![Canterbury Bankstown logo]

CBCity's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

2023 - 2027
DRAFT

7
destinations

Safe & Strong
A proud inclusive community that unites, celebrates and cares

Safe & Strong documents are guided by the Social Inclusion Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as being a child friendly City, children's services, community safety and crime prevention, inclusiveness, community services, universal access, reconciliation, ageing, community harmony and youth.

Clean & Green
A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas

Clean & Green documents are guided by the Environmental Sustainability Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as managing our catchments and waterways, natural resources, hazards and risks, emergency management, biodiversity and corporate sustainability.

Prosperous & Innovative
A smart and evolving city with exciting opportunities for investment and creativity

Prosperous & Innovative documents are guided by the Prosperity and Innovation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as revitalising our centres, employment, investment, being SMART and creative, and providing opportunities for cultural and economic growth.

Moving & Integrated
An accessible city with great local destinations and many options to get there

Moving & Integrated documents are guided by the Transport Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as accessibility, pedestrian and cycling networks, pedestrian and road safety, transport hubs, and asset management.

Healthy & Active
A motivated city that nurtures healthy minds and bodies

Healthy & Active documents are guided by the Health and Recreation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes lifelong learning, active and healthy lifestyles, and providing quality sport and recreation infrastructure.

Liveable & Distinctive
A well designed, attractive city which preserves the identity and character of local villages

Liveable & Distinctive documents are guided by the Liveable City Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as preserving the character and personality of centres, heritage, affordable housing, and well managed development.

Leading & Engaged
A well- governed city with brave and future focused leaders who listen

Leading & Engaged documents are guided by Council's Lead Resourcing Strategies. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as open government, managing assets, improving services, long term funding, operational excellence, monitoring performance, being a good employer, civic leadership, and engaging, educating and communicating with our community.

Strategic Planning Framework Summary

The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) maps out the role of all current and future Council strategies and plans that work to deliver the vision for the City. The framework works from the highest level of strategic direction in the Community Strategic Plan through to more detailed plans that will eventually drive works projects and programs on the ground. The framework is comprised of the following levels:

The **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP)** is our highest level plan and translates the community's desired outcomes for the city into key destinations. The CSP includes community suggested actions which can be tested in the development of all other plans.

1 **LEAD STRATEGIES** are Council's response to the CSP and provide high level strategic direction on key challenges facing the City. They are informed by a sound evidence base that considers key trends and an understanding of the implications of key issues and opportunities on the City.

2 **SUPPORTING PLANS** break down broad theme areas discussed in LEAD STRATEGIES into smaller themes providing high level actions. SUPPORTING PLANS identify broad works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include indicative costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

3 **DETAILED ACTION PLANS** take actions from SUPPORTING PLANS and identify specific works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include detailed costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

4 **GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND CODES** provide detailed information, rules for activities or guidance for specific works on Council or other lands.

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Acknowledgement

The City of Canterbury Bankstown acknowledges the traditional country of the Daruk (Darag, Dharug, Daruk, Dharuk) and the Eora People.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.

We acknowledge they are of continuing importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today.

01

Message from the City

The City of Canterbury Bankstown (CBCity) is home to a population of 372,322 from a diverse range of backgrounds, religions, age groups, genders and ethnicities.

Community safety and crime prevention is everyone's responsibility - government, law enforcement, businesses, organisations and residents. It is about creating a strong, active and well-connected community, involved in improving quality of life and safety in CBCity. We have a long-standing priority of reducing crime and promoting your safety. We want everyone to feel safe where they live, work, study or visit.

The CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is underpinned by our Community Strategic Plan CBCity 2028, which outlines a vision for the future of the City as Thriving, Dynamic and Real.

The CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is structured around objectives that help to create a safer environment for all within CBCity. By identifying priority areas revolving around both safety and crime, Council can work together with local stakeholders to help create initiatives and programs that seek to increase neighbourhood cohesion and promote positive community perception of safety.

02

CBCity profile

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is one of the most culturally, socially and economically diverse communities in Sydney. The city is located 23 kilometres southwest of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD) which includes 41 suburbs that cover just over 100 square kilometres.

The City is currently made up of:

3 river catchments	**9** libraries	**1** university	**588** parks
17 train stations	**113** schools	**430** Council buildings	**75** sporting complexes
908 kilometres roads	**2** hospitals	**1** art centre	**3** TAFE campuses
30,000 local businesses	**1** airport		

AREA

110 square kilometres

5 Number of wards

372,322 Population

Age

36 Canterbury-Bankstown has a relatively young community with median age of 36

Cultural diversity

51.8% of the population of Canterbury-Bankstown were born overseas

Languages

67.8% speak a language other than English at home

Top languages – The top five languages spoken in Canterbury-Bankstown (other than English) are:

17.2% Arabic

7.5% Vietnamese

4.7% Greek

??% Mandarin

3.7% Cantonese

All of which are higher than the New South Wales (NSW) and Australian average. 0.8 per cent of people in Canterbury-Bankstown identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Households

51.3% **21.2%** **27.9%**

In Canterbury-Bankstown, couples with children make up the highest percentage of households with 51.3 per cent , while lone person households and couples without children make up 21.2 per cent and 27.9 per cent respectively.

Disability

Over 25,000 (nearly seven per cent) of the population in Canterbury-Bankstown reported needing help in their day to day lives, in areas such as self-care, physical movement or communications due to disability.

Income and work

The median weekly household income is

$1,556 in Canterbury-Bankstown, compared to $1,829 for NSW.

Unpaid work and care

54.8% did unpaid domestic work (week for Census Night) compared to 66.5 per cent for NSW;

22.9% provided unpaid care for child/children (during two weeks before Census night) compared to 25.3 per cent for NSW;

11% provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or due to old age (during two weeks before Census night) compared to 11.9 per cent for NSW.

If the City were reduced to a village of 100 people their make-up would be:	
50	would be female
50	would be male
24	would be babies through to secondary school age residents
25	would be young adults working secondary and living independently
32	would be parents, homebuilders and pre-retiree residents
18	would be empty nesters or elderly and aged residents
55	would live in a 'household with children'
19	would live on their own
34	would live in households with an income the lowest group
15	would live in households with an income of the highest group
12	would live in households with no motor vehicle
29	would own their own homes outright
56	would live In a freestanding house – 30 in medium or high density
35	are renting~ their property
50	would be Australian born
44	would be born overseas, including 6 from Lebanon arid 5 from Vietnam
60	would speak a language other than English at home
1	would be of Aboriginal decent
79	would be Australian citizens
20	would be of Christian faith
20	would be of Islam faith
8	would be attending a high er education Institution right now
92	would be employed
55	would be in the labour force
7	would need assistance Jn their day to day lives due to disability

03 Context and introduction

The CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2023-2027 (the Plan) outlines City of Canterbury Bankstown's (Council) commitment to improving community safety and addressing crime issues within the local government area (LGA).

The Plan clearly identifies safety and crime priorities, as well as specific goals for vulnerable groups such as young people, emerging communities, LGBTQIA+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), and individuals with a disability.

Council will implement the actions and focus areas of this plan over a four-year period including targeted programs within each of our five wards.

By implementing this Plan, Council will ensure the key safety and crime areas outlined are addressed through effective action of the identified objectives.

In addition to implementing the Plan, Council will play a major role in maintaining safe public spaces including the regulation of planning and building developments within Canterbury-Bankstown. Council will continue to strengthen partnerships between local emergency services, community organisations, local businesses and other safety and crime stakeholders.

Community safety

Safety is a priority for Canterbury-Bankstown's diverse community. The Plan was developed through in-depth consultation with key stakeholders within the LGA. These stakeholders include residents, business owners, community organisations and local police. In addition to being safe, it's important that people feel safe living, working and visiting the City of Canterbury Bankstown (City). This ensures our community can actively participate as part of our community and have a positive perception of safety in Canterbury-Bankstown.

