence and encouraging social inclusion. Funds were also made available for victims to access emergency locksmith services if required. In 2015–16, the Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee also received funding from the Community Safety Committee for the delivery of workshops targeting healthy relationships, and 12-month Foodbank memberships for workshop participants.

3.4.2 It's Time to Talk

It's Time To Talk is a joint partnership project of the City of Canterbury, Bankstown City Council, the Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and the Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee. It's Time to Talk was established in 2007 and aims to provide programs that encourage the community to better understand domestic violence. Programs include the provision of domestic violence information on local buses, community awareness campaigns and professional development seminars and conferences. The It's Time to Talk Conference 2015 provided information on the impacts of domestic violence on families. The event's objective was to provide up to date information about domestic violence to assist community workers in identifying potential victims and referring appropriately.



3.4.3 Dunny Door Campaign

The 1800RESPECT Dunny Door Campaign is a service delivered by Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia who provide telephone and online counselling services. The purpose of this program is to place a 1800RESPECT sticker on the back of every public toilet door in Australia. The City of Canterbury has supported this campaign by placing 1800RESPECT stickers on the back of toilet doors in restroom facilities at parks, libraries, community centres, sporting facilities and local Council premises, and encouraged local pubs and clubs to place stickers on toilet doors within their premises.

3.5 Drug and Alcohol Prevention

The City of Canterbury hosts meetings for the Canterbury Community Drug Action Team which is made up of local stakeholders who work to prevent the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs within the City of Canterbury. In 2014–15, funds were allocated to the Canterbury Community Drug Action Team to run two 'street smart' expositions as a part of Youth Week 2014. These interactive expositions were aimed



at raising awareness about the negative effects of drug and alcohol consumption.

In 2015–16, the Canterbury Community Drug Action Team will provide information sessions around the harmful effects of drug and alcohol use as well as an education program to discourage young people from engaging in substance abuse.

3.6 Seniors Safety

The Smoke Alarm and Battery Replacement for the Elderly (SABRE) program is a free service for City of Canterbury residents who are frail, aged or living with a disability and who do not have an operating smoke detector in their homes. There have been 1,933 new smoke alarms installed through SABRE since it commenced in 2003. The program is funded through the Community Safety Committee.

3.7 Child Safety

The Sydney Local Health District and the Inner West Sydney Medicare Local had partnered to coordinate a 'Kids Don't Fly' campaign to promote window and balcony safety. The City of Canterbury provided support for the launch of this awareness campaign, held in Lakemba in May 2015. As part of the launch, a playgroup was held and attended by Mayor Brian Robson who gave a talk on the importance of window and balcony safety. This was translated into Bengali for the parents who were in attendance.

4. Understanding crime in the Canterbury LGA

One of the key tasks in developing a crime prevention and community safety plan is to develop a 'crime profile' of the LGA. This section outlines the City of Canterbury's crime profile, based on two sources of information. Firstly, analysis of publicly available data from BOCSAR, and secondly, information recorded through consultation with members of the Canterbury community. This qualitative information allows the local contextual factors behind the recorded crime data to be better understood.

4.1 Summary of crime trends in Canterbury

Overall, the available data indicates that Canterbury has relatively low levels of crime, particularly when compared to nearby areas. Furthermore, the incidence of most types of offences has been declining in recent years. The exceptions to this trend are fraud offences, which have increased substantially, and domestic violence related assault, which has risen more gradually.

4.2 What are the most common offences within Canterbury LGA?

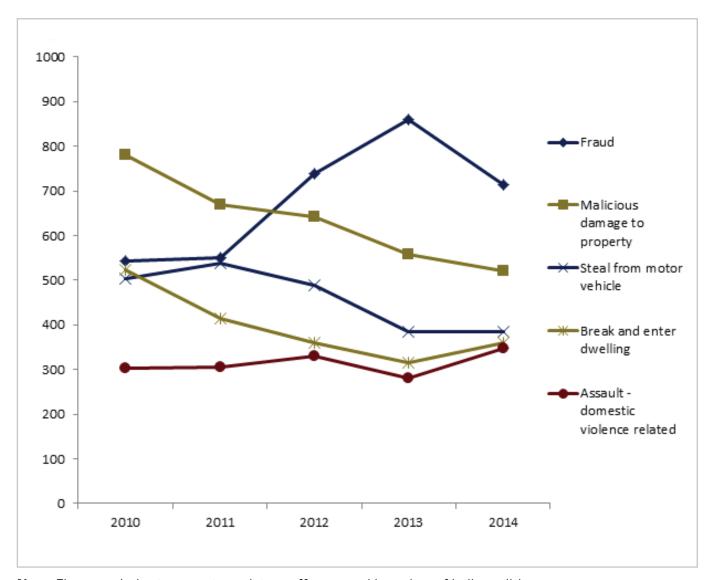
Figure 1 (next page) presents the top five most common offences in the Canterbury LGA (as at 2014), from 2010 to 2014. The most common offence in the City of Canterbury in 2014 was fraud, at 715 offences per 100,000 people. This was followed by malicious damage to property (520 per 100,000), steal from motor vehicle (384), break and enter (360), and domestic violence (DV) related assault (347).

Fraud has grown from the third most frequently committed offence in 2010 to the most common in 2014. The other commonly committed offences have declined in frequency since 2010, except for DV related assault which has also increased.

