

STREETSCAPES AND SHOPPING MALLS TARGETS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY CAMPAIGN

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Lighting and Streetscaping identified as key safety issues

Pedestrian lighting and streetscaping have emerged as significant urban safety issues for the Working Group on Crime Prevention Through Urban and Housing Design.

It has been suggested that Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) and a landscape design professional help advise on these issues. The Group, which is preparing a report of the Coalition Against Crime, is developing Australia's first crime prevention guidelines for urban design.

Aspects recommended for the guidelines are:

- Principles for use in the planning and development system;
- A resource for use at the local community level (for example, by local crime prevention committees); and
- Standards for the design security of buildings.

The Working Group recommended that the planning and development industry be educated to incorporate these guidelines in their building designs.

The Group may develop priorities to oversee guideline development and implementation.

Marion Leads with Safer Shopping Study

Australia's first crime prevention project to improve safety in shopping centres has begun at Westfield Marion Shoppingtown in South Australia.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Attorney-General's Department is funding the six-month study with Westfield Marion management, Darlington Police and Marion Council.

Details of the pilot project at Marion Shopping Centre have been released. Among the aims of the project are to:

- CREATE a safer shopping environment;
- REDUCE crime and the fear of crime;
- RAISE awareness among shoppers and retailers so they can take precautions and reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

"Research shows that areas in which people congregate in large numbers tend to present problems for public safety", said Mr. Sumner, South Australia's Attorney-General. "Large shopping centres are not immune and we want to do something about that".

The Crime Prevention Unit approached the Manager of Westfield Shoppingtown, Mr. Brian Fuller, and the Marion Council to seek their involvement. They, along with Chief Inspector Peter Marshman of Darling Police, immediately got right behind the plan. The Unit chose Westfield because it is representative of shopping centres throughout the metropolitan area. It has no more of a problem than other centres but its management is committed to the project. Mr. Fuller said the project would be developed as a model for other centres. The study will be headed by Kate McIlwain, a project officer with the Crime Prevention Unit.

Ms. McIlwain will assess problems of car theft, theft from cars, shop theft, disturbances and overall public safety.

There will be a safety audit of shopping centre design features and crime, along with an analysis of the impact which the physical design of the centre and its environs has on crime.

Shoppers and traders will also be extensively interviewed about their attitudes and feelings of security.

"It is very important to involve the people - the shoppers and traders - as much as possible", Ms. McIlwain said.

Following this, in conjunction with all parties, including Westfield Marion management, measures to overcome problems will be identified.

"Experience overseas shows that simple mechanisms can be used to help overcome behavioural problems in shopping centres", Ms. McIlwain said.

Crime Prevention Unit Manager, Sue Millbank, said the safer shopping project was one of a range of community-based crime prevention initiatives either underway or soon to begin in South Australia.

First Forum Focuses on Team Approach

Crime prevention workers from throughout South Australia gathered last year to exchange ideas.

The Community Forum was attended by about 100 people involved in the Crime Prevention Strategy.

The Forum programme was designed to allow all those involved in the Strategy to network, to inform others of their successes and difficulties and to increase the level of awareness on the strategy.

Crime Prevention Minister, Chris Sumner, opened the Forum by stressing the importance of fostering the flow of information on crime prevention across the State.

Mr. Sumner also launched the first edition of Focus (see the back page for a report on feedback to the first issue).

The Forum programme covered an information session on the SA Crime Prevention Strategy, its implementation and the role of the CPU (Crime Prevention Unit).

This session included asking participants to generate every question they could about the

Crime Prevention Strategy, its implementation and the role of the CPU.

Most of the questions covered the topics of CPU policy; evaluation; what happens after 1994; state and local government; bipartisan support; funding; local committee issues; Aboriginal projects; the media; education; domestic violence; police; further information; youth issues; public transport; and urban design.

Some questions were answered at the Forum, the rest were collected and the answers will be distributed later.

The second session examined how crime prevention was working in different areas.

The four main project "arms" of the Strategy were explained (see diagram) by Crime Prevention Unit Manager Sue Millbank.

Presentations were given, drawing on examples from each of these project areas. They were Housing and Urban Design, Sue Millbank; Aboriginal Projects, Rebecca Tonkin; Salisbury Crime Prevention Committee's internal management systems, Sharon Bax; Noarlunger Together Against Crime's domestic violence project, Monica Novik; Marion Westfield's Safer Shopping Study, Kate McIlwain; and Safety In and Around Licensed Premises, Chris Matthews.

Session three was spent in sub-groups discussing constraints and difficulties, and what had been working well. This information will be circulated to participants.

Steve Panton gave an interesting presentation on how the Crime Prevention Strategy would be evaluated.

He stressed the need to be asking the right questions in the first place, such as what did we want to know from an evaluation? Once that question was answered, the design of the evaluation was much easier.

Participants were interested in the final session: "What Happens After 1994?"

A stimulating discussion was generated cover global issues (that is, the work of the United Nations in developing Crime Prevention at the

international level), evaluation, community involvement, and roles and responsibilities of other agencies.

The Forum is planned as an annual event.

Local Committees Formed to Tackle Crime

A major undertaking of the Crime Prevention Unit in the past year has been development of local crime prevention committees. Twenty three committees have been established throughout metropolitan Adelaide and country regions.

Committees include representatives from the police, local government, State Government agencies, community organisations, Neighbourhood Watch and residents' groups and representatives working together on a range of local crime prevention and community safety issues.

To date the Crime Prevention Unit has funded 19 committees to employ project officers to develop local crime prevention plans. Key elements in this process are:

- Analysing crime problems on the basis of crime data and other information from consultations.
- Assessing resources, services and programmes within the local community with the potential to contribute to crime prevention.
- Identifying priority areas for action including strategies and specific programme proposals for funding.

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Committees at Noarlunga, Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Port Adelaide, Hindmarsh, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Port Pirie have completed crime prevention plans for their local areas and received funding for the implementation of their plans. Areas were chosen based on population and crime rates.

The Crime Prevention Unit anticipated that by September a further nine areas will be well into the implementation phase of their projects.

One of the interesting points to emerge from the development of the crime prevention plans is the way they have confirmed that the nature and extent of crime varies greatly from community to community.

There are obviously common concerns between areas, most notably the cluster of issues surrounding juvenile crime and domestic violence. But the way these problems have been approached the range of programmes and strategies developed reflected the unique characteristics of each area.

The consistent identification of "fear of crime" as a major quality-of-life issue for many communities is also significant. A number of media and long-term community development strategies have been developed to meet this challenge.