Crime prevention

Crime Prevention focuses on deterring criminal activity and reducing crime in Canterbury-Bankstown. It aims to eliminate factors that lead to crime occurring. Measures include changing the physical environment, encouraging behaviour change and improving neighbourhood cohesion. Crime prevention can be achieved through a combined approach from Council, the local Police Area Commands, government agencies, community groups/organisations, businesses and individuals.

3.1 Development of the Plan

The development of the Plan is a result of community engagement, analysis of crime statistics and stakeholder consultation.

We reviewed existing projects and initiatives to ensure they align with the current crime and safety data and trends in Canterbury-Bankstown. This helped to establish a stronger understanding of the issues and requirements within our local community. The regular and ongoing involvement of local emergency services, especially the Police Area Commands, played a key role in the Plan's development. The information gathered was utilised to form and develop the Plan's priority areas, outcomes, objectives and actions.

Crime Statistics

Council has analysed the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) data as well as localised police statistics to develop and create a crime profile (outlined on page 14) for the LGA. Based on the analysis of the crime profile, Council will allocate resources toward the identified priority areas.

Community engagement and stakeholder consultations

To ensure the Plan was strategically established, Council liaised with a variety of stakeholders and conducted multiple engagement initiatives. The extensive consultation process involved holding local safety forums and outreach sessions, community perceptions surveys, safety audits, social planning workshops, as well as gathering safety and crime information from residents, businesses, community organisations and police. Council focused on aspects that impact our diverse community. It is worth noting that due to COVID-19, this community engagement process was undertaken throughout 2019-2022.

3.2 Strategic context

NSW Government framework and policy

The Crime Prevention Programs Division of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice leads the development of the evidence-based policies and programs to prevent crime and reduce reoffending in NSW.

The NSW Government Premier's Priorities lists the following goals under their 'Breaking the Cycle' key policy priority, which relates to crime and safety;
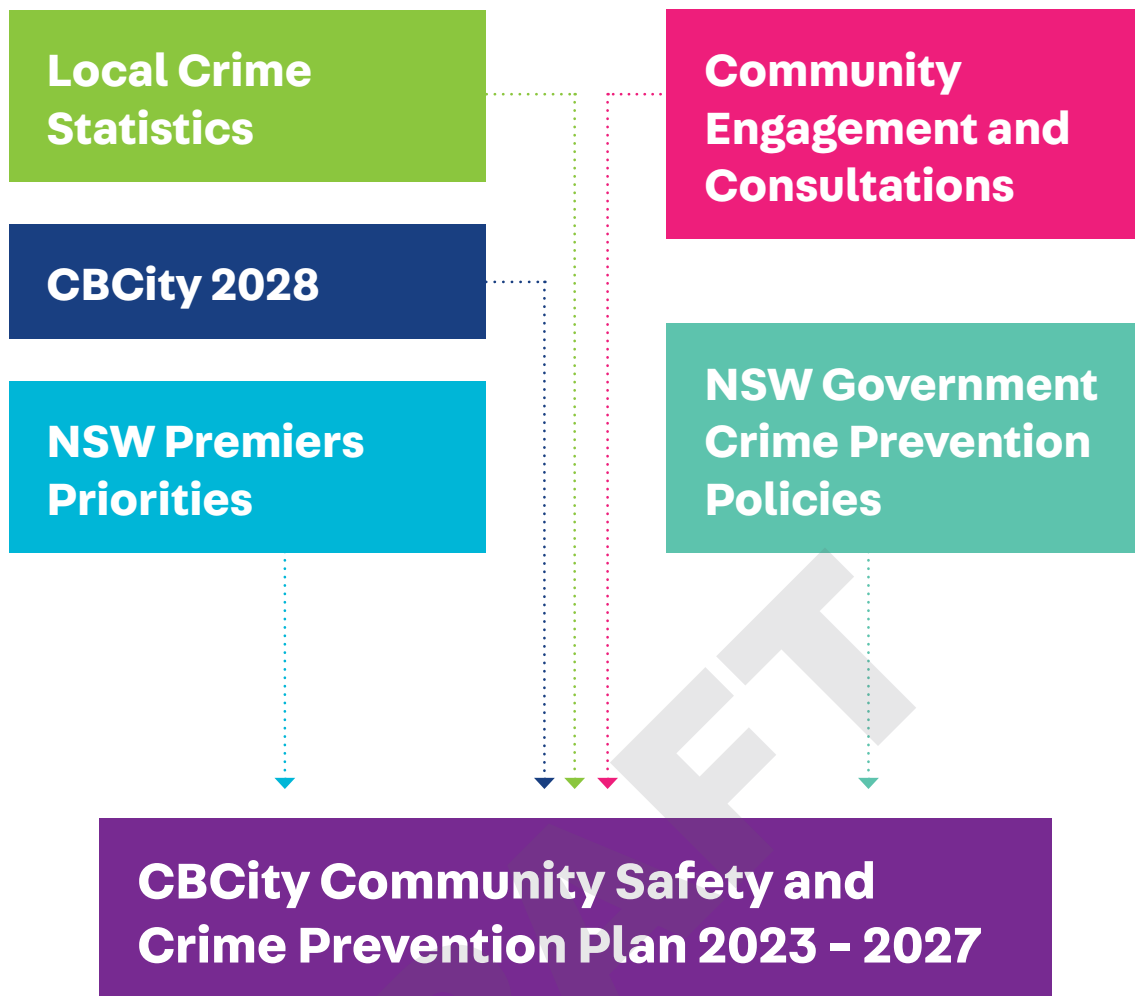
- Reducing domestic violence reoffending;
- Reducing homelessness; and
- Reducing recidivism in the prison population.

Community strategic plan

The Plan aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan (CBCity 2028) and its seven destinations are presented on page one of this plan. This outlines a set of priorities that contribute to our vision of making Canterbury-Bankstown a place that is *Thriving, Dynamic and Real*.

It includes a list of actions which will guide Council's work in ensuring our City is a safe place for the community.

The CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2023-2027 will directly align with actions from the safe and strong components of the strategic and operational plans.

Local Crime Statistics

CBCity 2028

NSW Premiers Priorities

Community Engagement and Consultations

NSW Government Crime Prevention Policies

CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2023 – 2027

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04 CBCity crime profile

For most crime categories, incidents in NSW have decreased or remained stable over the last five years. Domestic violence related assault and sexual assault, however, has seen an upward trend. This was reflected within the City with domestic violence related assaults increasing 4.4 per cent.

The data presented in this crime profile comes from BOCSAR, an agency that develops data on crime and criminal justice in NSW. Information and data will regularly be collected from local Police Area Commands (PACs) to provide detail on local trends. This, along with obtaining data on hotspot locations, will be utilised throughout the delivery of actions noted in the Plan.

It should be noted that only reported crime, or crime detected by police, is recorded, and some crimes are more commonly reported than others. Some crimes may also see an increase in reported incidents due to community awareness campaigns. This is often applicable to fraud, domestic violence and historical sexual offences.

Canterbury-Bankstown is policed by three PACs. These are Bankstown, Burwood and Campsie. Bankstown PAC covers the Revesby/Bunya Ward, Bankstown/Darani Ward and Bass Hill/Bura Ward. Burwood PAC covers parts of the Canterbury/Budjar Ward and Campsie PAC covers parts of the Canterbury/Budjar Ward as well as the Roselands/Bunmarra Ward.

Crime rates

It is worth noting that we acknowledge that some data captured during the reporting period referenced, occurred during the COVID-19 lockdown, which would have had an impact on crime statistics during this time. In saying this, the crime categories of highest concern are consistent with those prior to the lockdown period.