We report on crime figures in relation to frequency per 100,000 residents, rather than the raw number of offences. This provides a more accurate determination of whether crime rates are increasing or decreasing, as the population within the Canterbury LGA changes every year. Reporting on the frequency per 100,000 residents takes these changes into account.

¹¹ We have excluded transport regulatory offences, and breaches of bail conditions from the below analyses. Whilst these are considered offences, they were not considered relevant to this Plan. Transport regulatory offences are offences which take place on the rail network, such as travelling without a valid ticket, smoking, drinking or using offensive language on a train or railway land. Therefore, it is likely that many of these offenses are outside the control of the City of Canterbury. Breaches of bail conditions are also often technical and do not involve any further offending. These offences were also not included in the previous Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

Figure 1. Top five most frequently committed offences in Canterbury LGA, 2010–2014 (number per 100,000 residents)



Note: Figure excludes transport regulatory offences and breaches of bail conditions.

Fraud

The crime category of fraud is made up of a number of different specific offences, and the public data available for Canterbury LGA did not allow an analysis of what makes up this category. However, other analysis by BOCSAR of fraud offences up to 2013 showed that the most common types of fraud overall in NSW have been card fraud (35% of offences) and fuel drive-offs (30%)¹².

Consultation with Police from the Campsie Local Area Command and the Ashfield Local Area Command also revealed that card fraud is a current concern within the LGA, with this being fueled by thefts from mailboxes. Offenders are able to steal credit cards, driver's licenses, or other important documents from mailboxes, and then use these to steal the victim's identity, or simply steal from the victim by using their credit card. Victims are often not aware that they have been targeted, until charges start appearing on their credit card bill. Apartment blocks are a particularly vulnerable target for mailbox thieves, given that there is a large number of mailboxes in one location. Given the high population density in Canterbury, and the urban renewal corridor planned for the Sydenham to Bankstown rail corridor, the targeting of apartment blocks is a significant issue for fraud-related theft in Canterbury.

Fuel drive-offs (where people leave without paying for fuel) remain an issue in Canterbury. Anecdotally, these offences tend to mirror the petrol price; when the price goes up, offences increase, and vice versa.

Domestic violence

In terms of domestic violence, an increase in instances of this offence may be due to an increase in reporting, rather than an increase in the prevalence of actual offending (research in NSW indicates that around half of victims of domestic violence report the incident to Police¹³). Viewed in this regard, an increase in domestic violence in the crime statistics may be seen as a positive occurrence, as it could indicate that victims are more likely to report, and therefore a more accurate picture of domestic violence prevalence is being presented.

¹² Macdonald, W. & Fitzgerald, J. (2014). Understanding fraud: The nature of fraud offences recorded by NSW Police. Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research.

¹³ Birdsey, E. & Snowball, L. (2013). Reporting violence to police: A survey of victims attending domestic violence services. Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

4.3 What types of offences have increased or decreased?

In addition to recording overall figures, BOCSAR also undertakes statistical testing to determine the extent of changes in crime over time. Presented here are those offence types that have experienced statistically significant increases or decreases over time. BOCSAR calculates change over the last 2 years (24 months), and the last 5 years (60 months).

The offence types that have significantly increased in the Canterbury LGA over the last 24–60 months are presented in Table 3. Overall, in the last 24 months, DV related assault has increased by 23.7%. No other offence type has increased significantly in the Canterbury LGA over that time frame (24 months). Over the last 60 months (since 2010), fraud has increased by 8%, and weapons offences have increased by 5.6%.

Table 3. Offences that have increased in frequency over the past 24–60 months

Offence	24 - month increase	60 - month increase
Assault – Domestic violence related	23.7%	Stable
Fraud	Stable	8.0%
Prohibited and regulated weapons offences	Stable	5.6%

Percentages taken from BOCSAR analysis.

Overall, a greater number of offence categories have declined in the recent past, compared to the number that has increased. The offence types that have significantly decreased over the past 24–60 months are presented in Table 4. In the past 24 months, steal from person offences have declined by 35.7%, and possession/ use of other drugs offences have declined by 29.3%. In the past 60 months, robbery without a weapon, pornography, and motor vehicle theft offences

¹⁴ BOCSAR uses a Kendall's Rank Order Correlation statistical test (or Kendall's tau-b) to determine whether a series is trending upwards, downwards or is stable (p<.05). The statistical test is applied to the monthly data over the specified period. Where a significant trend is found, the average annual percentage change over the time period is reported. If any of the 12monthly totals in the series have a value of less than 20, a trend test is not conducted. Trend tests are calculated on monthly rates per 100,000 population (rather than on the number of incidents/ victims/ offenders) to adjust for changes in levels of residential populations for specific geographic locations over time. In some cases, the Kendall's Rank Order Correlation test can return a significant trend in one direction even when the annual percentage change is in the opposite direction. This is more likely when: crimes have an upward/downward spike somewhere across the time period; crimes show seasonal variation (e.g. assault); or the percentage change is close to zero.

have all decreased significantly and by more than 10%. Other offences to have declined in the past 60 months include possession/ use of cannabis, malicious damage to property, break and enter, assault (non-DV related), and steal from motor vehicle. These figures suggest an overall decline in the crime rate in Canterbury LGA, which has been mirrored in other locations around Sydney.

