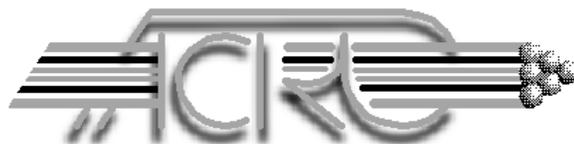




# Creating Perspective

A Blueprint for Crime Prevention and Community Safety *by the Community for the Community*

*An ACRO Report of Experiences and Attitudes Toward Crime and Crime Prevention in Thuringowa*



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# Executive Summary

Traditional approaches to crime have focused upon the response to an offense once it has been committed and rely upon detection of crime, apprehension and detention of those responsible for crime as the tools to hopefully reduce future crime occurrences. There is scant evidence that these reactive measures have an anticipated preventive affect on future crime. A more intelligent direction in the debate on crime has seen the development of reduction of opportunity and reduction of desire approaches. The former of these seeks to restrict the ability for crime to occur by eliminating (or reducing) targets for crime (commonly referred to as 'target hardening'), the latter of which seeks to reduce the likelihood of crime through social development measures.

Specific groups within communities are historically identified as experiencing and reporting greater fear or concern about crime. Women, older members of the community and previous victims of crime are groups that are identified as exhibiting heightened levels of concern about crime. This concern is viewed, by the authors, as legitimate in the context of the perceived severity of consequences from possible victimisation and the vulnerability that these groups experience. The authors have adopted a simple definition for crime prevention that is not driven by philosophy nor politics: "any act that prevents crime from occurring is an act of crime prevention", and further, "that crime prevention is not defined by its intentions but by its consequences". This research has sought to provide perspective for Thuringowa in relation to social issues of real concern to individual members and in the knowledge that others share these common concerns.

This Research was undertaken on the premise that effective crime prevention requires the activation of community-based partnerships to deal with the causes of crime from a social justice perspective. That is, crime is influenced by issues such as family dysfunction, unemployment, economic disadvantage (to name a few) and that crime and fear of crime can only be dealt with in tandem with efforts to minimize risk factors occasioned by these other matters.

The current research further proceeded on the premise that a whole-of-Council, whole-of-government and whole-of-community response is necessary to deal with the complexities of social constructs that contribute to the commissioning of crime and the escalation of concern of crime within the community.

Finally, this research was premised upon the notion that effective community and government based partnerships require information about the community in which the partnership is to operate and that the community should actively participate in the work of any crime prevention partnerships to ensure ownership of the process.

Thuringowa is one of a number of Local Government Authorities in Queensland that have adopted a proactive stance in the development of a crime prevention partnership. With the support of the Queensland Government, it is seeking to find local solutions to locally identified criminal and social justice issues that confront its citizens. Thuringowa is located in North Queensland, has a population of 46500, and is one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Queensland. It is located in the tropics and is a "youthful" city having a median age of 27 for its residents.

During December 1997, 8000 randomly selected households throughout Thuringowa received a questionnaire for self-administration and return by reply-paid envelope to the Thuringowa City Council Chambers. 1533 completed Survey documents were received by this process. The questionnaire required responses across four Sections: attitudes, experience, crime prevention and demographic information. The Survey instrument generated responses regarding attitudes toward crime, experiences with crime and community participation and needs in terms of crime prevention. The design of questions across the four Sections was driven by several factors: the focus of the research, the aims of the research, previous research undertaken by ACRO and previous research conducted worldwide.

The Survey results have been analyzed in terms of the local crime prevention needs identified by members of specific regions, within the survey. A particular emphasis was placed on Survey Respondents specific crime prevention needs and 'willingness' to become involved in local crime prevention initiatives. An important component in the research conducted in Thuringowa was the inclusion of 'participation forms' in all survey packages. Respondents who wished to be informed regarding the results of the survey and future activities of the

crime prevention partnership in their region were able to provide their contact details which would then be held by the partnerships for use in newsletter mail outs. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to express a desire for greater involvement in crime prevention within their community, through selecting that option on the participation form. This atypical (compared to most community social surveys) addition to the research is a strong indicator of the commitment this project has to whole of community involvement and mobilisation, in action rather than in rhetoric.

Of *Concern about Crime* questions, respondents reported feeling safe (from crime) when at home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, and when travelling to and from work/school. Respondents felt diminished feelings of safety when using shopping centres at night (particularly females) and when out alone in their neighbourhood at night. Of the situations respondents were asked about, respondents felt unsafe when passing a group of young men on the street. Respondents tended to agree that crime was a problem (in their suburb) and had a negative affect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb.

With respect to *Attitudes towards Crime* questions, the majority of respondents believed that young people are more likely to commit crime than they are to be victims of crime. The majority of respondents believed the elderly people are most likely to be victims of crime. While a comparatively small component of the survey instrument, responses made to these statements are viewed by the researchers as pivotal, in that they clearly and simply define some of the most challenging aspects of contemporary crime prevention; the crime concerns of the elderly and the marginalisation of young people as a 'problem group'.

In relation to *Crime Prevention* questions, the majority of respondents agreed that crime prevention programs should target the underlying causes of crime and that effective crime prevention programs would benefit their suburbs and that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention. Respondents were more unsure as to whether police are doing a good job tackling crime in the community, however, nearly all respondents agreed that police alone cannot prevent crime. The most commonly selected services were improved lighting, paths etc. Programs that targeted young people were strongly supported in responses - and further supported the general thrust of many responses and comments made throughout the survey. A general widespread level of concern was expressed over the perceived lack of concerted effort being directed both at providing young people with the necessary citizenship skills and ensuring that all young people are involved, and have access to, positive activities that will have effectiveness in crime prevention outcomes. Respondents also reported taking between one and four reasonable steps to improve the safety of themselves or their family.

In relation to the *Crime Experiences* questions, more than half of respondents reported being the victim of a property-related crime at some point in their lives. Slightly less than half of property crime victims who reported the crime had been informed of any action taken. Respondents were far more likely to be satisfied with the outcome if they were informed of action taken by police, regardless of the nature of that outcome. Almost 20% of respondents reported being the victim of a personal/violent related crime at some point in their life, about one third had been living in their current suburb when the crime occurred and the crime most commonly occurred in their place of residence. Most victims of personal/violent crime knew the offender and had reported the matter to the police. Of the coded reasons for not reporting the matter to the police, a relationship with the offender was reported. 17% of respondents reported bullying victimisation at school in the last three years, of themselves or their children. Respondents most commonly reported witnessing no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who did witness crime, vandalism, and break and enter and domestic violence were the most common crimes witnessed.

In the *Community Involvement* questions, respondents were more likely to report past (rather than current) involvement in community groups/programs. Respondents were most likely to report involvement in programs that targeted children or welfare oriented services, religious based groups and programs targeting crime prevention respectively. Most respondents reported that they regularly talked to their neighbours.

The recommendations emanating from this research are not designed to be directive, as it is the view of the authors that the Thuringowa community needs to determine, from the material provided as a consequence of this research, the priorities and order in which they proceed to meet the needs of its own constituency. The recommendations concentrate upon those groups that exhibit heightened levels of concern about crime, namely women, older members of the community and former victims of crime. The authors assert that heightened levels of concern about crime by these groups is not exaggerated nor irrational but rather based upon the specific vulnerabilities to crime that are evident for individuals within these sectors of the community, and the way in which communities can address these vulnerabilities. A significant challenge for communities is to find a way in which these vulnerabilities can be addressed. Directions have been provided within the Report, focusing on enhancing community connectedness and the bringing together of community members in ways that will benefit all concerned. Communities that consistently and vigorously pursue enhanced community involved lives for all members, will be best placed to address the social structures that contribute so significantly to the occurrence of crime. The recommendations also pay attention to the problems experienced by young people, their low self-esteem, the way in which they are unreasonably targeted for negative attention by all other sections of the community and the lack of opportunity they experience in terms of citizenship processes and decision-making.

## Recommendations

Respondents' crime experiences and attitudes towards crime prevention as provided within completed surveys were examined in order to define issues for specific groups of people, together with an examination of Thuringowa experiences and attitudes as a single unit of measurement. As discussed elsewhere, specific groups within the community are historically identified as experiencing and reporting greater fear or concern about crime. The fear and concern traditionally reported by these groups may or may not be assessed as realistic given what is known about victimisation of crime within the community. Regardless of this it is not appropriate to dismiss or reject these concerns as exaggerated or irrational as they may well be based on realities other than those explained by official crime statistics. Women, older community members, and previous victims of crime are groups commonly identified as exhibiting heightened levels of concern about crime. A traditional perspective would tend to challenge the concern held by women and older community members on the basis that information suggests that in most cases they are less likely to be the victims of crime than others within the community, namely younger males. The heightened concerns held by previous victims of crime could ostensibly be challenged on the basis that they are no more likely than others in the community to experience victimisation on a future occasion, although recent research would tend to discount this 'rational explanation'. There is evidence to suggest that multiple victimisation is a perception (or concern) often based very strongly in reality and reflected in official crime statistics.

This Report does not support an explanation of heightened levels of concern experienced by these groups as exaggerated or irrational, but supports the argument that proposes that heightened concern about crime within these groups is based on the specific vulnerabilities to crime that is evident for individuals within these sectors of the community. Women should exhibit heightened concern about crime when compared to men for several reasons; women have a unique vulnerability to sexual assault that may only be shared by children (regardless of gender). Almost any victimisation that is experienced by women is accompanied by a fear of sexual assault, a fear generally not experienced by men. Older community members should exhibit heightened concern about crime when compared to younger community members given the apparent physical and financial vulnerability that is evident for these members of the community. Older members of the community who are victimised tend to suffer greater physical injuries (or prolonged healing processes) and tend to suffer a greater financial burden as their capacity to earn an income is greatly diminished. Previous victims of crime are not laboring under the impression that they will not be victimised, they already have been and so are more aware of their individual vulnerability to crime than would be expected for individuals who have not experienced crime victimisation.

This section of the Report will examine the overall experiences of these traditional 'fear of crime' groups as well as considering the household type that was reported by respondents and the length of time respondents had reported living in their current suburb. The lifestyle of any one individual is generally impacted on quite significantly by the type of household in which they live. The needs of someone living in a childless household would be expected to be quite different from the needs expressed by a parent living with children. This Report was driven from its conception with a focus on 'community' and a complete acknowledgement that effective crime prevention is best achieved within communities that exhibit a certain level of connectedness. A tentative measure of this was seen to be the length of time an individual had lived in their current suburb.