CBCity crime rate comparison with rest of NSW (per 100,000 people) for 2022

	Number of incidents Jan–Dec 2022	Rate per 100,000	NSW Rate per 100,000	LGA Rankings
Break and enter (dwelling)	536	140.9	229.1	92nd
Break and enter (non-dwelling)	208	54.7	90.5	90th
Domestic violence related assault	1,348	354.4	409.0	73rd
Fraud	1,970	517.9	566.4	55th
Malicious damage to property	1,433	376.7	591.5	96th
Motor vehicle theft	510	134.1	150.3	75th
Murder	6	1.6	0.7	NA
Non-domestic violence related assault	972	255.5	362.5	83rd
Other stealing offences	943	247.9	432.0	107th
Robbery	85	22.3	22.3	42nd
Sexual offences	443	116.5	177.7	101st
Steal from dwelling	407	107.0	185.0	101st
Steal from motor vehicle	1050	276.0	332.3	59th
Steal from person	37	9.7	23.9	76th
Steal from retail store	492	129.3	272.3	77th

BOCSAR - Accessed March 2023

CBCity is below the NSW average in nearly all major crime categories.

**Rankings above are from 120 LGAs in NSW – ranking of 1st has the highest crime rate whereas 120th has the lowest crime rate per 100,000 people.**

Crime categories (including 12 of the major crime categories)

Fraud

Fraud refers to 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. Fraud has the highest rate of crime incidents in Canterbury-Bankstown, however, has still seen a decrease of 2.4 per cent between 2018-2022, with 2,168 incidents recorded in 2018 compared to 1,970 incidents recorded in 2022.

Fraud Incidents

Year	Incidents
2018	~2150
2019	~2500
2020	~2150
2021	~1900
2022	~1970
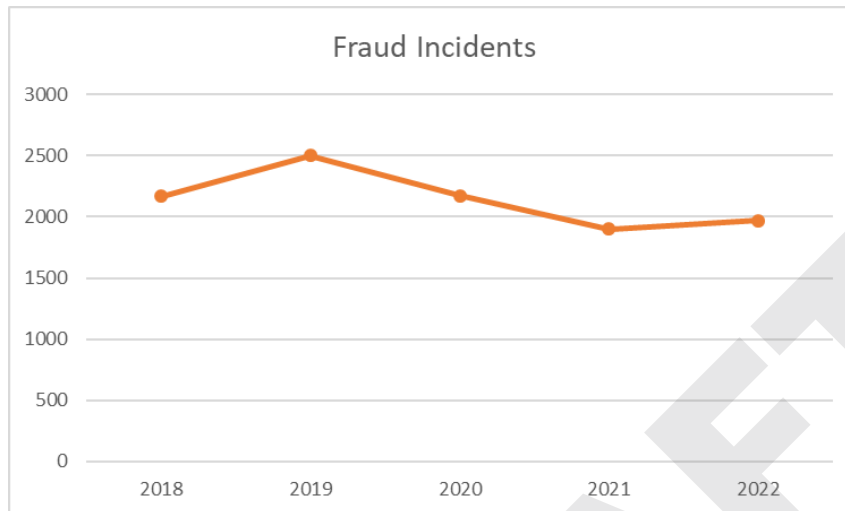
Malicious damage to property

Malicious damage to property refers to 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. Malicious damage to property has seen a decrease of 5.9 per cent between 2018-2022, with 1,831 incidents recorded in 2018 and 1,433 incidents recorded in 2022.

Malicious Damage to Property Incidents

Year	Incidents
2018	~1830
2019	~1750
2020	~1630
2021	~1390
2022	~1433
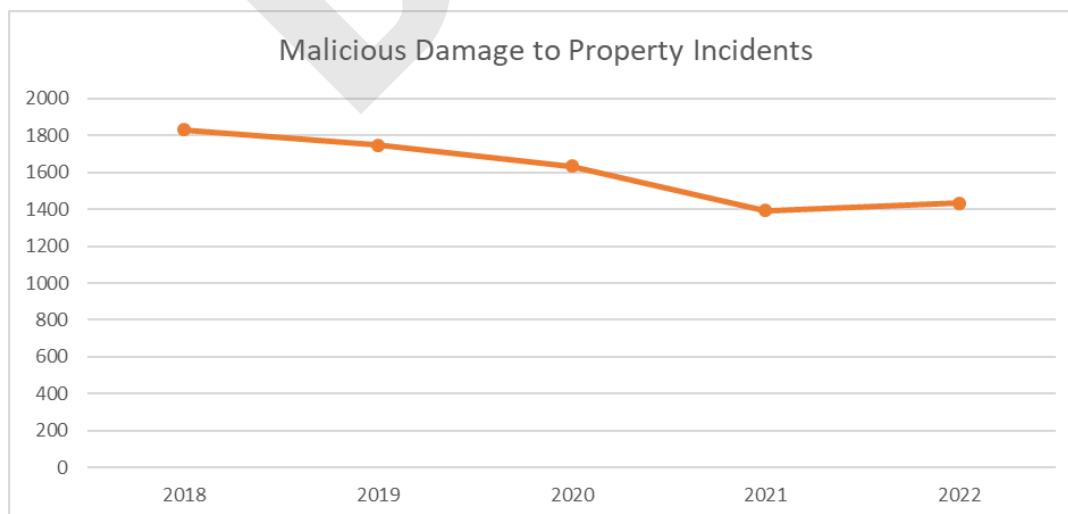
Domestic violence related assault incidents

Domestic violence related assault refers to assault flagged by police as being domestic violence related. This can include spouse, ex-spouse, boy/girlfriend (including ex), parent/guardian, child, sibling, other members of family, is living or has lived in the same household. Assault is the direct infliction of force, injury or violence, or threat of, where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. Domestic violence related assault saw an increase of 4.4 per cent between 2018-2022, with 1,133 incidents recorded in 2018 and 1,348 incidents recorded in 2022.
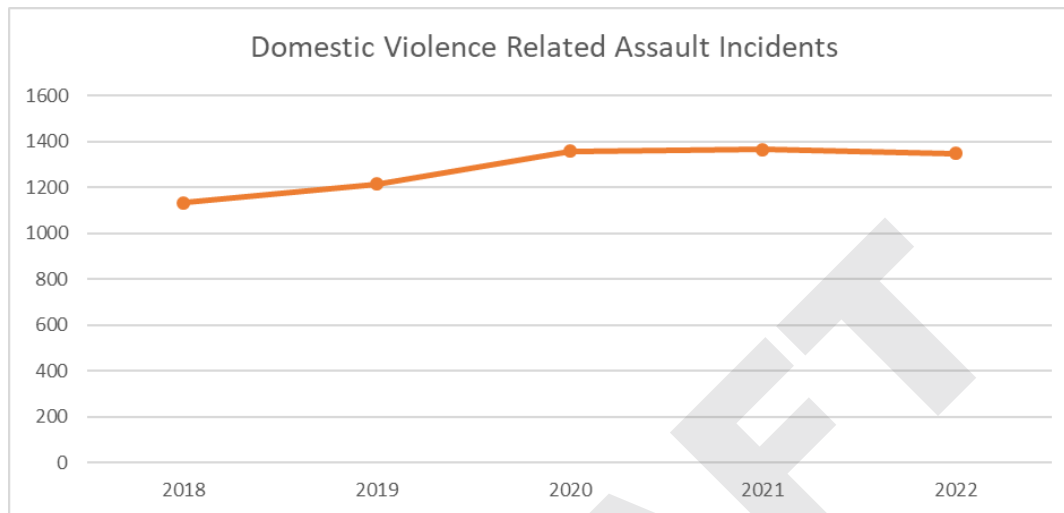