Table 4. Offences that have decreased in frequency over the past 24–60 months

Offence	24 - month increase	60 - month increase
Steal from person	35.7%	11.1%
Possession and/or use of other drugs*	29.3%	Stable
Robbery without a weapon	Stable	19.6%
Pornography offences	Stable	18.7%
Motor vehicle theft	Stable	10.6%
Possession/ use of cannabis	Stable	8.9%
Malicious damage to property	Stable	8.9%
Break and enter dwelling	Stable	8.1%
Assault - non-domestic violence related	Stable	7.0%
Steal from motor vehicle	Stable	5.8%

^{*}Other drugs include any drug other than cocaine, narcotics, ecstasy, amphetamines and cannabis. Includes pharmaceutical drugs. Percentages taken from BOCSAR analysis.

4.4 Who are the victims?

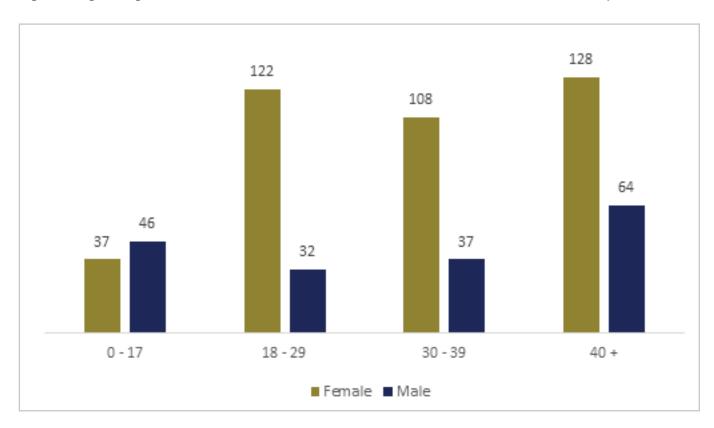
BOCSAR provides LGA level data on the age and gender of victims¹⁵, for three types of offences:

- Domestic violence related assault
- Non-domestic violence related assault
- Robbery

4.4.1 Domestic Violence

In the City of Canterbury in 2014, there were 575 recorded instances of DV related assault where victim information was recorded. Of these, 69% were female, and 31% were male. The age breakdown by gender is presented in Figure 2. Male victims of domestic violence tend to be relatively younger, with 26% of male victims (n=46) being aged 17 or below, compared with just 9% of female victims (n=37).

Figure 2. Age and gender breakdown of domestic violence related assault victims, Canterbury LGA, 2014



¹⁵ The unit of analysis is an instance of each type, rather than a unique individual.

4.4.2 Other offences

The age and gender breakdown for victims of non-DV related assault, and robbery are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Age and gender breakdown of victims of crime, Canterbury LGA, 2014

Gender/Age		domestic e related	domesti	t - non- c violence ated	Rot	bery
Male	n	%	n	%	n	%
0-17	46	25%	30	10%	6	7%
18-29	32	18%	93	32%	38	45%
30-39	37	21%	61	21%	18	21%
40+	64	36%	109	37%	23	27%
Total	179	100%	293	100%	85	100%
Female	n	%	n	%	n	%
0-17	37	9%	13	13%	Na	-
18-29	122	31%	33	32%	11	-
30-39	108	27%	24	23%	13	-
40+	128	32%	34	33%	12	-
Total	395	100%	104	100%	Nc	-

Na = not reported due to low sample sizes. Nc = not calculated.

4.5 Who are the offenders?

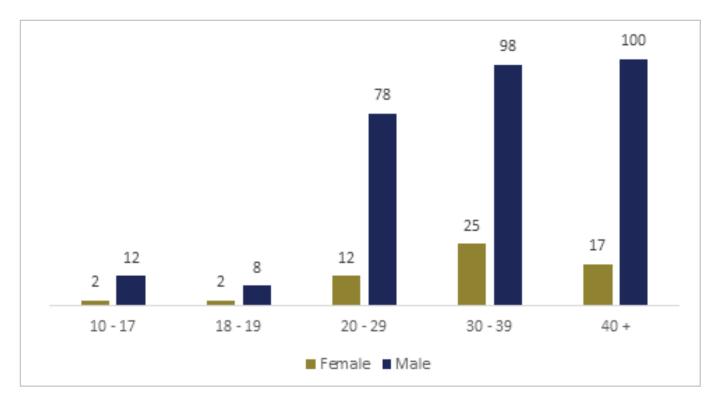
BOCSAR records data on alleged offenders for 10 different categories of crime. Here we present data on the 5 most common (where there was data on offender characteristics):

- Domestic violence related assault
- Non-domestic violence related assault
- Malicious damage to property
- Steal from retail store
- Break and enter dwelling.

4.5.1 Domestic violence

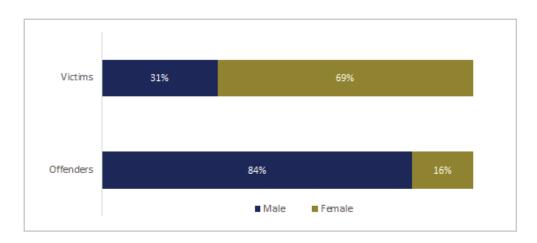
Overall in 2014, there were 354 instances of domestic violence related assault where there was data on the offender/ suspected offender. Data is presented in Figure 3. For both female and male perpetrators, the vast majority of the offenders are aged 20 and above.