The recommendations within this Report will emanate from an examination of data primarily based on gender and age. Specific recommendations will address specific issues relevant to individuals based on victimisation, household type and time lived in suburb. Specific recommendations will also target specific localities or groups of localities in an effort to provide another level of community specific information, beyond that provided for the Region of the Thuringowa. The following recommendations do not propose to address all concerns raised within the survey, but will instead focus on issues that were particularly important to specific groups of respondents or generally important to all respondents. Readers wishing to examine more fully the responses given by; all respondents, differences between males and females, differences between age groups, differences between household types, and differences between respondents based on the length of time they had lived in their suburb are referred to the analysis section of the report where the summaries in bold provide that information in its totality. There is a wealth of material about the issues for the community within the analysis section, much of which is not covered by Recommendations. It is not for the authors to direct any active crime prevention partnership (that will deal with this Report) on matters contained herein. It remains the prerogative of local communities to respond and maintain ownership for the consequences of their responses to this material on behalf of their fellow citizens.

## Older community members

Older respondents agreed that they were more likely to be the victims of crime than others. It would seem logical that this misconception (held by the majority of all respondents) is reasonably simple to address. However, in addressing this misconception there should not be an expectation that accurate information about victimisation rates, of themselves, (that clearly shows older community members are less at risk than others) will serve to diminish an individuals concern levels. As stated earlier vulnerability to victimisation and not expectation of victimisation may be the most important factor to address in the reduction of concern about crime.

**It is recommended that efforts be undertaken to ensure that accurate information about victimisation rates are provided to older members of the community, within an appropriate context that will not exacerbate concern, rather than reduce it. An example of a program concept is a Swedish initiative that utilises a supportive media. When reports are discussed that talk about parole violations a simple statement is included that places the reported violation within the context that the greatest majority of individuals on parole complete this period without violation. A similar context for the purposes of the current investigation may be, for example, that in Queensland in 1996/1997 a person aged over 55 years was less likely to be the victim of a reported assault than was a child aged between 5 and 9 years of age.**

Older respondents believed as did the majority of all respondents that effective programs that tackle crime issues would be of benefit to their suburb. When asked about program concepts they believed were useful for introduction in their suburb, older people tended supported *Safety checks for older neighbours* and *Support networks for those living alone* more than other age groups, though this was not significant. It may be considered that through their selection of this program older community members were seeking to address some of the concerns they have about crime and vulnerability. A sense of isolation is not a pleasant experience and would certainly contribute to feelings of vulnerability, and isolation is often a reality for older community members for a variety of reasons. A program that implements support networks for those isolated members of the community (aged and otherwise) would be expected to address feelings of vulnerability and enhance lifestyles of affected people.

**It is recommended that the development of support networks for isolated members of the community be investigated with particular reference to existing local networks that may be expanded or broadened to address the isolation of community members. A widespread existing network that operates in many areas on a very local level is that of Neighbourhood Watch. 30.4% of respondents in the current research identified membership of Neighbourhood Watch or similar programs. Programs that exist internationally involve assisting older community members in finding housemates that serve the dual functions of financial assistance and reduction of isolation. Another program engages organisations on regular home- visits in neighbourhoods - making specific contact with older community. Postal delivery workers (when delivering mail to older community members) also personally deliver mail to older people thus serving to act as a brief safety check on their wellbeing.**

**It is acknowledged that concerns have been raised internationally about the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch as a crime reduction strategy (Sherman et al. 1996). It is suggested that the community connectedness expressed by support of Neighbourhood Watch within local communities may be better utilised to enhance the lifestyle of all community members by adopting a 'people' focus rather than a property focus. A simple modification to Neighbourhood Watch could actively reduce isolation within the community by developing, or strengthening, the networks and relationships that may already exist, for some if not all residents.**

## Younger community members

Young people reported greatest diminished feelings of safety when passing a group of young men on the street. Although generally young people disagreed that they are more likely than others to be the victims of crime, this stated belief belies the reality that they did not feel safe in the situation described above. Young people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime and are more likely to be victimised by another young person. While young peoples beliefs regarding this are not accurate, their reported diminished feelings of safety suggests that they are aware, at some level, that there are certain situations in which they may be more at risk than others to be the victims of crime. Although young people felt safer than any other age group while out alone in their neighbourhood at night, they were also most likely to express a need for more lighting, paths etc when asked about crime prevention programs that they supported for introduction in the suburb.

Traditionally young people are the targets for concern by older age groups and as such are not seen to be a group that should be concerned about victimisation. The current research

or official crime statistics does not support this lack of concern traditionally expressed in relation to the victimisation of young people. In the current research, young people were more likely than any other age category to report they had been victims of personal/violent crime. They were also most likely to report that they knew the offender. In Queensland in 1996/1997 young people (males and females) aged between 15 and 19 were most likely to be the victims of assault<sup>1</sup>.

**It is recommended that young people be given opportunities to deal with their concerns about safety. Any crime prevention strategy that targets young people should not focus on the offender issues that are associated with this age group to the exclusion of young people's victim issues. Young people should be educated about victimisation issues (particularly those relevant to their age group) and given opportunities to address these in whichever sector of the community they may arise; public spaces, families, and schools.**

Young people are not only at risk for victimisation on the street (and the home) but in the playground as well. At times there may be a tendency to minimise this aspect of young peoples victimisation experiences, however, it certainly has an immediate impact on children's emotional and possibly physical wellbeing. More is now becoming known about the long term affects of bullying which can include; depression, schizophrenia, post traumatic stress disorder (Gibson 1998). Almost one in five respondents reported that bullying of them or their children had occurred at school in the last three years and about half of the people who reported the bullying expressed satisfaction with the outcome. Schools do generally have comprehensive policies on the management of bullying, both on an individual and school wide level. It is suggested here that a focused approach to bullying (while necessary to deal with the occurrence of bullying) may not be the most effective way of preventing bullying. Research suggests that while policies on how to prevent and manage bullying incidences are important it is the successful transference of these anti-bullying norms to the school wide population (students, teachers, parents) that is most effective in preventing the phenomenon.

**It is recommended that as part of recognition of victimisation of young people discussed above, that active school wide campaigns target bullying be implemented. Successful programs generally include the following factors; establishing clear rules against bullying, consistent praises and sanctions for behaviour, regular class meetings to clarify norms about bullying, improved supervision of the playground, and teacher involvement in a positive school climate. Some specific successful initiatives that have utilised these components have also utilised booklets provided to staff on bullying which give clear direction on how to deal with incidents, a booklet to parents with advice and clear explanations regarding school policies.**

Young people may be less than fully aware of the victimisation realities for their age group, but they are clearer on their beliefs regarding the likelihood that they will be the perpetrators of crime. All respondents (including young people) tended to believe that young people aged under 24 years commit most crime. Young people (under 25 years) are more likely than any other age group to be in prison for break and enter, robbery and assault and are clearly overrepresented within the Australian prison population (McLennan 1997). These matters need to be addressed. However, the overinvolvement of young people within the criminal justice system needs to be balanced by the reality that few young people commit crime, and most crime committed by young people is committed by a small percentage of offenders (CJC 1992).

Specific socially constructed risk factors are strongly associated with later involvement in crime. It is widely acknowledged that the most effective crime prevention measures address these risk factors on a long-term basis. It is likely that programs that effect the greatest reduction in crime actually commence in utero, with programs that target the health of pregnant mothers and continue through infancy to adolescence. A multitude of programs exist internationally that have been proven to be effective both for individual development and community safety. The investment in such programs in financial, social and political terms is more than justified. These programs do cost governments money (though not a figure comparable to costs of incarceration) and costs are involved politically, in that for any long term effectiveness, several if not many changes of government will be necessary. This is the nub of successful crime and social justice interventions that more often than not precludes their implementation. Short-term political expediency is more potent to administrators than long-term processes that bear fruit long after the useby date of governments has passed. This Report will assert the call by citizens for courage and determination by government in dealing with the concerns of citizens in ways that are proven but which also require risk-taking.

A program that provides enriched pre-school programming for at risk children in the United States was introduced in 1962. The High/Scope Perry Preschool program incorporates high quality pre school education, home visits, and group meetings. Longitudinal studies have reported that children who participated in the program had 50% lower criminal arrests at age 27 when compared to similar children who had not participated in the program. A cost benefit analysis was conducted and reported that for every \$1 invested in the program a saving of \$7.16 was achieved in reduced welfare and criminal justice costs (International Centre for the Prevention of Crime 1997).

A program that provides home visitation in an effort to reduce child abuse/neglect was commenced in the United States in 1985. The Hawaiian Healthy Start program incorporates home visitations by paraprofessionals to identify and support families in the prevention of child/abuse neglect and promotion of healthy child development focused on the first five years

of childhood. Initial longitudinal studies have reported that children in participating families are 62% less likely to be victims of child abuse/neglect when compared to similar children/families who had not participated in the program. Also reported is that the reduction in child abuse/neglect cases apparently measured by the program represents a saving of over \$1 million dollars in government expenditure. Evaluative studies of this program are continuing (International Centre for the Prevention of Crime 1997).

Programs that address risk factors in older children and adolescents within schools are most effective when they incorporate the following factors; instructional programs (delivered over a long period of time to provide continual reinforcement) that focus on a range of social skills including self control, stress management, responsible decision making, social problem solving, and communication skills; programs aimed at clarifying and communicating norms about behaviours, such as bullying, racism, and sexual harassment, by establishing school rules, improving consistency of enforcement through school wide campaigns. Programs that utilise behaviour modification and teach cognitive skills have been effective in preventing substance abuse for high risk youths. Peer led programs have also proven promising in preventing substance abuse. Targeted supportive programs with a case management approach have enhanced school participation with high risk youth and have also proven to be effective (Sherman et al. 1996).

There is no doubt that the current research articulates a significant lack of self-esteem amongst young people which is consistently expressed by their uncertainty about what to do or whether their contribution is worthwhile. This would seem to be a shameful indictment on communities that appear to be excluding young people on the basis of an ill-placed fear or age.

**It is recommended that crime prevention strategies that involve young people target the risk factors that are associated with crime. The risk factors associated with crime have an effect from infancy and the most effective crime prevention measures will also start to address these factors at this time. Addressing the risk factors associated with crime, some of which are; child abuse/neglect, drug abuse, family violence, and school failure will not only reduce the likelihood that young people will become offenders but more importantly provide many young people with greatly increased opportunities to achieve greater success within the community over a lifetime.**

The issue that most people raise when asked about their safety in public space is that they are concerned because 'they feel unsafe around the people who frequent those areas'. Overwhelmingly the people referred to in these instances are young people. It is not necessarily the criminal behaviour of young people that is causing alarm among other users (or potential users) of public space, but merely the presence of young people in social groups using the space in a manner that is not considered appropriate by others. Young people do tend to use most public spaces to 'hang out', where others may tend to use these spaces for other purposes. It is certainly true that young people tend to be more visible than other user groups (partly because of their different use of space and partly because of a lack of youth managed or other facilities, which are seen by them to be 'user friendly' to their needs). It is also true that young people may exhibit socially inappropriate behaviour in some instances in some places. It is not appropriate to target young people as a criminal element, nonetheless, merely because of their different use of public space. It is appropriate, however, to target the socially inappropriate behaviour of young people in public space, should it occur.