Steal from motor vehicle incidents

Steal from motor vehicle refers to unlawful taking of parts or contents from another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission. Steal from motor vehicle incidents saw a decrease of 5.9 per cent between 2018-2022, with 1,337 recorded in 2018 and 1,050 in 2022.
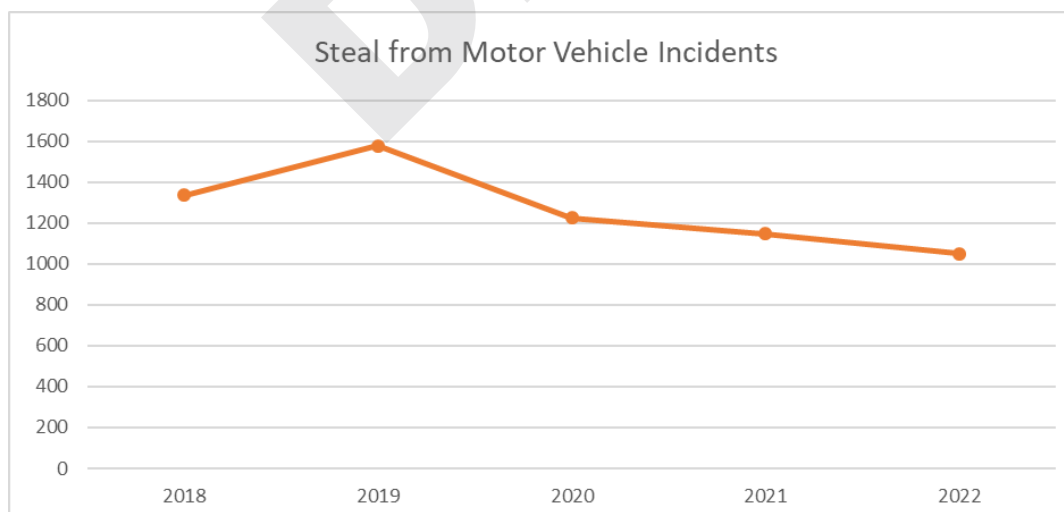
Other stealing offences

Other stealing offences refer to all other stealing offences outside of 'steal from motor vehicle', 'steal from retail store', 'steal from dwelling', 'steal from person'. Other stealing offences saw a decrease of 7.3 per cent between January-December 2018 and January- December 2022, with 1,279 incidents recorded in 2018 and 943 incidents recorded in 2022.

Other Stealing Offences Incidents

Year	Incidents
2018	~1280
2019	~1350
2020	~1080
2021	~920
2022	~940
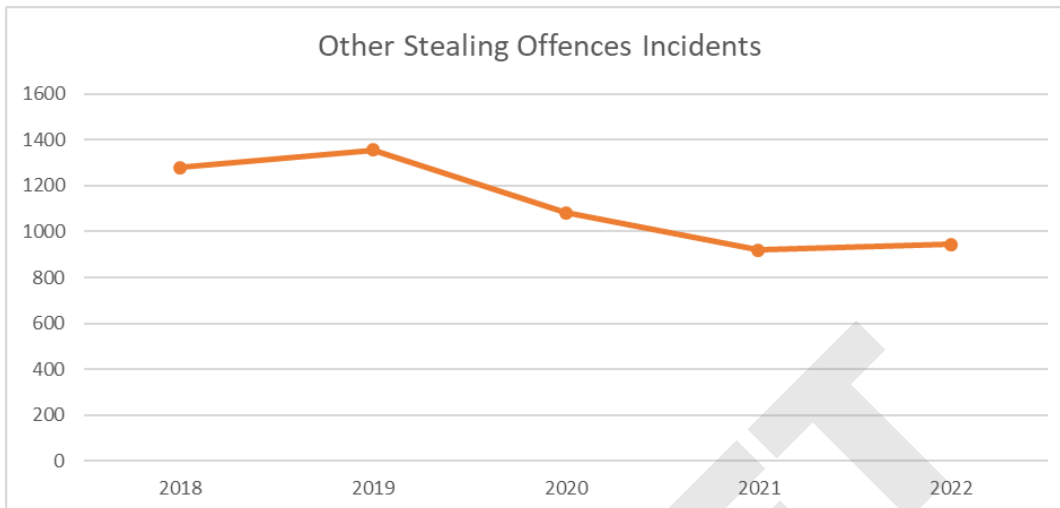
Non-domestic violence related assault

Non-domestic violence related assault refers to direct infliction of force, injury or violence against a person, or threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. Non-domestic violence related assault incidents have remained stable between 2018-2022, with 973 incidents recorded in 2018 and 972 incidents recorded in 2022.

Non-Domestic Violence Related Incidents

| Year	Incidents
2018	~970
2019	~1060
2020	~990
2021	~790
2022	~970
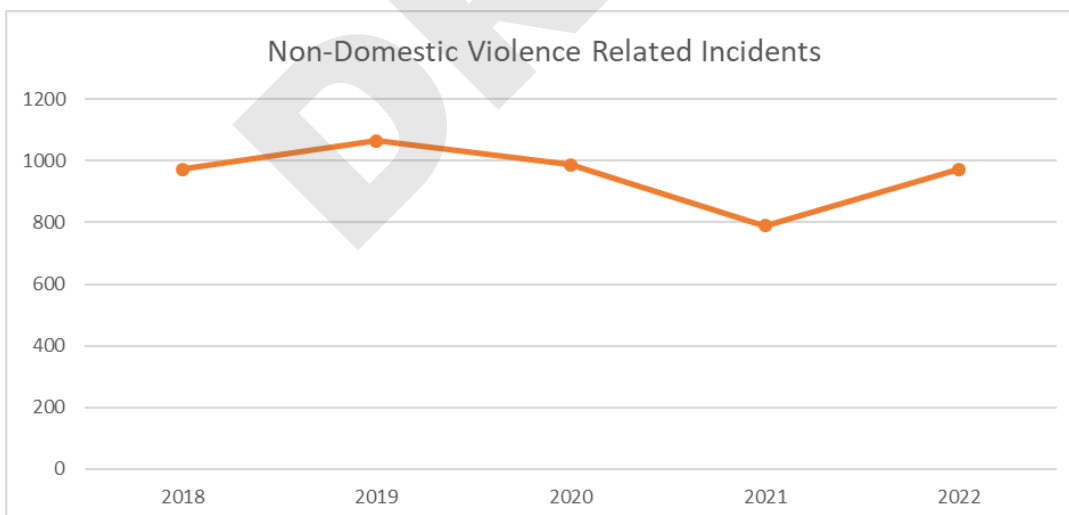
Robbery

Robbery is the unlawful taking of property, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property, from the immediate possession, control, custody or care of a person, through the use or threat of force. Robbery has seen a decrease of 33.6 per cent between 2018-2022, with 128 incidents recorded in 2018 and 85 incidents recorded in 2022.

Robbery Incidents
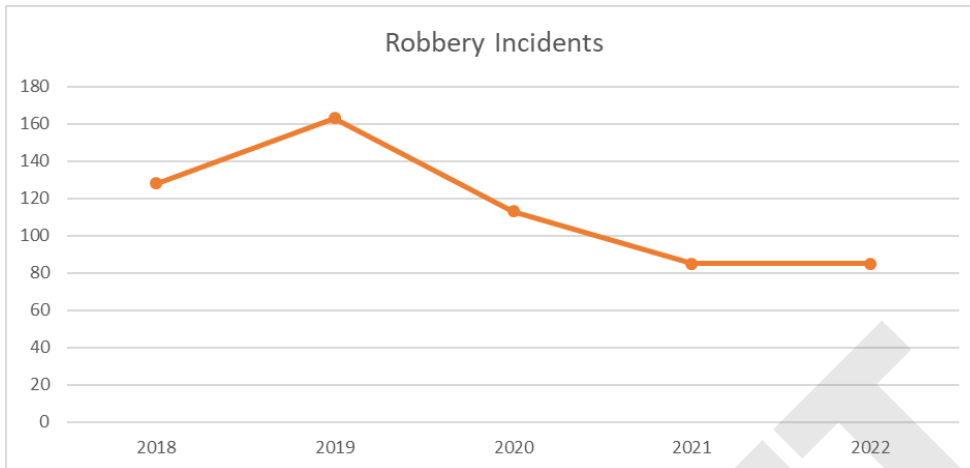
Sexual offences

Sexual offences refer to sexual assault or sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences. Sexual offence incidents have remained relatively stable with no significant upward or downward trend between 2018-2022, with 406 incidents recorded in 2018 and 443 incidents recorded in 2022.