Figure 3. Age and gender breakdown of domestic violence related assault offenders (alleged), Canterbury LGA, 2014



There is a clear distinction between the victims and perpetrators of DV, with offenders tending to be male, and victims tending to be female. In the City of Canterbury, 84% of DV related assault offenders were male, whilst 31% of victims were male.

Figure 4. Victims and offenders, domestic violence related assault, Canterbury LGA, 2014



4.5.2 Other offences

Across all offence types, there are many more male offenders than female offenders, with offenders having differing age profiles, according to the offence. Non-DV related assault offenders tended to be older (34% of male offenders were aged 40+), whilst break and enter offenders were more likely to be aged 30-39 (37% of male offenders), and malicious damage to property offenders were more likely to be aged 20-29 (36% of male offenders). Overall, the number of female offenders was small, making any firm conclusions difficult, apart from the finding that 60% of female malicious damage to property offenders (n=12) were aged 20-29.

Table 6. Age and gender breakdown of offenders/ alleged offenders, Canterbury LGA, 2014

Gender/ Age	domestic	ault - c violence ated	domesti	lt - non- c violence ated	eı	ak and nter elling*		l from I store	dam	icious age to perty
Male	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
10-17	12	4%	8	10%	4	9%	6	12%	14	13%
18-19	8	3%	12	16%	5	12%	6	12%	7	7%
20-29	78	26%	14	18%	12	28%	7	14%	38	36%
30-39	98	33%	17	22%	16	37%	17	33%	24	23%
40+	100	34%	26	34%	6	14%	15	29%	22	21%
Total	296	100%	77	100%	43	100%	51	100%	105	100%
Female	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
10-17	2	3%	5	31%	2	40%	2	5%	0	0%
18-19	2	3%	0	0%	0	0	2	5%	0	0%
20-29	12	21%	9	56%	2	40%	9	21%	12	60%
30-39	25	43%	1	6%	0	0%	14	33%	5	25%
40+	17	29%	1	6%	1	20%	16	37%	3	15%
Total	58	100%	16	100%	5	100%	43	100%	20	100%

^{*}Note: This offence type has a low clear-up rate, and characteristics of the alleged offenders should be treated cautiously.

4.6 In what locations does crime occur?

committed. Unsurprisingly, 84% of all domestic violence related assaults took place within a residential property (i.e. within the home). Outdoors/ public places were a common area for certain types of crime to occur, with 56% of robberies, 70% of motor vehicle thefts, 54% of thefts from motor vehicles, The location of specific offence types in Canterbury LGA is recorded in Table 7. Overall, there is a large variation on where different types of crimes are and 44% of steal from person offences occurring in public places. Only a small proportion of these offences took place within car parks, or on public transport

Table 7. Location of offences, by offence type, Canterbury LGA, 2014

Location	Assault – DV related	Assault - non-DV related	Sexual	Robbery	Break and enter non-dwelling	Motor vehi- cle theft	Steal from motor vehi- cle	Steal from person	Malicious damage to property
и	516	364	113	117	135	357	572	63	774
Retail/ wholesale	3%	15%	3%	22%	25%	2%	3%	27%	%/_
Car park	0	2%	2%	%0	1%	%8	17%	%9	7,4%
Outdoor/public place	%6	35%	17%	%95	1%	%0/	54%	%77	22%
Residential	84%	30%	%59	11%	%0	18%	22%	3%	52%
Public transport	%0	%4	%5	3%	%0	%0	1%	11%	2%
Other	3%	13%	10%	%6	75%	2%	3%	%8	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



4.7 How does Canterbury compare with other areas?

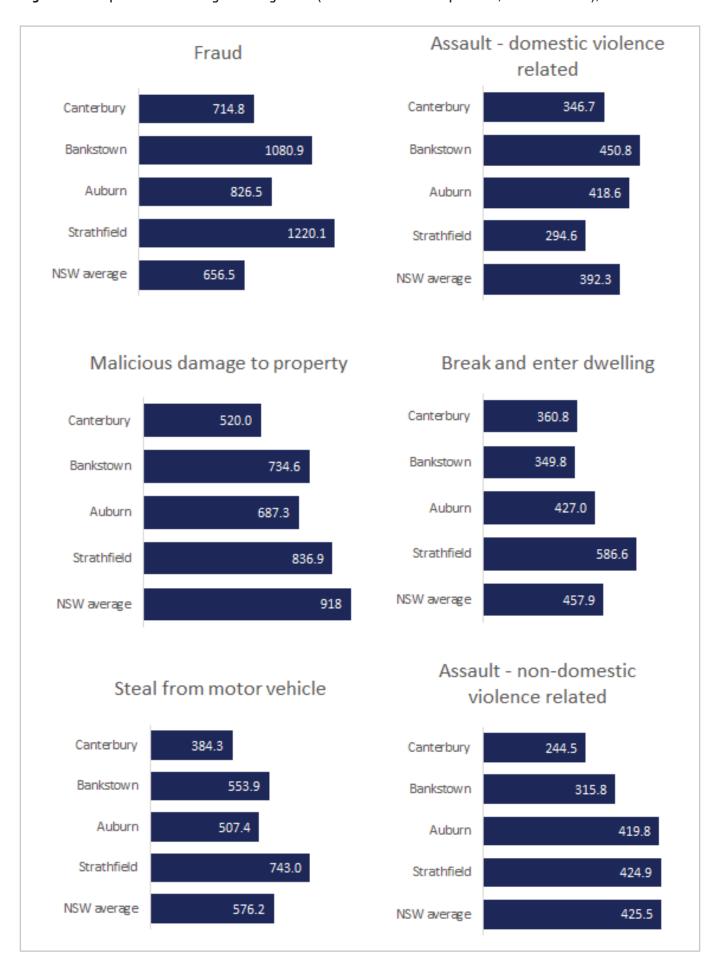
Whilst comparing different LGAs is difficult, in that LGAs are likely to have highly diverse characteristics, a similar SEIFA index¹⁶ suggests that their populations face comparable levels of disadvantage. We compared Canterbury with three nearby LGAs, who had similar SEIFA indexes: Bankstown, Auburn and Strathfield¹⁷. We also included the average for NSW as a whole. The data presented is the number of offences per 100,000 residents, in 2014.