The separation of the issues of young peoples involvement in crime and young peoples use of public space needs to be clearer than is currently the case. Most of the young people we see on the street are not likely to be offenders and it must be offensive for them to be viewed in this way. It is entirely appropriate to develop strategies that provide young people with realistic alternatives to 'hanging out' in public spaces, although elimination should not be the goal. Young people are legitimate users of public spaces and have a right to socialise within them. Many young people may prefer to participate in alternative activities that provide greater stimulation than 'hanging out' much of the time, but they will still use these public spaces for social purposes and that legitimate use is acknowledged within this Report. The provision of alternative activities that provide social and recreational opportunities for young people is important, however, the provision of alternative activities that enable young people to face the challenges of contemporary society is just as important. There is a singular lack of opportunity for social engagement and more constructive social discourse and decision-making for young people and an overstated emphasis on physical activity and sport. The provision of alternative activities that better enable young people to face current and future challenges should address the provision of skills that promote positive citizenship and the enhancement of opportunities available to young people. The provision of such programs not only requires government support but, of equal importance, significant engagement from within the local community. On a local level the provision of alternative recreation and skills programs requires the commitment of business and individual community members either on a permanent or regularly occurring basis. This support can be via sponsorship, provision of space, or provision of assistance through the physical participation in activities.

While the assistance that government and business can provide tends to be obvious in most cases the assistance that community members can provide is often less clear. Older community members are among some of the most skilled people in the community. Skills acquired throughout a lifetime should remain important and valued long after retirement from the workforce. The inclusion of older community members in programs that seek to address issues faced by youth would not only assist youth (in the provision of skills and training by experienced and knowledgeable members of the community) but also serve to reduce the isolation experienced by many older community members and promote positive relationships locally between young people and older community members. It should be of grave concern that a chasm has been allowed to develop between sections of the community based upon age and misperception. It appears that communities no longer consider themselves as 'extended families' concerned for the welfare of its constituent members irrespective of age. (It

## Table 1

will be noted that young people who assisted the authors in the coding of open-ended responses for returned Surveys became extremely distraught at the constant negative perception held against their age group, and therefore, themselves.)

*"Don't you dare try and blame young people. Teenagers are unfairly treated and looked upon (negatively) by the public. This is not right and it needs to change!" Female respondent aged 12-18 years.*

The community within the report has been very specific about their concerns about young people in response to a variety of questions. Although safety concerns did tend to target young people, particularly in response to open ended questions, this level of concern was also expressed through the selection of crime prevention programs that targeted young people. Of the socially oriented crime prevention programs offered for selection respondents were most likely to desire the introduction of after school activities for youth and school based crime prevention programs. These programs have the ability to target many areas of concern for young people from straight free or affordable recreation activities through to programs that significantly improve the lifetime opportunities of young people. It is time for this recognition and awareness to occur within the governing structures of our country as it appears to have occurred within the community and homes.

*"The ability to empathise with other peoples situation is a learned response. Children should be taught how to empathise in school. I believe this would help to reduce violent crimes." Male respondents aged 35-44 years*

**It is recommended that community mobilisation occur to create positive, sustainable recreation and social programs for young people. These programs need to be supported by government and business but should also include older community members. Programs that enhance the opportunities of young people should be introduced; specifically programs that seek to utilise the skills available in older members of the community and build positive relationships between older and younger community members.**

## Women

Women generally expressed more diminished feelings of safety in all situations, especially when out alone in their neighbourhood at night, when at Shopping Centres at night, using parking lots at night, and when passing a group of young men on the street. In contrast to this is the finding that women were no more likely than men to consider that crime was a problem in their suburb and less likely to agree that crime had a negative impact on lifestyles in their suburb. A possible explanation for these somewhat contrasting findings is that although women generally feel less safe than men, this is not due to any concern about crime, but rather a knowledge based on lifetime experiences and awareness that women by virtue of their gender are more vulnerable to a range of offences, sexual in nature, and thus have an extra concern regarding their safety in what are perceived as 'risk' situations.

*"Generally I feel quite safe, however, I would not go out at night by myself anywhere. I do worry about the safety of my 2 girls especially from sexual abuse and am very aware of where they are at all times." Female respondent aged 35-44 years*

Given this explanation it is difficult to be specific about recommendations that would seek to directly address the concerns that women have based on their vulnerability to sexual assault, apart from the obvious solution of eliminating sexual violence against women. Recommendations can be made regarding the specific locations in which women reported feeling most unsafe in an effort to increase their feelings of safety in these areas if not directly reduce the likelihood of their being victimised in these locations. Having said that it may not be possible to significantly reduce the likelihood that women will be victimised in certain locations without eliminating the threat of sexual violence. It should also be said that the greatest majority of women in the current research (and past research) who reported personal/violent victimisation reported that they knew the offender and that the offence occurred in their own home, not by a stranger in a public space (although this does occur to a lesser degree).

The proportion of the population that utilise shopping centres at night has grown in the last ten years. An increasing usage of shopping centres at night (for shopping and use of ATMs) has been accompanied by an increase in insecurity for people who utilise these facilities during the evening hours. A range of options are available to shopping centres to achieve increased security feelings for customers; some of these include improved lighting, specialised parking facilities for vulnerable groups, physical monitoring of car parks. In areas where

there is clearly little lighting, then this should probably be addressed, however, it should not be expected that widespread flood lighting will improve safety, in fact, it can be used by offenders to identify targets. The use of specialised parking for consumers with infants (denoted by signs with a pram depicted) are often a component included in newer shopping centres. There would be little effort involved in the implementation of these reserved parking spaces in existing shopping centres, although the authors would vigorously argue for this concept to be expanded to include women generally and older community members. The use of physical monitoring of the parking facilities at shopping centres can be conducted on several levels that suit large urban centres that employ security staff through to small complexes in neighbourhoods. Any activity that increases the observation of individuals using these facilities is likely to increase feelings of safety for customers.

Any activity that is undertaken at night outside the home, be it recreational or work oriented, will generally require the use of parking facilities. It is difficult to determine which locations are more likely to be utilised by women and as such businesses that have parking facilities that are utilised at night should be provided with information regarding the examination of their facilities in terms of consumer safety (particularly women) and provided with information regarding simple strategies they may use to increase their users feelings of safety.

**It is recommended that Specific parking for sections of the community, close to shopping centre entries may serve to address the diminished feelings of safety for some shoppers. Parking facilities specifically for parents with children, women and older community members would be considered priorities for these specialised spaces.**

**It is recommended that larger complexes better utilise security personnel to maintain a presence in car parks. This method has proven successful in terms of reducing theft, in areas where car parks cover a sizeable area (such as larger suburban complexes). The provision of bikes to security personnel improves the ability to cover these areas effectively and also provides a highly visible presence to shoppers that their safety is monitored outside of the shopping complex as well as while shopping inside. Smaller shopping complexes that do not utilise security personnel can provide a monitoring presence using retail staff to conduct regular walk-throughs in smaller car parks.**

**It is recommended that areas where visibility is clearly impaired due to lack of lighting or vegetation are upgraded or subject to more intensive maintenance programs. Furthermore, as Local Government authorities become more aware of the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, they may consider not only the incorporation of these principles to new development applications, but also the properties of existing facilities.**

Women reported greatest diminished feelings of safety when using parking lots at night. This concern may influence lifestyle choices that they make regarding activities undertaken (or not) based on the time of day that any activity takes place. Participation in almost any activity at night will involve using parking areas.

Specific areas that host activities that are likely to have participation by women should be examined with specific attention given to the parking areas. Lighting and well maintained vegetation are some issues that can be addressed within any parking area, however, generally speaking, a well lit isolated area will often generate more concern than an area that is less well lit but clearly supervised by a responsible person.

**It is recommended that parking areas identified as being utilised by women be particularly targeted for action particularly in respect of the use, design, and maintenance of those areas. Consultation with the proprietors of parking areas (the host of particular events in specific areas) should determine how best to address the safety concerns of women using those lots at night. Where lighting and vegetation are indicated for attention they should be addressed. But areas may also benefit from the examination of how best to provide a supervisory presence during the periods that experience greatest usage by women.**

Of all crimes witnessed, domestic violence was the most commonly reported crime that was categorised as personal/violent. Within this Report women reported greater victimisation than men did, and victimisation that did occur tended to involve personal/violent offences in the home perpetrated by people known to the victim. Women reported greater witnessing of stalking, domestic violence, and child abuse/neglect, all serious offences that are often associated with violence within the home. A small percentage (3.2%) of respondents reported that *violence from family members is a problem in my home*. It is important to note that this question was asked referring to the respondent's present situation. It is the researchers strong belief that if a question had been directly asked about violence within the home in the past many women would have reported in the affirmative. A parent with children (89.7% were female) was more likely to report personal/violent victimisation within the home perpetrated by someone known to them. It is likely given the relationship reported regarding the likelihood that a parent with children would report personal/violent victimisation, that violence within the home was an important contributing factor to the sole parent status of these women. It should not be surprising then, that women expressed a greater desire (than men) to see the introduction of the following programs in their suburb; support services for

families, safety checks for older neighbours, and support networks for those living alone. All programs have a strong relationship focus and are based on a micro level within the community, within families and neighbourhoods where these problems are significant for women.

**It is recommended that stronger action be taken regarding the victimisation of women within the home. Local services that target women's safety should be directly involved in the development of programs that address the needs of women within the home by targeting neighbourhood connectedness. Those people best placed to support families within neighbourhoods are people who visit those neighbourhoods and whose activities are based there.**

## Victimisation

It is difficult to succinctly discuss the position of previous victims of crime (regarding crime and crime prevention) from the current research. This is not due to any lack of information or interpretation, but rather the almost overwhelming affect that victimisation appeared to have on respondents attitudes towards crime and crime prevention. Respondents of personal/violent victimisation were more concerned about crime generally and their own personal safety in response to almost every measure used in the survey, aside from feelings of safety when in their own home and when passing a group of young men on the street. Victimisation tended to be quite specific in its effect, in that victims of property crime appeared more sensitive to questions that referred to property crime increases and witnessing. Personal /violent victimisation was more widespread in it's effect, coloring the responses made to safety feelings in specific situations and in their neighbourhood at night, as well as personal/violent crime increases and witnessing of crime.