Sexual Offences Incidents
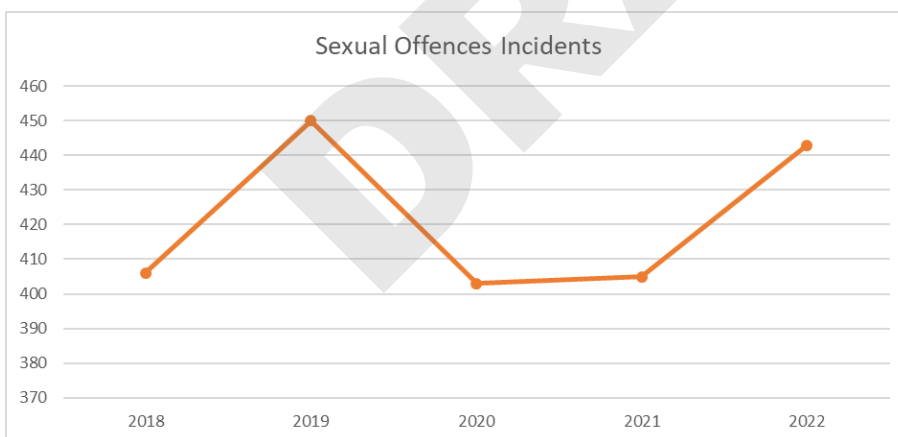
Break and enter (dwelling)

Break and enter (dwelling) refers to unlawful entry of a dwelling, usually residential, with the intent to commit an offence where the entry is either forced or unforced. Break and enter (dwelling) has seen a decrease of 8.1 per cent between 2018-2022, with 753 incidents recorded in 2018 and 536 incidents recorded in 2022.

Break and Enter (Dwelling) Incidents

Year	Incidents
2018	~750
2019	~865
2020	~540
2021	~495
2022	~535
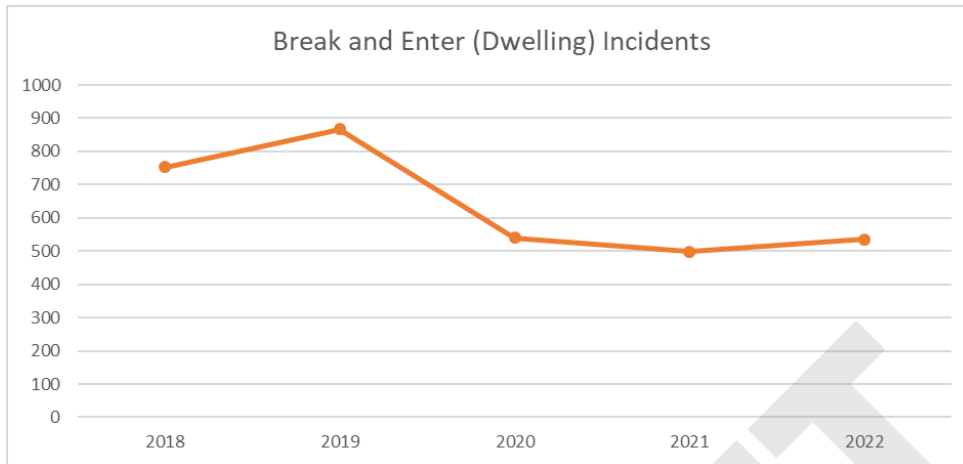
Break and enter (non-dwelling)

Break and enter (non-dwelling) refers to unlawful entry of a premises where people do not usually reside, with the intent to commit an offence where the entry is either forced or unforced. This includes retail, wholesale, recreational, educational and industrial premises. Break and enter (non-dwelling) has seen a decrease of 2.8 per cent between 2018-2022, with 233 incidents recorded in 2018 and 208 incidents recorded in 2022.

Break and Enter (Non-Dwelling) Incidents

Year	Incidents
2018	~232
2019	~267
2020	~165
2021	~125
2022	~208
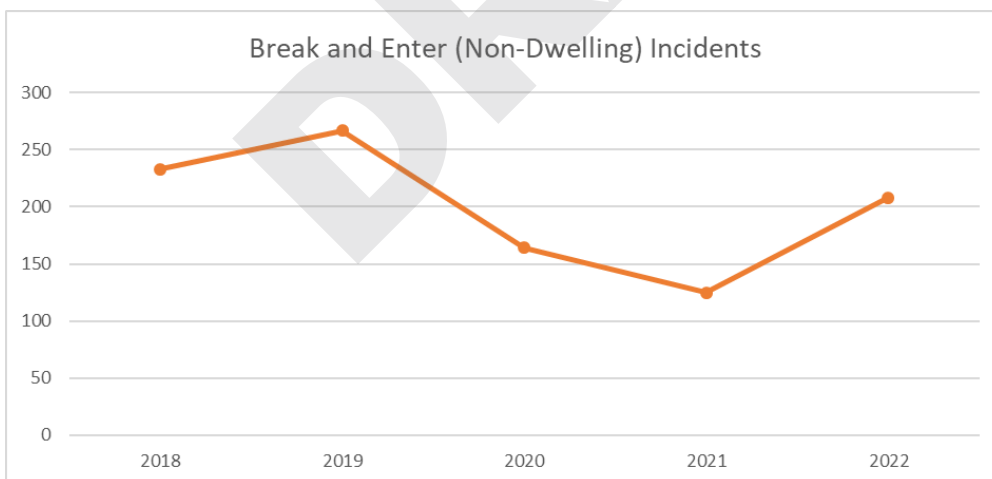
Steal from person

Steal from person refers to taking money or personal goods from a person without the use of force, threat of force or violence. Steal from person incidents saw a decrease of 16.7 per cent between 2018-2022, with 77 incidents recorded in 2018 and 37 incidents recorded in in 2022.

Steal from Person Incidents
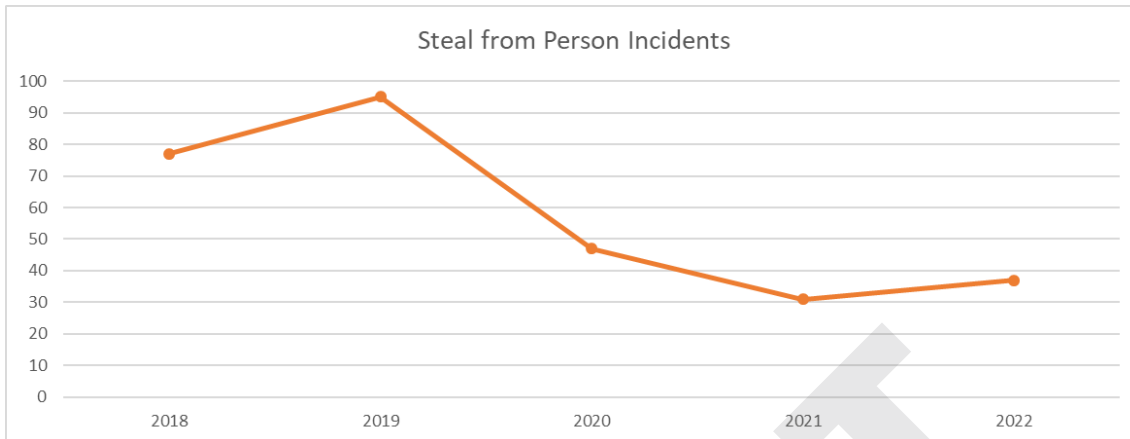
Steal from retail store

Steal from retail refers to theft from retail premises of goods for sale, other than motor vehicles, by avoiding payment for those goods. Steal from retail store incidents remained stable between 2018-2022, with 524 incidents recorded in 2018 and 492 incidents recorded in in 2022.