The data (Figure 5) shows that Canterbury has relatively low levels of crime overall, compared to the comparison areas, and the NSW average. Canterbury had a higher level of fraud (offences per 100,000 residents) than the NSW average, but lower than Bankstown, Auburn or Strathfield. In regard to the other offences, Canterbury was higher in domestic violence related assault than Strathfield only, and slightly higher in break and enter dwelling than Bankstown only. But in all other offence types, Canterbury was lower than the comparison LGAs, and the NSW average.

 $^{^{\}rm 16}\,{\rm Socio}\text{-Economic Index for Areas, developed by}$ the Australian Bureau of Statistics: http://www. abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/

¹⁷ SEIFA index of disadvantage (2011): Canterbury 922, Auburn 916.7, Bankstown 931.7

Figure 4. Comparison with neighbouring LGAs (number of offences per 100,000 residents), 2014



4.8 Other priorities from consultation with community members

The sections above describe the crime priorities according to publicly available crime data, supplemented by qualitative information captured through the consultation process where possible. There were other issues raised through the consultations that were not captured in the crime data. These are presented here.

One issue that many stakeholders raised was unsafe driving practices/ dangerous driving, particularly around certain traffic intersections. Whilst this may not always constitute criminal behavior, unsafe driving is nevertheless an important issue for community safety.

The consultation process also highlighted many of the contributing factors to crime that community members felt were relevant:

- a lack of opportunities for young people in the region
- excessive alcohol use and/or unaddressed mental health concerns
- fear/ lack of knowledge in how to reach out for help
- a lack of lighting in certain areas
- the need to ensure community cohesion and respect.

Overall, community members were positive about living in Canterbury, and felt that emphasising the successes and positive aspects of the area would be helpful for improving the perspective of community safety. There was the perception that negative stories were often over-emphasised, and resulted in a poorer image of the area than was deserved.

5. Priority areas for 2016-19

This section describes the strategies that form the Plan for 2016– 2019, based on the crime profile of Canterbury, input from community stakeholders and evidence about 'what works' in crime prevention. The strategies for this Plan can be broadly categorised into two 'themes' or strands of activity: Environmental Design, and Connecting and Strengthening Communities.

Environmental Design

Using design principles to increase perceptions of safety, and reduce incidence of crime, is a well-established and evidenced practice, and the City of Canterbury already utilises CPTED principles to manage problematic areas (see Section 3). The 2016–2019 Plan includes a number of strategies aimed at extending the use of environmental design and CPTED principles to further improve community safety. The focus will move towards the activation of public areas and increasing natural surveillance

Connecting and Strengthening Communities

The risk of becoming involved in crime, or being victimised, is greater in those communities that experience high levels of social exclusion or a lack of social cohesion. Community activities that work to strengthen informal networks and enhance community connections have the potential to build community capacity, which can in turn help to address local crime problems. There are a range of community strengthening actions which may not have the prevention of crime as their 'primary' goal, but will have an impact on crime levels, especially in the long term.

The priority areas for the 2016–2019 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan are listed in Table 8, and are described in further detail below.

Table 8. Key priority areas for 2016–2019

Priority area	Relationship to Canterbury Strategic Plan	Activities
Domestic violence	2.1 'Embracing diversity'2.2 'Health and Safety'2.3 'Access to services'4.1 'Engaged Community'	Facilitating a coordinated sectorBuilding service system capacityIncreasing awareness of DVDemonstrating leadership
Fraud and fraud-related theft	1.2 'Balanced Development'	 Increasing awareness of mailbox theft Reducing the incidence of mailbox theft through design
Community engagement and cohesion	1.2 'Balanced development' 2.1 'Embracing diversity'	 Activating public areas Maintaining and promoting community gardens Reviewing lighting policy
Young people in Canterbury	1.3 'Prosperous economy' 2.2 'Health and safety'	 Providing after hours recreation/ entertainment Increasing access to drop-in and other services Investigating workplace experience/ mentoring opportunities
Safer Streets	2.2 'Health and safety' 3.1 'Transport alternatives'	• Ensuring a coordinated response with Road Safety

5.1 Domestic violence

The first priority area for this Plan is domestic violence (DV). DV related assault has increased in Canterbury by 23.7% over the past two years (see Table 3). Regardless of how much this rise may be due to increased reporting rather than actual offending, the City can make an important contribution to preventing and addressing incidents of domestic violence.

The City of Canterbury has an active history in addressing DV. This has primarily occurred through Canterbury's Domestic Violence Liaison Committee. The City of Canterbury has also been an active supporter of White Ribbon Day in the LGA.