**No specific recommendations are made regarding previous victims of crime, except for the researchers to state their clear position that crime victimisation has a clear and significant effect on respondents feelings of safety, possibly for a substantial (or permanent) length of time after victimisation has occurred. It is recommended that previous victims of crime must be included as a 'vulnerable group' when programs that target the concerns of other vulnerable groups in the community are considered and wherever possible program design should ensure inclusion of those previous victims of crime as a targeted vulnerable group. Readers who have particular interest in the comparison of responses made by respondents who reported victimisation and those who did not are referred to the analysis section where these findings are clearly outlined and detailed.**

**A recommendation for future research suggests that victimisation studies include measures of victimisation both for a specific time period and for lifetime occurrence. It is only when such comparative measures are included that we can gauge the long term effects of victimisation on respondents concerns about safety and behaviours that are influenced by this concern.**

## Policing

It is a fairly typical response in crime prevention research for respondents to report a more police less crime' belief. The Criminal Justice System generally was not a focus for the research and the lack of inclusion of questions about this aspect of crime disappointed a number of respondents. The focus of the Report was on community based crime concerns and crime prevention and as such a limited number of questions related to aspects of policing very directly related to policing at a community level.

Respondents raised two particular issues directly relating to policing. Foot/bike patrols was the fourth most commonly selected program for introduction, after lighting, paths etc, school based crime prevention and after school activities for youth. Respondents reported a desire for a more visible police presence if not a more numerous police presence. An evaluative report of crime prevention programs active in the United States reported that "a less popular but more effective community policing practice is door to door visits by police to residence during the daytime" (Sherman et al. 1996). Visits made by police (or their representatives in some cases) may be used to seek information, to give out information, or to introduce officers to local residents to further the development of positive relationships between residents and police.

*"It would be a good idea to take some cops out of patrol cars and off radar devices and get them to walk trouble spots on a regular basis". Male respondent aged 35-44 years.*

*"The police are doing their best but I feel they should be seen in the streets more than in cars driving around." Male respondent aged 25-34 years*

**It is recommended that the use of door to door policing be investigated seriously by those who influence management and policy development within the Police Service. Respondents clearly called for this style of policing and international evidence exists to suggest that this form of policing is effective, in fact more effective than storefront policing (Sherman et al. 1996).**

The second policing issue raised within the survey was the response of police once a crime has been committed. Although respondents tended to hold a view that police do have important concerns and that less serious property crime may not be seen as a priority issue, they were much less likely to report that they were satisfied with the outcome of any police action if they had not received feedback from the police, regardless of the successful outcome or not of any investigation.

**It is recommended that a priority be given to a process whereby all victims of crime receive feedback at regular intervals for a certain period after an offence has occurred. It is envisaged that in many cases (less serious property offences) it may not be necessary to utilise enlisted officers for this purpose but rather train, utilise, and support the use of volunteers within policing to undertake feedback calls with referrals to officers where necessary.**

## Introduction

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Thuringowa is a local government principality located in North Queensland. The city of Thuringowa encompasses an area of 1880 kilometres and the landscape within its boundaries range from urban to coastal and rural communities. The climate is tropical with heavy rainfalls typically experienced during the months of October to March. The average temperature is typical of that experienced in tropical locations, ranging from 19.9°C in the coolest month of July to 27.6° C in the warmest month of January (Vance 1997).

Thuringowa was declared a City in 1986. In 1997, the City had a recorded population of 46 500, with projections expecting a population of 67 000 by the year 2000. An averaged growth rate of 5.8% gives Thuringowa the mantle of one of the fastest growing areas of Queensland. Areas that have grown most quickly are suburban locations close to the urban heart of Thuringowa City, while areas that take advantage of the beach lifestyle in the northern suburbs of Thuringowa are also popular (Vance 1997).

In the 1996 Census, 59 355 people were counted within the boundaries of Thuringowa (ABS 1997). Of these 2086 identified as Aboriginal, 769 as Torres Strait Islander, and 1492 as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. 53 757 of all people counted reported they Australian citizens. 51 043 reported that they were born in Australia while 3772 reported they were born overseas.

Thuringowa is a youthful city; the median age of its population is 27 years of age. In the 1996 census, 36 355 of people within Thuringowa reported ages over 18 years of age (ABS 1997). There are a total of 29 schools in Thuringowa, five of which are secondary schools (Vance 1997).

25 887 people counted in 1996 reported that they were employed while 2474 indicated they were unemployed (ABS 1997).

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## The Focus of the Report

Historically, society's response to crime has primarily occurred once an offence has been committed. The motives for this style of reactive response are usually recognised as punishment for the offence committed, and the hope that the punishment meted out will deter the offender and other likely offenders from committing crime in the future. There is scant available evidence that supports the notion that these reactive responses to crime have had an anticipated preventive effect on future crime (The John Howard of Alberta 1995). Crime prevention in more recent decades has evolved from its more reactive roots. Whilst responses after crime has been committed are still a significant ingredient, it has been joined by two other major partners; reduction of opportunity and 'reduction of desire' (The John Howard of Alberta 1995). Reduction of opportunity approaches to crime prevention focus on restricting the ability for crime to occur by eliminating (or reducing) targets for crime, and are often referred to as 'target hardening' (Sherman et al. 1996). These crime prevention strategies will be referred to within the Report as situational crime prevention, as their impact generally focuses on a specific location. Reduction of desire approaches seek to reduce the likelihood of crime occurring by reducing the likelihood that any one person in the community will become an offender preventing crime through social development (The John Howard of Alberta 1995). These latter crime prevention strategies will be referred to within the Report as social crime prevention, as their impact generally focuses on an individuals functioning within society. It is not the place of this Report to debate the value in punishment, but to provide direction for specific communities based on the needs of people living in those communities and the best practice of available crime prevention programs. As such **the Report will focus on programs that reduce the opportunity for crime to occur and/or reduce the likelihood that any one person will become an offender.**

There are two major ways in which crime intimately affects the lives of all people living in our community, concern about crime and victimisation of crime. Of course crime affects us in other ways as well, the portion of our tax dollar that is utilised within the criminal justice system, the increase in insurance costs that may be attributed to crime occurrences, and the cost of measures individuals may take to prevent becoming a victim of crime, however, for the purposes of this Report discussion will only briefly touch on the economic cost of crime, and instead this Report **will focus on the everyday affect that crime and concern about crime may have on choices that we make, or more exactly lifestyle opportunities that we may not take, because of our emotional and behavioural reaction to crime-the social cost of crime.**

There are two main ways of measuring crime, with very different methodologies. Official police records and victimisation surveys are the most common ways of measuring crime in the community, with most western nations widely utilising both measures when developing responses to crime (US Department of Justice 1995).

Most people are aware that the Police maintain detailed information regarding crime occurrences, and measurement practices within Police Services worldwide have become increasingly sensitive and sophisticated in recent years (US Department of Justice 1995).

Police generally become aware of offences occurring in two ways; reporting by the public and detection by the police. Reporting of crime by the public can fluctuate for many reasons other than an increase or decrease in crime occurrences, including but not exclusively; reluctance of victims to report particular offences (notably sexual offences), increased reporting as community education and views increasingly consider a particular behaviour as a criminal offence (eg: domestic violence), and police operations that call on public information about specific offences during a specific time period (eg: Operation Noah). Police detection of offences can also fluctuate for many reasons, including but not exclusively; increased/decreased police focus on particular offences, increased/decreased police numbers, increased/decreased police efficiency.

Victimisation surveys are usually conducted on a regular basis (every few years) by a government statistical authority. The content of victimisation surveys can vary widely across different nations, however, typically maintain a standard form (with some variations) to allow for tracking of victimisation to occur across survey years. Victimisation surveys examine individuals (and households) personal experiences of crime and are often restricted to a specific time period. Respondents are generally asked if an offence was reported to the police, and if it wasn't reported the reasons for non reporting. Victimisation surveys often report a different picture of crime than that provided by police statistics as crime is reported as an experienced event, rather than as a reported (or detected) event. Victimisation levels reported within surveys can also fluctuate for reasons other than an increase or decrease in crime occurrences, including but not exclusively; an increasing perception in the community that a particular behaviour is a criminal offence and an increasing/decreasing willingness to discuss crime experiences (US Department of Justice 1995).

The two measures of crime discussed above have somewhat different purposes. Police information is primarily utilised as a reliable set of criminal justice statistics for law enforcement administration, operations, and management while victimisation surveys aim to provide otherwise unavailable information about crime, victims, and offenders. This Report will provide a limited set of information on available criminal justice statistics for purposes of community awareness and education, but will not draw recommendations from this information. **This Report has a focus on community needs and recognises the differences that may be evident between official information and reported victimisation, and as such recommendations will be drawn solely from the information provided by community members regarding victimisation and crime concerns.**

## Crime Prevention

Within the complex field of crime with its myriad of differing definitions, crime prevention is a simple concept, not driven by philosophy or politics. Any act that prevents crime from occurring is an act of crime prevention. Crime prevention is not defined by its intentions, but by its consequences. Offenders may be incarcerated for reasons of punishment but if this act prevents crime from occurring, then it is an act of crime prevention, possibly not by intention but by its consequences. Unfortunately, there is limited evidence that incarceration prevents crime. Australian states with rapidly increasing prison populations are not experiencing a corresponding rapidly decreasing occurrence in crime. This non-relationship between incarceration and crime occurrence is one that is experienced on a worldwide basis.

In some areas of the United States increasing incarceration rates have led to economic crisis for government and the community. California's prison population in December 1995 was 135,000 with predictions for a population of over 300,000 by mid 2005. The cost of expanding incarceration rates is prohibitive for governments and in 1995, it was recommended that the California Legislature "Adopt a long-term strategy for accommodating inmate population based on any legislative actions to reduce inmate population growth and other cost reductions" (Legislative Analysis Office. 1995). The cost of Corrective Services in Australia in 1993-1994 was \$739 million, a 105% increase, over the expenditure of \$305.9 million in 1984-1985. The prison population increased by 31.1% from a population of 10,196 in 1983 to a population of 15,866 in 1993 (AIC 1997). The cost of incarceration would seem to be becoming more expensive given that expenditure on corrections increased by 105% while prison population only increased by 31% - a powerful incentive to find alternatives to incarceration.