Steal From Retail Store Incidents
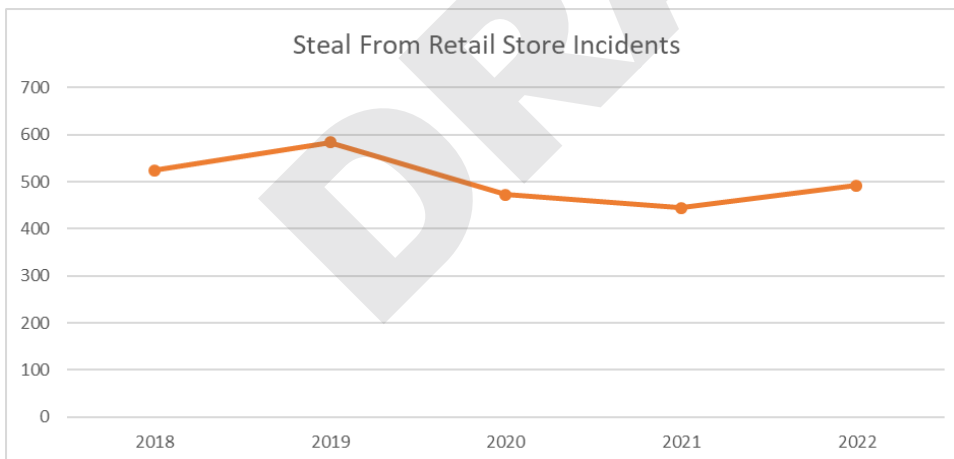
Steal from dwelling

Steal from dwelling refers to incidents of theft from a dwelling, usually residential, where entry was lawfully gained (e.g. stealing from a house to which the offender has been invited) or where the offender did not need to force entry. Steal from dwelling incidents remained stable between 2017-2021, with 458 incidents recorded in 2018 and 407 incidents recorded in 2022.
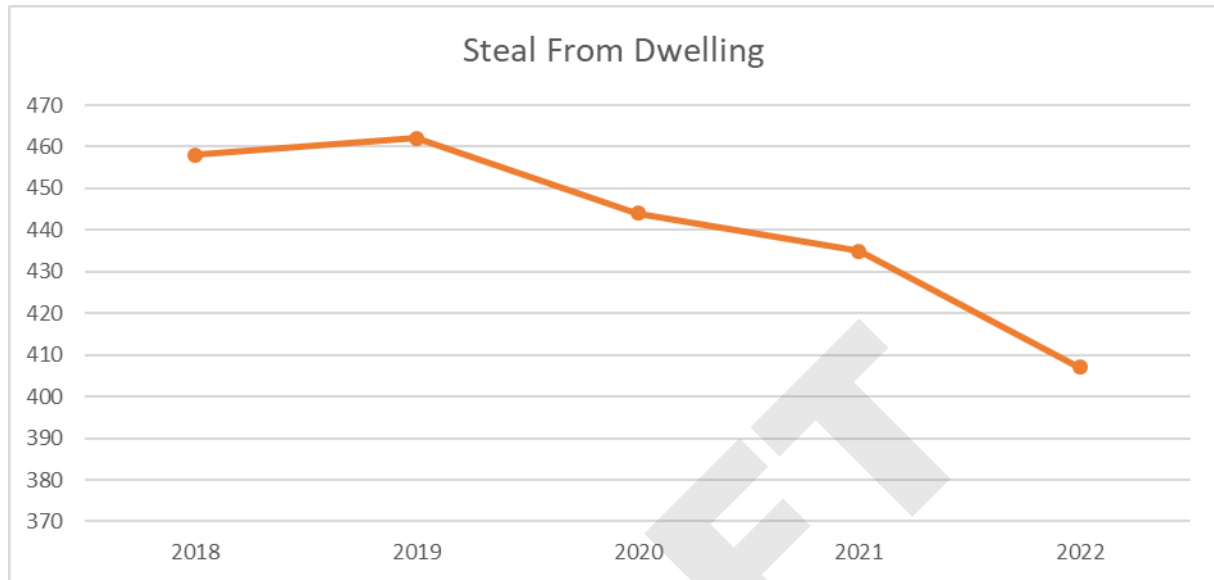
Motor vehicle theft

Motor vehicle theft refers to the taking of another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission with the intent of temporarily or permanently depriving the owner or possessor of the use of the motor vehicle. Motor vehicle theft saw a decrease of 3.6 per cent between 2017-2021, with 590 incidents recorded in 2018 and 510 incidents recorded in 2022.
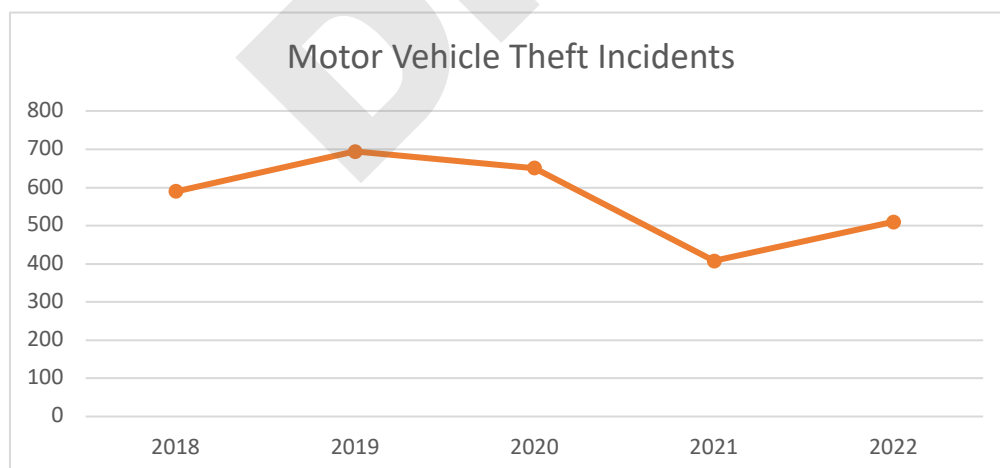
Drug and alcohol related offences

In general, drug related offences for the year 2022 were slightly lower than the NSW rate per 100,000 people. Drug related offences over the five year period 2018-2022 has remained relatively stable with a slight increase, although some offence types have seen an increase. Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) were raised during community and local service engagement and therefore drugs and alcohol have been identified as a priority area in the Plan.

Definitions from: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_glossary.aspx#S

05 What you told us

"I actually think our area is quite safe despite what people think of it. It's a multicultural family-based community so that makes me feel safe."

"Education is important in the long run and influencing the community in a positive way."

"The community has each other's back."

"Increased police presence and patrols around business venues, along with public transport hubs, rail and bus terminals."

"Address the crime as well as the perception! Work with police to eliminate the organised crime in the area."

5.1 Community engagement

In order to successfully develop the Plan, Council appreciates the importance of thorough community engagement in order to gain an understanding of the community safety and crime prevention needs within Canterbury-Bankstown. This proved to be a challenging process at times throughout the development of the Plan, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changing priorities.

Council engaged with the community through a variety of avenues including social planning workshops, local safety outreach sessions, focus groups with key local community networks and inter-agencies and community surveys.

Social planning

Each year, Council invites local services to participate in their social planning workshops, where we outline our priorities, objectives and actions for the year, based on their expert knowledge and feedback.

During the safety social planning session for 2022, domestic violence and drugs and alcohol were identified as the top two priority areas identified by services in the community.