In 2016–2019, the City of Canterbury will extend its work on DV through the following strategies.

- Facilitating a coordinated DV service sector
- Building service capacity to work effectively with victims from CALD backgrounds
- Increasing awareness
- Demonstrating leadership.

18 http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/Discover/ Events-in-Our-City/White-Ribbon-Day-2015.

5.1.1 Facilitating a coordinated DV service sector

Domestic violence can be a complex issue, which is difficult to tackle by agencies working in isolation. Local Government can play an important role in tackling domestic violence by facilitating partnerships between services, providing a platform to allow services to come together and share knowledge.

Within Canterbury and the surrounding region, there are existing avenues for DV services to connect; the most notable of these is the annual It's Time to Talk conference. The City of Canterbury will add to the existing structures by facilitating a half-day workshop for all DV services within the LGA. The purpose of this workshop will be for local services to connect with one another, and importantly, for other local agencies such as Police, to be aware of what services exist, and the current issues being faced by the sector.

5.1.2 Building service capacity to work effectively with victims from CALD backgrounds

The City of Canterbury is made up of a culturally diverse population, with more than half the population being born overseas. This has relevance for domestic violence services within the LGA. Women of CALD backgrounds who are victims of domestic violence may experience intersecting vulnerabilities related to language barriers, vulnerable migration status, cultural norms, and a history of trauma, uncertainty or displacement.

To address these issues, the City of Canterbury will help to ensure that services within the City are culturally sensitive, by facilitating annual training sessions on cultural competency that will be open to all DV services in the LGA. This may be held concurrently with the half-day workshop mentioned above.

5.1.3 Increasing awareness of DV

The City already plays a large role in generating awareness of DV, primarily through the successful White Ribbon Day. Moving forward, the City will investigate further activities to increase awareness of DV within the community. These will include:

Garbage truck campaign: This will involve a campaign with advertising on the side of garbage trucks within the LGA, about DV and where to go for help.

Ongoing promotion: This campaign will continue the message of White Ribbon Day throughout the year, through the production of targeted advertising (e.g. posters) to be placed in specific locations, as well as the use of local media to publicise the issue.

Table 9. Strategies for reducing domestic violence

Strategy/action	Responsible agencies	Performance measure	Resources required	Time- frame
Workshop of providers to share information	Community Safety OfficerCanterbury DomesticViolence LiaisonCommittee	• Workshop held (once per year)	Additional resources required	2017
Garbage truck campaign	Community SafetyCommitteeCity WorksWhite Ribbon	• No. of advertisements	Within existing resources	2016
'Roving' awareness campaign	 The City of Canterbury Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee Police	No. and type of resources distributed	Within existing resources	Ongoing
City staff attend DV awareness training	Customer ServicesChildren's ServicesLibrary Services	• No. of staff attend training	Within existing resources	Annually
Safer Streets	2.2 'Health and safety' 3.1 'Transport alternatives'	• Ensuring a coordinated response with Road Safety		

5.2 Fraud and fraud-related theft

The second priority area for this Plan is fraud. Fraud is the most common offence in the City of Canterbury, and the incidence of fraud has grown significantly over the past five years. Mailbox theft has been identified as a large driver of fraud within the LGA.

The following strategies will be adopted by the City of Canterbury to address the issues around identity theft and mailbox theft.

- Increasing the awareness of fraud and fraud-related theft
- Reducing the incidence of mailbox theft through building design.

5.2.1 Increasing the awareness of fraud and fraudrelated theft

The second priority area for this Plan is fraud. Fraud is the most common offence in the City of Canterbury, and the incidence of fraud has grown significantly over the past five years. Mailbox theft has been identified as a large driver of fraud within the LGA.

The following strategies will be adopted by the City of Canterbury to address the issues around identity theft and mailbox theft.

- Increasing the awareness of fraud and fraud-related theft
- Reducing the incidence of mailbox theft through building design.

5.2.2 Reducing the incidence of mailbox theft through building design

Given the role of the City of Canterbury in approving new developments, there is an opportunity to ensure that the design of mailboxes in new apartment buildings works to discourage mailbox theft. The Crime Prevention Officer will add the issue of mailbox theft to the information sheet for developers, as one of the factors for consideration in new developments. The City will also work to amend the Canterbury Development Control Plan (DCP) to include requirements around mailbox location.

Further details of the above strategies for addressing fraud and fraud related theft, including responsible agencies, resources, and timeframes, are presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Strategies for fraud prevention

Strategy/action	Responsible agencies	Performance measure	Resources required	Timeframe
Increase community awareness of identity fraud and mailbox theft	• City of Canterbury • NSW Police	Fact sheet produced and distributed	Within existing resources	2016
Add mailbox design to information sheet for developers	• City of Canterbury Community Safety Officer	• Information sheet amended	Within existing resources	2017
Incorporate letterbox location and design in the Canterbury DCP	• City of Canterbury	DCP amended Mailboxes in new buildings designed securely	Within existing resources	2017

5.3 Community engagement and social cohesion

The third priority area for this Plan is increasing community engagement and social cohesion. There is a growing recognition of the importance of strengthening community connectedness, when attempting to increase community safety.

The City of Canterbury will use the following strategies to increase community engagement and cohesion.

- Activating public areas
- Maintaining and promoting community gardens.