The focus of this research was on community based crime prevention. Crime prevention has become a significant area of activity in some western nations, particularly Canada and the United States of America. Voluminous information is available regarding specific programs that communities in these nations have implemented in an attempt to prevent crime, from situational crime prevention through to social crime prevention, from community based strategies to policing strategies. Of limited availability however is evaluative information regarding crime prevention programs, and any effect in crime reduction or in crime related behaviour that was targeted by any one program (Sherman et al. 1996). In *Preventing Crime : What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising, A Report to the United States Congress*, the authors recommend that a rigorous evaluation of crime prevention programs must be a significant component of any project implemented if monies directed toward crime prevention are going to be effective (Sherman et al. 1996). Program evaluation can be costly and there may be reluctance to direct the necessary portion of the limited funds available in this area towards evaluation at the cost of wider program implementation, however, there is evidence that some crime prevention programs widely implemented around the world are ineffective in crime prevention and the funding directed at these strategies could be better utilised in the resourcing of effective programs.

While many programs seem like a good idea or look like they should work, implementation of programs should be based on what has been proven to be effective (in reducing crime or crime related behaviour targeted) and transferable (from one community to another) rather than what it seems to be or looks like. Programs utilised in the Recommendations Section of this Report will be those the authors can most confidently report have been effective (through evaluation) and are transferable (effective in more than one community). Social crime prevention programs can be effectively divided in categories in terms of their areas of action, although their targeted area of effect is usually somewhat more widespread; situational crime prevention programs tend to be more specific about their area of effect. Crime prevention programs in schools do not usually aim to prevent crime only in schools, but also to prevent offending by young people in the community. Given what we know about the victimisation of young people, it would seem appropriate that a substantial focus of crime prevention in schools should also be the prevention of victimisation of young people, in the school and the community.

### **Social Crime Prevention Programs**

Given the causal factors that have been identified as contributing to crime, the area of action and focus of specific social crime prevention programs is wide and varied. Risk factors that have been identified as contributing to the likelihood of offending include; failure in school, family problems, substance abuse, behavioural problems, economic disadvantage, unemployment (The John Howard Society of Alberta 1995). The following list of crime prevention programs is by no means complete and merely attempts to provide illustration of the different sections of the community that can be active in preventing crime and the types of programs that are most commonly associated with crime prevention in the following community sectors. There is no suggestion that specific programs that fit these descriptors have proved effectiveness in crime prevention. The discussion of those programs will be restricted to the Recommendations Section.

Crime prevention programs may be implemented by police that attempt to prevent crime by; community education regarding situational crime prevention, targeting hot spot areas of crime, implementation of a zero tolerance policy (driven by the broken window theory), increasing public involvement in crime prevention and reporting via specific programs,

Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers. Crime prevention programs may be implemented within schools and attempt to prevent crime by; targeting drug and alcohol use, targeting violence prevention, utilizing peer education, peer mentoring and skills based programs to enhance protective responses by young people. Crime prevention programs may be implemented within communities that attempt to prevent crime by; community mobilisation against crime, enhancing community connectedness, community mentoring programs. Crime prevention programs may be implemented within families that attempt to prevent crime by; parenting programs, preschool education programs involving parents, programs that support families in the home, programs for preventing family violence. Crime prevention programs may be implemented in the Labor Market that attempt to prevent crime by; enhancing employment opportunities for the unemployed, vocational programs targeting offenders and high risk individuals within the community.

### **Situational Crime Prevention**

The focus on situational crime prevention within this Report will be the prevention of crime in specific places, as it is this specific type of crime prevention that is likely to be relevant for the purposes of the current research. Respondents were asked about specific areas where they felt unsafe and it is likely that situational crime prevention strategies may prove useful in addressing these place specific concerns, though not to the exclusion of social crime prevention programs. There is evidence to suggest that situational crime prevention can be effective in preventing crime in identified 'hot spots'. While the areas nominated by respondents within the current research may or may not qualify as crime 'hot spots', they are hot spots in terms of respondents diminished feelings of safety in those areas and, as the focus of the research is fear reduction and crime prevention, it is appropriate to consider these areas as targets for crime prevention strategies. The following list of situational crime prevention programs is by no means complete and merely attempts to provide illustration of the different strategies that can be implemented in specific places in an attempt to prevent crime. There is no suggestion that specific programs that fit these descriptors have proved effectiveness in crime prevention, the discussion of those programs will be restricted to the Recommendations Section.

Specific places that can be targeted through situational crime prevention include residences, apartment blocks, retail businesses, drinking establishments, financial institutions, transportation places, and public spaces. Situational crime prevention in residences (single and multiple dwellings) often involves 'target hardening' strategies such as property marking, improved locks, and security screens or alarms. Situational crime prevention in retail facilities can include; theft awareness training for staff, aggression management training for security staff, closed circuit television, electronic article surveillance, and installation of alarm systems. Situational crime prevention in drinking establishments can include; codes of practice implemented by a group of venue operators, licensing legislation training for venue operators and staff, and customer handling training for staff (including security staff).

### **Concern about Crime**

This Report will discuss concern about crime and the factors that previous research (and the current research) may contribute to heightened concern about crime for specific community members. A great deal of research had been conducted worldwide regarding 'fear of crime', investigating the contributing factors, differing fear levels for sectors in the community, behaviour changes related to fear levels, methods of fear reduction, and so on. A quick Internet Search located 563,651 sites that matched 'fear of crime'. No doubt a more detailed search would locate many more such sites. Much of the earlier literature referring to fear of crime discussed these fears as 'irrational' and 'exaggerated'(Department of Justice 1995).

Within the context of human behaviour, fear is a functional emotion. It alerts the individual that a situation may be threatening and action should be taken to address that threat (Franken 1988). Fear of being hit by a car would seem to be the logical reason why people look both ways before crossing a road. The elimination of fear of crime would seem to be an impossible goal, given that victimisation *does* occur (to some members of the community more than others) and reasonable steps an individual can take to reduce their fear (and perhaps likelihood) of being victimised should not necessarily be considered as reactions to irrational or exaggerated fears. The delicate balance then needs to be drawn (by the community) between what is reasonable and what is unreasonable in terms of fear levels, and actions taken to address those fear levels. To extend the road crossing analogy, most would agree it is reasonable to look both ways before crossing a road to reduce fear of being hit by a car, however, most would agree that it would be unreasonable to avoid crossing roads altogether to reduce fear of being hit by a car.

Many differing levels of 'fear' have been reported in the literature regarding fear of crime. Debate has, and is, occurring regarding the discussion of an homogenous fear, rather than concern about crime as distinct from fear of crime. Concern about crime might be expressed in the statement: 'I am worried that crime is increasing and affecting the lifestyle of people in my suburb' whereas fear may be expressed as 'I am fearful of crime when in my own home'. There may or may not be a relationship between concern about crime and fear of crime, but there is no evidence that the two terms are different expressions of one construct. The distinction between concern about crime and fear of crime, if one indeed exists, has not been supported or otherwise by the literature, but perhaps is an area of investigation for future research.

## Vulnerability and Heightened Fear Levels

Recent research has tended to move away from discussing 'irrational' or 'exaggerated' fear of crime and has started to discuss fear of crime in a more constructive manner. Investigation has increasingly focused on the reasons *why* specific groups within the community may exhibit 'irrational' or 'exaggerated' levels of fear in relation to crime (Department of Justice 1995). Three particular sectors of the community have traditionally exhibited heightened fear levels in most research; women, older community members, and victims of crime (Department of Justice 1995). One suggested explanation for heightened fear levels amongst these groups is their perceived vulnerability to victimisation. Different reasons for feeling vulnerable to victimisation exist for all three groups that may contribute to heightened fear levels amongst them. Of course, increased inclusion in these groups would be expected to further heighten levels of fear, that is, a woman who has been the victim of crime would be expected to have heightened fear levels when compared to a woman who has not experienced any victimisation.

### Women

Some literature challenges the notion that women have exaggerated levels of fear in relation to crime, but instead points to the lifetime experiences of women in terms of victimisation. It is a commonly cited statistic that one in four women will have been the victim of sexual assault before the age of eighteen. The accuracy of this statistic will not be debated here, other than to say that women certainly are uniquely vulnerable to sexual violence. Not enough is known about the effects of the range of sexual violence against women in terms of their fear levels. Whilst 'flashing' is not categorised as a serious sexual offence (even by the victim in some cases) it can reinforce a sense of vulnerability to sexual assault, and even influence a victim's future behaviour (Department of Justice 1995). Most women do not become victims of serious violent crime. In fact they are far more likely to be a victim of a sexual offence other than rape or attempted rape. While these other sexual offences may not be considered serious violent offences they may serve to reinforce a woman's sense of vulnerability to serious violent crime, particularly rape. Women's heightened levels of fear may be more due to heightened vulnerability to sexual violence than some unexplained 'irrational' cause (Department of Justice 1995).

Women are the most common victims of violence within the home. Much of the fear of crime literature has arguably focused on 'stranger offenders' whereas women are most commonly victimised by someone they know intimately. It is not an either/or proposition. Analysis from the Violence Against Women Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 1993 noted that "one quarter of the women surveyed from 18 to 24 acknowledged they had been assaulted by a stranger at least once since the age of 16 in acts that ranged from unwanted sexual touching to rape involving injury" (Department of Justice. p.19. 1995).

Heightened fear levels reported by women may be due to life experiences and awareness of vulnerability to sexual violence, that are generally not experienced by men, rather than some irrational fearfulness.

### Older Community Members

Older members of the community have also been described as a group that exhibits 'exaggerated' fear levels in comparison to their actual victimisation rate. The vulnerability perspective has particularly obvious application to older members of the community, in terms of physical vulnerability to violence. Regardless of victimisation rates, older people are likely to be aware that physical defence is less likely to be an option should they become victims of a violent crime, and this may heighten their sense of vulnerability. A contributing factor to heightened levels of vulnerability may also be the more serious consequences that an assault may have for an older member of the community. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) (USA) reports that while persons over 65 years are far less likely to be victims of violent crime, those that had been a victim in these circumstances were more likely to suffer serious injuries (9%) than victims under 65 years (5%)<sup>16</sup>. While this assault is highly unlikely to occur an older person is reasonable in expecting that the physical consequence of any assault may be far more serious for them than for a younger person.

Aside from any physical consequences, in victimisation of property crime, older people may expect to suffer more hardship after victimisation of this type of offence. Any possessions lost as a result of property crime may be more difficult to replace as a retiree than as a young person with access to the workforce, this may also contribute to a sense of vulnerability

(Department of Justice 1995). Fear exhibited by older members of the community may not be as strongly related to an expectation of victimisation as it is to fear of consequences of victimisation. This Report did not examine fears regarding consequences of victimisation, but rather used a measure of attitudes towards the victimisation of elderly people. A distinction between attitudes towards the likelihood of victimization and concern about consequences of victimisation may be an area that deserves more attention.