Community perceptions and social cohesion in Canterbury-Bankstown were also discussed in the workshops. The main issues/challenges identified were:

- Lack of cultural awareness;
- Racism;
- Misleading media reports;
- Socioeconomic status creating divisions; and
- Predominately negative perceptions of Canterbury-Bankstown generated by the media's portrayal of our LGA.

Domestic violence and drugs and alcohol were identified as the top two priority areas by services in the community.

Focus groups

Our community consultation and engagement involved in-depth focus groups, workshops and discussions with the following networks:

- Bankstown Community Drug Action Team (Bankstown CDAT);
- Bankstown Recovery and Support Network;
- Canterbury-Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee (CBDVLC);
- Canterbury-Bankstown Inclusive Communities Network;
- Canterbury-Bankstown Disability Abuse Prevention Collaborative;
- Canterbury-Bankstown Workers with Youth Network (CBWWYN);
- Canterbury Community Drug Action Team (Canterbury CDAT);
- Twilight Sports Program (Local young people); and
- Villawood Network.

Community surveys

Community members in Canterbury-Bankstown had the opportunity to share their opinions by completing the CBCity Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan "Have Your Say" survey. The below feedback provides a general breakdown and summary of the responses received in relation to crime, safety, priorities and perceptions in CBCity.

- **80% agree** or **strongly agree** that they feel safe and comfortable in their community during the day;
- **45% disagree** or **strongly disagree** that they felt safe and comfortable in their community at night;
- **74% agree** or **strongly agree** that they know their neighbours and community well;
- **54%** were **somewhat concerned** about the level of crime in CBCity;
- The general feel for crime in CBCity is that it is **high** and **not really changing**;
- **60%** feel the perception of safety in Canterbury-Bankstown is **negative** and 34% feel this is not accurately reflected;

- **67%** feel **comfortable** reporting crime in Canterbury-Bankstown; and
- **88% have not** been a victim of crime in the past 12 months.

Based on the survey responses, the top five (in order) safety and crime concerns in Canterbury-Bankstown were:

1. Drugs and alcohol;
2. Domestic and Family Violence and Personal Safety (equal second);
3. Scams and Fraud;
4. Homelessness and Break and Enter (equal fourth); and
5. Assault and Motor Vehicle Theft (equal fifth).

80% feel safe and comfortable in their community during the day.

45% don't feel safe and comfortable in their community at night.

Community members and local services expressed consistent concerns which was evident during the engagement process, for the below safety and crime concerns:

1. Domestic violence;
2. Drugs and alcohol;
3. Homelessness;
4. Community perceptions;
5. Assault;
6. Online safety;
7. Safety at night; and
8. Scams and fraud.

5.2 Priority community groups

Throughout the engagement process it was identified that special consideration should be provided for vulnerable community groups within Canterbury-Bankstown. These groups include;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community;
- Elderly/seniors;
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTQIA+) community;
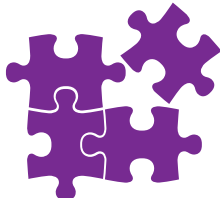- People with a disability; and
- Young people.

Canterbury-Bankstown is an extremely diverse and multicultural City. It recognises our First Nations people as the traditional custodians of our City and is committed to working towards reconciliation. Council also recognises that to be a truly inclusive and welcoming community for all, the above community groups may need additional initiatives and programs in order to feel safe in the City.

These vulnerable community groups will be considered when implementing the actions of this Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

06 What we will do (priorities and actions)

Nine priority areas have been identified to assist Council in providing a safer community for all within Canterbury-Bankstown. Priority areas reflect issues identified in both the Canterbury-Bankstown crime profile and issues identified by the community during the community engagement process.

Safety priorities	Crime priorities
Alcohol and Other Drugs	Domestic and family violence
Social cohesion	Scams and fraud
Community perceptions	Break and enter (non-dwelling)
Online safety	Motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle
Homelessness	

Action plan and priorities

Safety priorities

Safety outcome: Ensure CBCity is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Extensive community engagement and consultation have highlighted the below safety priorities in Canterbury-Bankstown:

Alcohol and other drugs (AOD)

Social cohesion
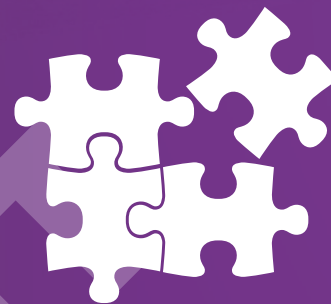
Community perceptions

Online safety

Homelessness

Alcohol and other drugs

Reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and AOD related harm within CBCity.			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
1.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with local AOD service providers.	**1.1.1** Liaise with and support existing services to raise awareness, reduce use and incidences of AOD and related concerns.	Community and Cultural Services Unit CDAT/Local service providers Local liquor accords	Ongoing
1.2 Deliver educational and supportive drug and alcohol initiatives that respond to the needs of the local community.	**1.2.1** Coordinate or support AOD initiatives which assist in prevention, raising awareness and providing support for the community and sector.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Medium
	1.2.2 Provide AOD upskilling and education opportunities for the community and local support services.	Community and Cultural Services Unit CDAT / Local service providers	Short
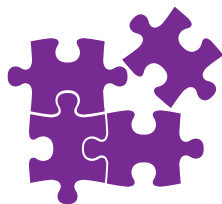
Social cohesion

Social cohesion is about building shared values, avoiding or preventing marginalisation and reducing disparities in order to improve wellbeing and create a sense of belonging. Essentially, a socially cohesive community has members who feel a sense of unity and 'one' community.

Increase unity and sense of belonging within the community			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
2.1 Increase and support unity, belonging and sense of community within CBCity.	**2.1.1** Bring together the community to improve the shared use of public places.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local community and sporting organisations	Medium/ long
2.2 Celebrate the cultural diversity of CBCity and the strength it brings to the community.	**2.2.1** Create networking opportunities between police, local service providers, faith-based groups, community networks, leaders and community members.	Community and Cultural Services Unit NSW Police Force Canterbury-Bankstown Multifaith Network	Short
	2.2.2 Support, encourage and promote culturally diverse community events and programs.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Communications Unit	Ongoing
2.3 Coordinate and support meaningful initiatives to improve unity within priority community groups: - Culturally and linguistically diverse; - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; - People with a disability; - LGBTQIA+; - Young people; and - Elderly/seniors.	**2.3.1** Innovatively facilitate and support existing community-based programs and initiatives that bring together CBCity's diverse communities. Including, yet not limited to: • Racism Not Welcome campaign; • First Nations youth and elders' groups; • Zero Barriers initiative; • Welcome Here program; and • Intergenerational programs.	Community and Cultural Services Unit ACON The Multicultural Network Inc. (TMN) Local community organisations and networks	Medium
	2.3.2 Support communication strategies within the community to advocate that CBCity is a welcoming, safe and an inclusive city.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Communications Unit	Ongoing

Community perceptions

Objective	Action	Delivery responsibility/ partnerships	Timeframe
3.1 Improve community safety standards throughout Canterbury-Bankstown.	**3.1.1** Ensure Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is implemented in the planning of all Council projects.	Community and Cultural Services Unit City Strategy and Design Unit City Plan and Transformation Design Unit Asset Construction Unit	Ongoing
	3.1.2 Ensure CPTED assessments are conducted on relevant Development Applications received to Council.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Development Unit NSW Police Force	Ongoing
	3.1.3 Conduct community safety audits and inspections when concerns arise.	Community and Cultural Services Unit NSW Police Force	Ongoing
	3.1.4 Support and upskill internal staff, services and community members in CPTED and other safety related information i.e. toolbox talks.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Short
	3.1.5 Review Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) and Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs) in accordance with state guidelines and council policies.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Open Space and Building Maintenance	Ongoing

Improve actual and perceived safety for the community in Canterbury-Bankstown.