5.3.1 Activating public areas

Public areas remain a common place for crime to occur within Canterbury LGA. In Canterbury in 2014, 56% of robberies, and 44% of steal from person offences¹⁹ occurred in public areas. These areas therefore represent a good opportunity for intervention to increase public safety, and increase perceptions of safety.

The City of Canterbury already has a higher density population than the surrounding areas (see Section 2.1), and this density is likely to increase over time. Having sufficient public space that is effectively activated will facilitate greater social cohesion, and in turn increase perceptions of community safety. In an example of work already undertaken, the Out and About program created safe pathways around train stations in Lakemba and Campsie through the use of lighting.

The 2016–19 Plan will look to build on Canterbury's past efforts, to greater activate public areas. This will involve promoting a range of events in public spaces in order to attract the public. The benefits of this for community safety involve increasing the opportunities for residents to informally connect, building community cohesion, and also, importantly, increasing the natural surveillance in these areas, reducing the opportunity for crime.

The focus on activating public areas will tie in closely with the upcoming City of Canterbury review of the Open Space Strategy. The Open Space Strategy will include crime prevention and community safety, and more specifically, activation, as one of the factors to be accounted for in decisions around open space.

¹⁹ The distinction between robbery and steal from person offences is that robbery involves the use or threat of violence to the owner of the property. whereas steal from person does not.

Another key focus area for this work will be on creating access for young people. This is expanded on in section 5.4.

5.3.2 Maintain and promote community gardens and other green space

Green space that includes trees and open space play areas, can increase social cohesion through attracting adults and children into common areas, builds a sense of neighbourhood, and can function to increase informal surveillance that in turn creates greater security and deters crime²⁰.

Being 'out and about' also opens up opportunities for incidental interactions—the day to day meeting and greeting of people who live, work and travel in the same spaces at the same times. Incidental interaction augments connection and caring, increases perceptions of safety and decreases feelings of loneliness and isolation. The value of encouraging interaction such as this will become more and more relevant to the City of Canterbury as population density increases.

One way in which the Council will work to increase the use of communal green space is through community gardens. There are currently 2 community gardens in the City of Canterbury; one in Riverwood and one in Lakemba. The City will investigate opportunities for more community gardens within the LGA. Furthermore, the City will work with the organisations responsible for maintenance of the existing community gardens to ensure that they are being maintained, natural surveillance is being maximised, and they are fulfilling their function in building social cohesion.

Further details of the above strategies for increasing community engagement and social cohesion, including responsible agencies, resources, and timeframes, are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Strategies for increasing community engagement and social cohesion

Strategy/action	Responsible agencies	Performance measure	Resources required	Timeframe
Encourage the use of community gardens	City of CanterburyCommunity CentresEnvironmental Strategy	• 1 new community garden established	Additional resources required	2018
Account for crime prevention and community safety in the Open Space Strategy	• City of Canterbury	Open Space Strategy includes community safety	Within existing resources	2016
Use community events to activate	City of Canterbury	• No. of new events held in public	Within existing resources	Ongoing

5.4 Young people in Canterbury

The fourth focus area of this Plan is engagement with young people. Young people are often acknowledged as an important group to target for crime prevention activities. It is important to note, however, that of the crime categories reported by BOCSAR, young people (those aged 10-19) only make up a small proportion of offenders. For example, of all DV related assault offenders, 7% were aged 10-19. Similarly, 14% of steal from motor vehicle offenders, and 17% of malicious damage to property offenders were aged 10-19. The crime with the highest proportion of 10–19 year old offenders was robbery (49%).

Although young people commit a minority of the crime in Canterbury according to the recorded data, this data does not include all types of crime. In addition, it does not provide information on other forms of antisocial behaviour that may be a precursor to criminal behaviour. Developmental crime prevention activities involve intervening early in critical transition points in a person's development to address those factors that may lead them on a pathway to future involvement in crime. Intervening early in a young person's development, particularly in disadvantaged communities, can produce significant long-term social and economic benefits.

> ²¹ Morgan, et al. (2011). Effective crime prevention interventions for implementation by local government. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.

wwThe City of Canterbury will implement the following strategies in order to facilitate greater engagement of young people.

- Strengthening partnerships with local youth organisations to support late night activities
- Increasing access to recreational spaces
- Workplace experience/ mentoring opportunities
- Extend the Youth Outreach Program.

5.4.1 Strengthening partnerships with local youth organisations to support late night activities

Young people consulted in the development of this Plan were primary interested in increasing access to services and facilities. The City of Canterbury Community Safety Officer will work closely with Canterbury Youth Services, and local youth organisations to investigate options for additional late night activities for young people in Canterbury, for example pop-up movie events, or sporting activities. This will also include investigating increased access to drop-in centres in the LGA.

5.4.2 Ensure access to recreational spaces

As part of the upcoming review of the Open Space Strategy, the City of Canterbury will ensure that young people are considered in decisions around the use of open recreational space, and that the strategy does not function to exclude young people from public spaces.

5.4.3 Workplace experience/ mentoring **opportunities**

As mentioned previously, the City of Canterbury is disadvantaged in terms of education and employment outcomes, when compared to Greater Sydney. Economic disadvantage can be an important contributor to criminal behaviour. This may be particularly critical for young people, as rates of youth unemployment are generally higher than the rest of the population.