## Victims

Those who have already been victims of crime have a transparently obvious reason for feeling vulnerable and thus fearful of crime. They don't suspect that they may be victimised at some point, they believe they can because it has already happened. Previous research has noted that victims of crime tend to report heightened fear levels compared to people who report experiencing no victimisation (Department of Justice 1995). The definition of victim can be different between Reports as some research qualifies the victimisation in terms of years (respondents may be asked if they have been a victim of crime in the last year, last three years, at some point in their life, and so on) (Department of Justice 1995). These different parameters on victimisation can obviously have an effect on the findings of any research that may consider the effect of victimisation on fear levels. If the effects of victimisation are longstanding, then victimisation studies that look at victimisation restricted to a specific time frame are not likely to gain an adequate view of any effects, due to the number of false negatives they may have included as non-victims, that is respondents who had been victims of crime outside of the defined parameters.

## **Fear Reduction**

Strategies aimed at fear reduction often recommend that accurate crime statistics are prominently provided for open debate, theorising, that if groups in the community that are most fearful (but are actually victimised less than others) can be convinced that the rate of victimisation for their sector of the community is less than they believe, then reduction in fear levels should occur. A vulnerability perspective suggests fear of crime is far more complex than that and must be addressed in different ways. Women may feel more fearful because experience of minor or even some property offences is often accompanied by a fear of accompanying sexual violence, and further because they are likely to be victimised by people that they know (in most serious offences) as well as strangers. Older people may feel more fearful not because of a greater expectation of victimisation, but more of a fear of the consequences that victimisation may have for them. Victims would seem to be more fearful because they have already experienced victimisation and know that it can happen to them, and thus, feel more vulnerable (and fearful) than others.

Efforts at fear reduction may be more usefully directed at addressing the vulnerability concerns of the groups most often targeted as those with heightened levels of fear regarding crime. Such fear reduction efforts may include the provision of accurate information in an education process, however, their focus would need to be the reduction of feelings of vulnerability to crime that may be experienced by these specific groups. Strategies that act as protective measures against feelings of vulnerability may be an effective tool in reducing fear levels in women, older members of the community and victims of crime.

## **Measurement of Crime**

Crime in this Report cannot be directly acquainted with any police definition or experience with crime. We are discussing communities and community members emotional and behavioural reactions to crime and concern about crime and thus the importance of perceptions of crime are far more relevant than any proscribed view of crime and crime occurrences. Measures of both aspects of crime will be utilised in the Report, proscribed crime occurrences through official police statistics and community perceptions of victimisation and concern about crime. The traditional provider of official police statistics is the Queensland Police Service, while the Australian Bureau of Statistics publicly provides data regarding crime victimisation of Queenslanders.

It has been suggested there is limited value in directly comparing victimisation rates to recorded offences by the police, because of the variation between the two measures (U.S. Department of Justice 1995). Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 1995) reports that "responses obtained in this survey are based on respondents' perceptions of having been the victim of an offence. The terms used...may not necessarily correspond with the legal or police definitions (of an offence)(ABS p.1 1995)". Each method of crime measurement has strengths and weaknesses but in any discussion of crime in the community, measures of both should be utilised. Official police statistics may be affected by (among other reasons)

increased reporting of crime by community members, increasing police numbers leading to an increased detection of crime, and specific police focus on particular offences, apart from increasing crime occurrences. Victimization reporting may be affected by (among other reasons) education programs that encourage community members to identify a particular behaviour or experience as an offence. An example of this phenomenon is the increasing reporting of domestic violence. As community (and legislative) perceptions regarding violence within the family have changed, reporting of domestic violence to the police has increased and almost certainly has increased in victimisation studies. This increased reporting of this form of violence may be due to an increasing incidence of this offence or may be due to a changing community attitude toward domestic violence which recognises it as a criminal offence, or may be a combination of both.

The measurement instrument utilised within this Report contains some information regarding victimisation. Victimization information was sought regarding property related crime and personal/violent crime, and was not drawn from legal police definitions, although specific examples of these offences were provided within the survey instrument. The measurement of victimisation can also be problematic in terms of the definition of a victim. Within this Report respondent's perception of being a victim were solicited, and no definition of a victim was provided. The Police definition of a victim utilised within their Statistical Review (Queensland Police Service 1997) is direct victims of reported offences whereas the ABS considers a victim a person or a household reporting one or more of the offences listed (ABS 1995). The Victim Compensation Act (1996) defines a victim as "someone who has had a crime committed that involves violence committed against them in a direct way, or the person is a member of the immediate family of a victim directly affected, or someone who has directly suffered harm in assisting a victim" (Queensland Government 1996). The survey instrument utilised within this Report did not provide a definition of victim; however, in most cases the respondent (and not the household) was the target of the question. The purposes of the research do not support the preclusion of people's perceptions of victimisation based on a definition that did not include their particular situation.

## Victimization

There are two main sources of victimisation information, that is, information directly relating to rates of victimisation for members of the community. Police statistics provide victimisation information regarding the victims of reported offences, while victimisation studies rely on self report of victimisation, regardless of reported offences to the police. Some victimisation studies note that reporting of all offences to the police may be as low as 31% to 42%, and lower for sexual offences (Census and Statistics 1995). The ABS reports in *Crime and Safety* 1995, that the reporting rate for break and enter was 77.6%, attempted break and enter was 28.6%, motor vehicle was 94.1%, robbery was 55.6%, and assault was 36.5% (ABS 1995). Different sectors of the community are likely to have quite different experiences regarding crime victimisation and those differences will be acknowledged by separate discussion of victimisation by age and gender. Unless stated otherwise information has been drawn from Australian sources.

### Age

- Young people aged under 24 years are most likely to be victims of personal violent crime. Victimization of personal violent crime tends to decrease with age and persons aged over 65 years are least likely to be victims of personal crime, ABS (1995)
- In 1996/1997 people aged between 15 and 34 years were more likely to be victims of homicide, than persons younger or older than this age bracket QPS (1997)
- The Highest victimization of assault occurred with people aged between 15 and 29 years, with the victimisation rate for persons aged over 55 years lower than the reported rate for children aged between 5 and 9 years.QPS<sup>1</sup>
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the United States reports that although persons aged 65 years or over make up 14% of the population they reported less than 2% of all victimisation (U.S. Department of Justice 1995).
- The BJS reports that persons aged between 12 and 24 have the highest victimisation rates for all crimes, while those aged 65 years and over have the lowest(U.S. Department of Justice 1995).

### Gender

- Males were more likely than females to be the victim of homicide and assault. QPS (1997)
- Female victims of homicide were more likely to have been killed by a husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend (28%) than males were to have been killed by a wife, ex-wife, or girlfriend (3%). (Social Statistics Briefing Room 1997).
- Males were more likely to be the victim of personal crime, with young men aged between 15 and 24 years most likely to be victimised ABS (1995).
- Females were more likely to be the victim of all sexual offences, with women aged between 10 and 19 years most likely to be victimised QPS (1997).

- Women are more likely to be victimised by someone known to them than are men. (Social Statistics Briefing Room 1997).
- Females victimised by someone known to them were more likely to not report an offence to the police (Social Statistics Briefing Room 1997).

## **Crime in Queensland, Northern Region, and Townsville**

1996-1997 saw the usual variation in the 'crime rate' as compared to other years. Reporting of some crimes increased while others decreased (compared with 1995-1996). This variation is the real picture of crime. There is limited value in comparing crime trends only over several years and attempting to provide a definitive statement regarding the 'crime rate'. Information within this Report regarding official police statistics is provided for the purposes of community education rather than an analysis of 'crime rate' fluctuations.

Statistics will be talked about in rates per 100,000 of population. Percentages have been drawn directly from the Queensland Police Service Statistic Review of 1996/1997. Although the reported rate of a particular offence or set of offences may increase in any one year, the reporting rate per 100,000 adjusts that rate to relate directly to the population. If a population increases significantly in any one year, unfortunately it is likely that a corresponding increase in reported crime will also be apparent. It is therefore more meaningful in terms of community impact to discuss crime within this Report in relation to occurrence per 100,000.

As stated within the Limitations of the Research Section this Report the crime statistics provided by the Queensland Police Service consisted of the Statistical Reviews of 1994/1995, 1995/1996, and 1996/1997. While these reports provide good information regarding reported crime within Queensland and the nine (9) Police Regional Divisions, they provide limited information about specific townships or localities within those divisions and no information regarding police responses that do not result in charges being laid or offences recorded. Thus, when discussing reported crime for Thuringowa, information will be drawn from information reported for the Northern Region, whose major townships are recorded as Townsville and Mt Isa. Obviously, the recorded crime information for the Northern Region which includes Townsville would be expected to be somewhat different than that recorded for the locality of Thuringowa alone.

### **Offences against the person**

#### **Queensland**

A 3% rise in reported offences against the person was recorded in Queensland during 1996/1997 compared to an average annual 6% rise recorded over the previous ten (10) years. 819 per 100,000 population offences against the person were reported for 1996/1997, compared to 798 reported per 100,000 for 1995/1996.

Young men aged between 15 and 29 years are most likely to commit offences against the person that are reported to the police. Young women aged between 15 and 19 were most likely to report victimisation of the offences within this category to the police. The most common place for an offence against the person to take place is in a place of residence, followed by on the street or on footpaths.

#### **Northern Region**

A 1% rise in reported offences against the person was recorded for the Northern Region in 1996/1997. 1417 (per 100,000 population) offences against the person were reported for 1996/1997, compared to 1153 reported per 100,000 for 1995/1996.

#### **Townsville**

There were 819 reported offences against the person per 100,000 population recorded for Townsville in 1996/1997, compared to 798 reported offences per 100,000 recorded in 1995/1996.

**The number of offences against the person per 100,000 population increased in 1996/1997 for Queensland, Northern Region, and Townsville.**

### Homicide

#### Queensland

Across Queensland the reported homicide rate fell when compared to 1995/1996, with ten fewer offences being reported in 1996/1997.

#### Northern Region

A 43% increase in Homicide was recorded for the Northern Region in 1996/1997. 11 per 100,000 population offences of homicide were reported for 1996/1997, compared to 8 reported per 100,000 for 1995/1996.

#### Townsville

There were 6 reported offences of Homicide per 100,000 population recorded for Townsville in 1996/1997, compared to 5 reported offences per 100,000 recorded in 1995/1996.

**The reported rate of homicide per 100,000 population decreased for Queensland, but increased for the Northern Region and Townsville.**

### Assault

#### Queensland

A small decrease in reported assaults was recorded for 1996/1997. When viewed separately, minor assault decreased significantly and serious assault increased. The Queensland Statistical Review notes that 'It appears that police are increasingly tending to classify a reported offence as Serious rather than Minor Assault' which presents a possible explanation for these different reporting changes. Young men aged between 15 and 19 were more likely to victims and offenders in reported offences of assault. The common place for an assault to take place was on a street or footpath, followed by a place of residence.