3.2 Address and improve perceptions of safety in CBCity.	**3.2.1** Innovatively highlight actual crime statistics and safety data for CBCity.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Communications Unit	Short
	3.2.2 Engage with the community to discuss and address concerns, provide data on local trends, and provide an opportunity to meet local services. This can be done through events such as: - Community outreach; - Community Safety Expo; and - Seniors safety and wellbeing seminar.	Community and Cultural Services Unit NSW Police Local Community Organisations and Networks	Ongoing
	3.2.3 Deliver sessions to community groups relating to safety and crime prevention, raising awareness and providing information about local crime and safety concerns e.g. scams, fire safety, car theft.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local Community Organisations and Networks	
	3.2.4 Address graffiti related concerns through removal as quick as possible and educational programs for youth.	Waste and Cleansing Unit Community and Cultural Services Unit	Ongoing/ short
	3.2.5 Increase participation and use of Council facilities, open spaces, programs and events.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Customer Experience and Recreation Unit Leisure and Aquatics Services Unit City Business and Engagement	Medium
	3.2.6 Work with local services and community stakeholders to provide a visible presence in the community and to build strong local partnerships.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local Community Organisations and Networks NSW Police Force	Ongoing
	3.2.7 Council to participate in programs and initiatives such as: - Complete Streets; - Her Way.	City Plan and Transformation	Short/ medium
	3.2.8 Draw on primary and secondary research to understand how different social groups, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, young people, and the LGBTQIA+ Community: - Use various spaces - Perceive safety - Feel safe in public spaces - Feel marginalised in public spaces	Community and cultural services City strategy and design	Medium

Online safety

Increase knowledge and skills for the community to be safe online.			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
4.1 Support and educate the community in online and virtual safety.	**4.1.1** Partner with specialist organisations to raise awareness of localised online safety concerns.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Ongoing/ short
	4.1.2 Provide online safety upskilling and education opportunities for the community, especially parents and young people.	Community and Cultural Services Unit eSafety Commissioner Department of Education	Medium

Homelessness

Support rough sleepers and people who are homeless within the community.			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
5.1 Connect local services to rough sleepers and people who are homeless throughout the City so they can be provided support.	**5.1.1** Continue to implement and promote flagging systems to ensure local service providers can support rough sleepers and people who are homeless.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Department of Communities and Justice Local community organisations including Wesley Mission	Ongoing
	5.1.2 Support and upskill internal staff, services and community members in homelessness awareness.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Department of Communities and Justice Local community organisations including Wesley Mission	Medium
5.2 Clarify Council's capacity to safely support people who are homeless.	**5.2.1** Develop CBCity Homelessness Policy and/or guideline/procedure.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Governance Unit Safety and Risk Unit	Medium
5.3 Build an understanding of youth homelessness in the LGA and opportunities to address this issue. *Action 7.3 in CBCity's Youth Action Plan 2020-2024	**5.3.1** Establish a service provider working group to build an understanding of youth homelessness in the LGA, including couch surfing.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local Community Organisations	Medium
	5.3.2 Advocate for youth homelessness initiatives and services to be delivered locally, including increased funding for youth crisis services.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local Community Organisations	Medium

Crime priorities

Crime prevention outcome: Reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in CBCity

The Plan's crime profile was developed utilising data sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) along with consultation with the local Police Area Commands. The below crime priorities have been determined for Canterbury-Bankstown.

Domestic and family violence (DFV)

Scams and fraud

Break and Enter (non-dwelling)

Motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle

Domestic and family violence (DFV)

	Ongoing commitment to reduce DFV incidences and increased support for victims and the sector.		
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
6.1 Coordinate, support and connect with services in the sector to reduce incidences of DFV and increase support for victims.	**6.1.1** Actively support and provide networking opportunities within the Canterbury-Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee (CBDVLC).	Community and Cultural Services Unit CBDVLC	Ongoing
	6.1.2 Update, develop and distribute DFV information and resources to the community.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Ongoing
	6.1.3 Provide upskilling opportunities for services and staff in the DFV Sector.	Community and Cultural Services Unit CBDVLC / Local service providers	Short
6.2 Deliver awareness and education initiatives and programs that promote healthy relationships and address DFV concerns throughout Council and within the community	**6.2.1** Coordinate CBCity's Domestic Violence Campaign and develop program of community initiatives/activities (Say no to dv and yes to healthy relationships), and hold an annual event.	Community and Cultural Services Unit CBDVLC / Local service providers / other local inter-agencies	Medium
	6.2.2 Facilitate and convene healthy relationships educational sessions.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Canterbury-Bankstown Love Bites Network	Medium
	6.2.3 Provide educational initiatives internally	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Medium
6.3 Build an understanding of domestic violence in the LGA and opportunities to address this issue. *Action 7.4 in CBCity's Youth Action Plan	**6.3.1** Work collaboratively with service providers to organise a forum focussed on building an understanding of issues related to youth people and domestic violence in the LGA, bringing together services, schools and police.	Community and Cultural Services Local service providers CBDVLC	Medium
	6.3.2 Work collaboratively with local service providers to organise a Domestic Violence information sheet for youth people, including information about how to get help and legal issues.	Community and Cultural services Local Services and organisations	Short

Scams and fraud

Community education and prevention of scams and fraud incidences within Canterbury-Bankstown			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
7.1 Support and educate the community on scams and fraud.	**7.1.1** Partner with specialist organisations to deliver sessions in order to: - raise awareness of current scams and fraud occurring in the community; and - Provide tips on how to avoid scams and where to get support.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Scamwatch (ACCC) NSW Police Force	Ongoing/ short
7.2 Reduce opportunities of fraud through improved development designs.	**7.2.1** Ensure Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is considered in the planning of new development control plans, especially in the placement of letterboxes.	Community and Cultural Services Unit City Strategy and Design Unit	Short

Break and enter (non-dwelling)

Community education and prevention of break and enter incidences within the community.			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery responsibility/ partnerships**	**Timeframe**
8.1 Deliver awareness and educational initiatives that address break and enter (non-dwelling) incidences in the community.	**8.1.1** Partner with relevant organisations to raise awareness to businesses to reduce the incidences of break and enter (non- dwelling).	Community and Cultural Services Unit City Business and Engagement Unit NSW Police Force Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce	Medium

Motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle

Community education and prevention of motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle incidences within Canterbury-Bankstown.			
Objective	**Action**	**Delivery Responsibility / Partnerships**	**Timeframe**
9.1 Deliver awareness and educational initiatives that address motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle incidences in the community.	**9.1.1** Partner with police, utilise crime statistics and internal information to identify hotspot areas relating to motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle.	Community and Cultural Services Unit NSW Police Force National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council	Medium
	9.1.2 Develop and implement a campaign that raises awareness to reduce motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle. Campaigns to be rolled out in hotspot locations.	Community and Cultural Services Unit NSW Police Force	Medium
	9.1.3 Deliver educational presentations to community groups to raise awareness of potential theft.	Community and Cultural Services Unit Local service providers	Short

Conclusion

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is committed to ensuring all community members feel safe and welcome in our community. Our Community Safety and Crime Prevention Officers will work with local emergency services to improve crime rates while continuing to support residents and local organisations. Outcomes listed in the Plan will be actioned to address the identified priorities for safety and crime.

The vulnerable community groups listed in the Plan will be considered when implementing the actions to ensure Council continues to work towards reconciliation and being a diverse and inclusive city.

In addition to implementing the Plan, Council will continue to respond to emerging community safety trends and crime concerns as they arise.

References

All crime statistics were sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research on various dates with the March 2023 data release.

https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/

Demographical Census data was sourced through the profile.id platform on various dates throughout the development of the Plan. The 2021 Census data was progressively rolled out during this time therefore some data may reflect the previous Census.

https://profile.id.com.au/canterbury-bankstown