The City of Canterbury will seek to facilitate youth mentoring opportunities by connecting willing volunteer employers with young people in the area who express an interest in the given industry or area of work. Youth mentoring has benefits for both the mentor and the young person involved. It has been shown to be effective in improving a range of outcomes for young people²².

²² DuBois, E et al. (2011). How effective are mentoring programs for youth? A systematic assessment of the evidence. Psychological Science in the Public Interest. 12(2).

5.4.4 Extend the Youth Outreach Program

Currently, a youth outreach program operates in Lakemba, but has only been funded for one day per week. The City of Canterbury will seek funding to expand this program over additional days during the week.

Further details of each the above strategies for engaging with young people, including the agencies responsible, resources required, and timeframes, are presented in Table 12.

Table 12. Strategies for engaging with young people in Canterbury

Strategy/action	Responsible agencies	Performance measure	Resources required	Timeframe
Investigate late night recreation activities	• City of Canterbury • Local Youth Services	• No. of new activities initiated	Additional resources required	2017
Ensure access to outdoor recreational spaces	• City of Canterbury	• Open Space Strategy includes access for young people	Within existing resources	2016
Workplace experience/ mentoring opportunities for youth	City of CanterburyEmploymentorganisationsTraining and educationalorganisations	No. of connections with employers No. of mentees placed	Within existing resources	2017
Extend Youth Outreach Program	City of CanterburyYouth Off The StreetsYouth Services	Additional funding secured	Additional resources required	2016

5.5 Safer streets

Unsafe driving practices have been nominated by community members as a concern within Canterbury. Whilst these may or may not always involve offending behaviour, this is nevertheless a community safety issue.

5.5.1 Coordinated response with Road Safety

The City of Canterbury has a Traffic Committee which advises council on all traffic matters affecting the city, and a Road Safety Strategic Plan outlining the planned strategies and activities to improve road safety. The City of Canterbury will develop a coordinated response between Community Safety and Road Safety to identify possible strategies, such as traffic calming devices in identified locations (see Table 13).

Table 13. Strategies for increasing road safety

Strategy/action	Responsible agencies	Performance measure	Resources required	Timeframe
Develop a coordinated response to road safety, reckless driving and traffic design	 Community Safety Officer Road Safety Officer Team Leader Traffic and Transportation Investigations and Design 	No. of meetings heldNo. of coordinated actions completed	Within existing resources	2018

5.6 Monitoring and evaluation

Across all the priority areas, monitoring and evaluation of the strategies will be the responsibility of the Community Safety Officer. Details on the monitoring and evaluation of these strategies, including performance measures, timeframes, and responsible agencies, are listed in tables 9 to 13 above. Whilst the timeframes for each strategy vary, the Community Safety Officer will assess the implementation of each strategy, as well as any changes in offending behaviour, on an annual basis, and will report on this to the Community Safety Committee.

The performance measures listed above focus largely on outputs achieved, for example the number of meetings held or resources produced, rather than changes in offending outcomes. This is due to challenges in determining the impact of these strategies on the target offences.

As mentioned previously, the rates of reported domestic violence offences may not correspond directly with the actual incidence of these events—reported figures may also be driven by increases in the propensity to report. As such, increases in reported DV related assault should not necessarily be taken as evidence of 'failure'; an increase in DV related assault may simply mean that more victims have felt confident enough to report an offence. The strategies listed in Table 9 are also likely to work to increase awareness of DV, which if successful, will increase the reporting of these offences.

In addition to monitoring the implementation of the strategies listed in Table 9, the City of Canterbury Crime Prevention Officer will monitor the incidence of domestic violence related assault (from BOCSAR

publicly available data) and will also liaise with Campsie and Ashfield LACs regarding any additional data on DV that Police may hold. All available data will be assessed to determine ongoing trends in reported DV offences.

In regard to fraud offences, the evidence gathered for this Plan suggests that a large proportion of these offences are generated through mailbox theft. However, mailbox theft is not specifically recorded in BOCSAR data, therefore it is not possible to track the incidence of this specific offence over time, or to measure the effectiveness of the above strategies (Table 10) on offending outcomes. The City of Canterbury Crime Prevention Officer will liaise with Campsie and Ashfield LACs to investigate if there is any further data available on mailbox theft that is regularly recorded by Police.

Appendix 1: Age profile of offenders, Canterbury LGA

Age	Assault - domestic related	Assault - domestic violence related	Assault - non- domestic viole related	Assault - non- domestic violence related	Robbery	bery	Break and enter dwelling*	nd enter *	Break and enter non-dwelling*	nd enter Iling*	Motor	Motor vehicle theft	Steal from motor vehi	Steal from motor vehicle	Steal from retail store	rom tore	Malicious damage to property	us e to V
	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%	u	%
10-17	14	%*	13	14%	æ	13%	9	13%	←	10%	2	23%	7	14%	9	12%	14	13%
18-19	10	3%	12	13%	7	30%	2	10%	←	10%		2%	0	%0	9	12%	7	%/_
20-29	06	25%	23	25%	4	17%	14	78%	7	20%	=======================================	20%	0	%0	7	14%	38	%98
30-39	123	35%	18	19%	6	39%	16	33%	æ	30%	4	18%	6	84%	17	33%	24	23%
+0+	117	33%	27	79%	0	%0	7	15%	3	30%	←	2%	3	21%	15	29%	22	21%
Total	354	100%	93	100%	23	100%	84	100%	10	100%	22	100%	14	100%	51	100%	105	100%



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