There were 490 reported offences of Assault per 100,000 population recorded for Queensland in 1996/1997, compared to 518 reported offences per 100,000 recorded in 1995/1996. There were 316 reported offences of Serious Assault per 100,000 population recorded for Queensland in 1996/1997, compared to 298 reported offences per 100,000 recorded in 1995/1996. There were 175 reported offences of Minor Assault per 100,000 population recorded for Queensland in 1996/1997, compared to 219 reported offences per 100,000 recorded in 1995/1996.

#### Northern Region

A 4% decrease in reported assaults was recorded for 1996/1997, from 909 assault offences per 100,000 population in 1995/1996 to 861 assault offences in 1996/1997. Serious Assault increased by 4% from 549 Serious Assault offences per 100,000 population in 1995/1996 to 568 Serious Assault offences in 1996/1997. Minor Assault decreased by 17%, from 360 Minor Assault offences per 100,000 population in 1995/1996 to 293 Minor Assault offences in 1996/1997.

### Townsville

618 reported offences of Assault were recorded for 1996/1997, a decrease to the 680 reported offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996. Serious Assault increased, from 410 Serious Assault offences per 100,000 population in 1995/1996 to 417 Serious Assault offences in 1996/1997. Minor Assault decreased from 270 Minor Assault offences per 100,000 population in 1995/1996 to 202 Minor Assault offences in 1996/1997.

**Assault offences per 100,000 decreased for Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Serious assaults per 100,000 increased for Queensland, Northern Region, and Townsville, while Minor assaults decreased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville. These contrasting increases in serious assault and decreases in minor assault maybe attributed to the increasing likelihood that police will assess assaults as serious rather than minor.**

## Sexual Offences

### Queensland

Reported sexual offences increased by 29% in 1996/1997 over the previous year (from 135 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 174 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997), however, this increase can be attributed to a large increase in reported 'other sexual offences' while reported rape and attempted rape fell significantly. Other Sexual Offences increased by 36% in 1996/1997 from 114 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 157 offences (per 100,000 in 1996/1997), while reported offences of Rape and Attempted Rape decreased by 11% (from 21 offences per 100,000) in 1995/1996 to 17 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

Queensland Statistical Review reports that the charging of two people with over 1000 offences dating back several decades significantly skewed the 'crime rate' for the sexual offences category in 1996/1997. This type of incident, while unusual, can have a significant distortion effect on 'crime rates' both generally and for specific offences, and any significant increase in crime rate most often involves one or more confounding factors (such as that discussed above) rather than simply a large increase in the number of offences committed.

The difference between offending rates and reporting rates is particularly problematic for the sexual offence category. All victimisation studies suggest that the reporting rate of sexual offences is very low and there may often be a significant time lapse between the offence and the time of reporting. It is known that females aged between 10 and 19 are most likely to be victims of these offences and women of all age groups more likely to experience victimisation than men. Of the victims who are men, boys aged between 10 and 14 were most commonly victimised. The greatest majority of offenders in reported offences were male. The most common place for sexual offences to take place was in a place of residence.

### Northern Region

Reported sexual offences increased by 11% for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 over the previous year, from 141 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 147 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997. This increase is not related to the skewing effect reported for the Queensland rate of Sexual Offences discussed in *Crime in Queensland*.

Reported sexual offences of rape and attempted rape decreased by 5% for the Northern Region in 1996/1997, from 27 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 22 offences per 100,000

## Table 1

in 1996/1997.

Reported Other Sexual Offences increased by 14% for the Northern Region in 1996/1997, from 114 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 126 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

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### Townsville

Reported sexual offences increased in Townsville 1996/1997 over the previous year, from 131 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 147 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

Reported sexual offences of rape and attempted rape decreased for Townsville in 1996/1997, from 22 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 19 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

Reported Other Sexual Offences increased in Townsville in 1996/1997, from 109 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 128 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

**Sexual offences increased in Queensland (see above for qualification supplied in the Queensland Police Service Statistical Review 1996/1997), Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Rape and attempted rape decreased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville while other sexual offences increased for all of these areas.**

## Robbery

### Queensland

Reported Robbery offences rose by 8% for the 1996/1997 year (from 61 to 65 reported offences per 100,000 population), although this increase was 1% lower than that recorded for 1995/1996 and 1994/1995. Armed Robbery increased (from 26 to 31 reported offences per 100,000 population) while Unarmed Robbery decreased (from 35 to 34 reported offences per 100,000 population). There is significant regional variation in the number of reported Robberies, and the relevant information for Thuringowa will be discussed later. Armed Robberies were most likely to occur in retail locations, while on the street or footpath was the most likely place for Unarmed Robberies to take place. Young men aged between 15 and 24 were most likely to be offenders in reported Robberies and also most likely to be the victims of Robbery.

### Northern Region

Reported Robbery offences in the Northern Region rose by 19% for 1996/1997 (from 36 to 43 reported offences per 100,000 population). Armed Robbery increased by 187% (from 9 to 24 reported offences per 100,000 population) while Unarmed Robbery decreased by 33% (from 27 to 19 reported offences per 100,000 population).

### Townsville

Reported Robbery offences increased in Townsville 1996/1997 over the previous year, from 37 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 44 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997. Reported Armed Robbery increased for Townsville in 1996/1997, from 9 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 24 offences per 100,000 1996/1997. Reported Unarmed Robbery Offences decreased in Townsville in 1996/1997, from 28 offences per 100,000 in 1995/1996 to 20 offences per 100,000 in 1996/1997.

**Robbery offences increase in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville for 1996/1997. Armed Robbery increased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville for 1996/1997, while unarmed robbery decreased for all of these areas.**

### Kidnapping, Abduction, and Deprivation of Liberty

#### Queensland

Reported offences of Kidnapping, Abduction and Deprivation of Liberty decreased in 1996/1997. The Queensland Statistical Review reports that Extortion, while a relatively uncommon offence, experiences great fluctuation from one year to the next - 1996/1997 saw increases in reported offences. Victims of Extortion tend to be older than victims of other reported offences against the person.

#### Northern Region

Reported offences of Kidnapping, Abduction and Deprivation of Liberty increased by 14% (from 12 to 13 reported offences per 100,000 population), for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 over the previous year. Extortion increased from 0.4 to 4 reported offences per 100,000 population.

#### Townsville

Reported offences of Kidnapping, Abduction and Deprivation of Liberty increased for Townsville in 1996/1997 (from 10 to 12 reported offences per 100,000 population). Extortion increased from 0 to 4 reported offences per 100,000 population.

**Kidnapping, abduction, and deprivation of liberty decreased for Queensland but increased for Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Extortion increased for Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

### Other Offences against the Person

#### Queensland

Other Offences against the person includes such offences as Stalking, Armed so as to Cause Fear or Alarm, and ill treatment of children. The reporting of offences in this category rose (from 59 to 65 reported offences per 100,000 population), however, due to the grouping of these offences into the other offences category within the Queensland Statistical Review it is not possible to be more specific about specific offence increases within this Report.

#### Northern Region

The reporting of Other Offences against the Person rose for the Northern Region (from 48 to 67 reported offences per 100,000 population).

## Townsville

The reporting of Other Offences against the Person rose for Townsville (from 39 to 51 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Other Offences against the Person increased for Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville for 1996/1997.**

## Offences against Property

### Queensland

1996/1997 saw a 4% increase in reported Offences against property (from 7461 to 7634 reported offences per 100,000 population). The increase in the reported rate of these offences is in line with similar increases over the last decade. There is significant regional variation in the rate of reported offences against property and the relevant information for Thuringowa will be discussed later.

Young men aged between 15 and 19 years are mostly likely to commit offences against the person that are reported to the police and cleared.

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### Northern Region

1996/1997 saw a 4% increase in reported Offences against property for the Northern Region, (from 6851 to 7149 reported offences per 100,000 population).

### Townsville

1996/1997 saw an increase in reported Offences against property for Townsville, (from 6491 to 6574 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Offences against property increased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

## Breaking and Entering

### Queensland

A 7% increase in reported Breaking and entering was reported for 1996/1997, (from 1931 to 2023 reported offences per 100,000 population), similar to increases in 1995/1996 and 1994/1995. Breaking and Entering – Shops increased by 10% - the first time in a decade that increases in this offence have been reported (from 204 to 220 reported offences per 100,000 population). Breaking and Entering – Dwellings rose by 8% (from 1108 to 1171 reported offences per 100,000 population), while Breaking and Entering of Other Properties rose by 4% (from 620 to 632 reported offences per 100,000 population). Males aged between 15 and 19 years were most likely to be offenders of Breaking and Entering offences that were cleared by police.

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### Northern Region

An 8% increase in reported Breaking and entering was reported for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 1743 to 1891 reported offences per 100,000 population). Breaking and Entering – Shops increased by 31% (from 170 to 226 reported offences per 100,000 population), Breaking and Entering – Dwellings decreased by 1% (from 998 to 991 reported offences per 100,000 population), while Breaking and Entering of Other Properties increased by 17% (from 571 to 675 reported offences per 100,000 population).

### Townsville

Reported offences of Breaking and Entering decreased for Townsville in 1996/1997 (from 1734 to 1715 reported offences per 100,000 population). Breaking and Entering – Shops increased (from 166 to 219 reported offences per 100,000 population), Breaking and Entering – Dwellings decreased (from 996 to 876 reported offences per 100,000 population), while Breaking and Entering of Other Properties increased (from 571 to 620 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Breaking and entering increased for Queensland and the Northern Region in 1996/1997 but decreased in Townsville. Breaking and entering – shops increased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Breaking and entering - dwellings increased in Queensland but decreased in Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Breaking and entering of other properties increased in Queensland, Northern Region, and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

## Arson

### Queensland

An 8% increase in Arson was reported for 1996/1997 (from 44 to 48 reported offences per 100,000 population). Despite fluctuations in this offence, this increase follows a general increasing trend over the last decade. The most common location for Arson to occur was Open Space, followed by on the street or footpaths, and residential dwellings.

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### Northern Region

A 23% decrease in Arson was reported for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 41 to 31 reported offences per 100,000 population).

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### Townsville

A decrease in Arson was reported for Townsville in 1996/1997 (from 34 to 27 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Arson increased in Queensland, but decreased in Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

## Other Property Damage

**Queensland**

Other Property Damages increased by 6% in 1996/1997 (from 1428 to 1513 reported offences per 100,000 population),. These offences have risen steadily over the last decade and the Queensland Statistical Review attributes increases in this offence category to significantly contributing to the increases in the rate of Offences against Property over the last decade. Young men aged between 15 and 19 years were more likely to be offenders in cleared offences for this category and the most common locations for reported offences to take place were residential dwellings, streets or footpaths, transport, educational locations, respectively.

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**Northern Region**

Other Property Damages increased by 15% for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 1428 to 1653 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Townsville**

Other Property Damages increased for Townsville in 1996/1997 (from 1307 to 1445 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Other property damages increased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

**Motor Vehicle Theft**

**Queensland**

Reported Motor Vehicle Theft experienced its lowest rate in the past three (3) years. A 6% decrease was reported from 1995/1996 (from 582 to 536 reported offences per 100,000 population). The most common locations for vehicles to be stolen from were the street, residential locations, and retail locations, respectively. Males younger than 30 years were the most common offenders in cleared offences.

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**Northern Region**

A 4% increase for Reported Motor Vehicle Theft was recorded for the Northern Region in 1996/1997, (from 393 to 408 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Townsville**

Reported Motor Vehicle Theft remained stable for Townsville in 1996/1997, (381 reported offences per 100,000 population during 1995/1996 and 1996/1997).

**Motor vehicle theft decreased in Queensland, increased for Northern Region, but remained stable for Townsville in 1996/1997.**

**Stealing**

Queensland

Stealing Offences records the greatest number of offences as compared to any other offence category. A 3% increase in Stealing Offences was reported for 1996/1997, (from 2927 to 2968 reported offences per 100,000 population). Offences recorded as Other Stealing Offences include; stealing from shops (from 355 to 337 reported offences per 100,000 population), stealing from dwellings (from 355 to 362 reported offences per 100,000 population), and other stealing (from 2208 to 2262 reported offences per 100,000 population). Almost one third of offenders in cleared stealing offences were females, with both females and male offenders most commonly aged 19 or under.

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Northern Region

A 2% decrease in Stealing Offences was reported for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 2909 to 2844 reported offences per 100,000 population). In 1996/1997 reported offences of Stealing from Dwellings decreased (from 403 to 363 reported offences per 100,000 population), Shop Stealing decreased (from 291 to 264 reported offences per 100,000 population), and Other Stealing decreased (from 2207 to 2202 reported offences per 100,000 population).

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Townsville

An increase in Stealing Offences was reported for Townsville in 1996/1997 (from 2734 to 2682 reported offences per 100,000 population). In 1996/1997 reported offences of Stealing from Dwellings decreased (from 392 to 359 reported offences per 100,000 population), Shop Stealing decreased (from 276 to 258 reported offences per 100,000 population), and Other Stealing decreased (from 2060 to 2058 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Stealing offences increased in Queensland and Townsville, but decreased in the Northern Region for 1996/1997. Stealing from dwellings increased for Queensland but decreased for Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Shop stealing decreased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Other stealing increased in Queensland but decreased in Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997.**

FraudQueensland

A 2% decrease in Fraud was recorded for 1996/1997 (from 545 to 543 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Credit Card increased (from 80 to 99 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Cheque decreased (from 162 to 153 reported offences per 100,000 population) and Other Fraud also decreased (from 303 to 291 reported offences per 100,000 population). Almost one third of offenders in cleared fraud offences were females, with both female and male offenders most commonly aged between 20 and 29 years.

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Northern Region

A 6% decrease in Fraud was recorded for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 335 to 318 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Credit Card increased (from 16 to 58 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Cheque decreased (from 160 to 116 reported offences per 100,000 population) and Other Fraud also decreased (from 159 to 145 reported offences per 100,000 population).

Townsville

An increase in Reported offences of Fraud was recorded for the Northern Region in 1996/1997 (from 299 to 323 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Credit Card increased (from 14 to 62 reported offences per 100,000 population). Fraud by Cheque decreased (from 139 to 109 reported offences per 100,000 population) and Other Fraud increased (from 146 to 151 reported offences per 100,000 population).

**Fraud offences decreased for Queensland and Northern Region but increased for Townsville in 1996/1997. Fraud by credit card increased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Fraud by cheque decreased in Queensland, Northern Region and Townsville in 1996/1997. Other fraud decreased in Queensland and Northern Region but increased in Townsville, 1996/1997.**

### Other Offences

#### Queensland

The Queensland Statistical Review describes this offence category as 'a broad collection of disparate offence categories that are often detected by the police rather than offences reported by the public'. Related to this description is the explanation that recorded increases in these offences may be more due to specific police operations rather than actual offence increases.

- A 7% decrease in recorded offences of Handling Stolen Goods was reported for 1996/1997 (from 86 to 81 offences per 100,000 population). Within this offence category recorded offences of Possession of Property Suspected Stolen increased by 13% (from 18 to 21 offences per 100,000 population), while recorded offences of Receiving Stolen Property decreased by 12% (from 67 to 60 offences per 100,000 population).
- Drug Offences rose by 8% in 1996/1997 (from 910 to 968 offences per 100,000 population) compared to an average annual increase of 12% in the last decade. Recorded Trafficking Offences decreased by 29% (from 3 to 3 offences per 100,000 population) and Supply Dangerous Drugs decreased by 14% (from 79 to 70 offences per 100,000 population). Possession of Dangerous Drugs increased by 8% (from 404 to 440 offences per 100,000 population), Produce Dangerous Drugs increased by 1% (from 84 to 86 offences per 100,000 population), and Other Drug Offences increased by 8% (from 340 to 369 offences per 100,000 population).
- Recorded Prostitution increased by 52% (from 6 to 10 offences per 100,000 population), predominantly in the Metropolitan North Region. This would seem due to be resultant from an increased police focus on these offences.
- Good Order Offences increased by 10% in 1996/1997 (from 445 to 480 offences per 100,000 population) and includes such offences as Resist Arrest/Hinder Police (up 9% from 149 to 159 offences per 100,000 population), Indecent Behaviour (up 21% from 41 to 49 offences per 100,000 population), and Disorderly Conduct (up 19% from 114 to 133 offences per 100,000 population).
- Traffic and Related Offences records mostly drink driving offences (up 3% from 579 to 585 offences per 100,000 population), as well as smaller numbers of disqualified driving (down 15% from 87 to 72 offences per 100,000 population) and numerous other offences. A very small decrease of 0.3% was recorded for Traffic and Related Offences in 1996/1997.

#### Northern Region

- In the Northern Region 87 offences per 100,000 population) of Handling Stolen Goods were recorded for 1996/1997, compared to 62 offences in 1995/1996. Within this offence category recorded offences of Possession of Property Suspected Stolen increased (from 14 to 26 offences per 100,000 population) and Receiving Stolen Property increased (from 48 to 60 offences per 100,000 population).
- Drug Offences increased in 1996/1997 (from 852 to 1152 offences per 100,000 population), Recorded Trafficking Offences remained stable (from 5 to 5 offences per 100,000 population) and Supply Dangerous Drugs increased (from 24 to 86 offences per 100,000 population), Possession of Dangerous Drugs increased (from 412 to 534 offences per 100,000 population), Produce Dangerous Drugs increased (from 72 to 86 offences per 100,000 population) and Other Drug Offences increased (from 339 to 441 offences per 100,000 population).
- Recorded Prostitution decreased in 1996/1997 (from 1 to 0 offences per 100,000 population). This low rate does not mean that no such offences were recorded but that the actual number of offences was so few that when transformed into a rate per 100,000 population the result is nil (0).
- Good Order Offences increased in 1996/1997 (from 653 to 904 offences per 100,000 population) and includes such offences as Resist Arrest/Hinder Police (up from 210 to 293 offences per 100,000 population), Indecent Behaviour (up from 32 to 65 offences per 100,000 population), and Disorderly Conduct (up from 239 to 326 offences per 100,000 population).

Table 1

- The Traffic and Related Offences, records mostly drink driving offences (up from 874 to 863 offences per 100,000 population), as well as smaller numbers of disqualified driving (up from 128 to 117 offences per 100,000 population) and numerous other offences.

### Townsville

- In Townsville 76 offences per 100,000 population) of Handling Stolen Goods were recorded for 1996/1997, compared to 55 offences in 1995/1996. Within this offence category recorded offences of Possession of Property Suspected Stolen increased (from 15 to 25 offences per 100,000 population) and Receiving Stolen Property increased (from 40 to 51 offences per 100,000 population).
- Drug Offences increased in 1996/1997 (from 852 to 1185 offences per 100,000 population), Recorded Trafficking Offences remained stable (from 6 to 6 offences per 100,000 population) and Supply Dangerous Drugs increased (from 22 to 92 offences per 100,000 population), Possession of Dangerous Drugs increased (from 413 to 545 offences per 100,000 population), Produce Dangerous Drugs increased (from 75 to 92 offences per 100,000 population) and Other Drug Offences increased (from 333 to 451 offences per 100,000 population).
- Recorded Prostitution decreased in 1996/1997 (from 1 to 0 offences per 100,000 population). This low rate does not mean that no such offences were recorded but that the actual number of offences was so few that when transformed into a rate per 100,000 population the result is nil (0).
- Good Order Offences increased in 1996/1997 (from 372 to 604 offences per 100,000 population) and includes such offences as Resist Arrest/Hinder Police (from 147 to 219 offences per 100,000 population), Indecent Behaviour (from 18 to 58 offences per 100,000 population), and Disorderly Conduct (from 103 to 165 offences per 100,000 population).
- The Traffic and Related Offences, records mostly drink driving offences (up from 777 to 791 offences per 100,000 population), as well as smaller numbers of disqualified driving (down from 114 to 110 offences per 100,000 population) and numerous other offences.

## **Crime Trend Information**

The Queensland Statistical Review provides information of crime occurrences (as recorded by the police) over a ten year period. Figure 1:1 and Figure 1:2 provide a graphical depiction of the fluctuations in recorded offences for specific offences over ten years. The offences depicted in these figures were selected simply on a basis of having similar reported offence rates (to each other) which enabled them to be placed together in graphical depiction to enable viewing of crime fluctuation.

The minor fluctuations reported for Northern Region and Townsville would become accentuated (as those for Queensland) if they were viewed over a ten year period. It may actually be inappropriate to talk about a definitive crime rate (given the great variation between types of offences), and it is a difficult matter to consider even specific types of offences over less than ten years without losing sight of the fact the crime occurrences fluctuate from year to year. It is not always an increasing trend, and that these fluctuations may be due to many factors, including but not exclusively; an actual increase in the number of offences, increased detection of offences, and increased reporting of offences due to some reason other than increased victimisation.

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**Figure 1:1**

**Fluctuation in reported offences of Sexual Offences, Serious Assault, and Minor Assault  
over ten (10) years**

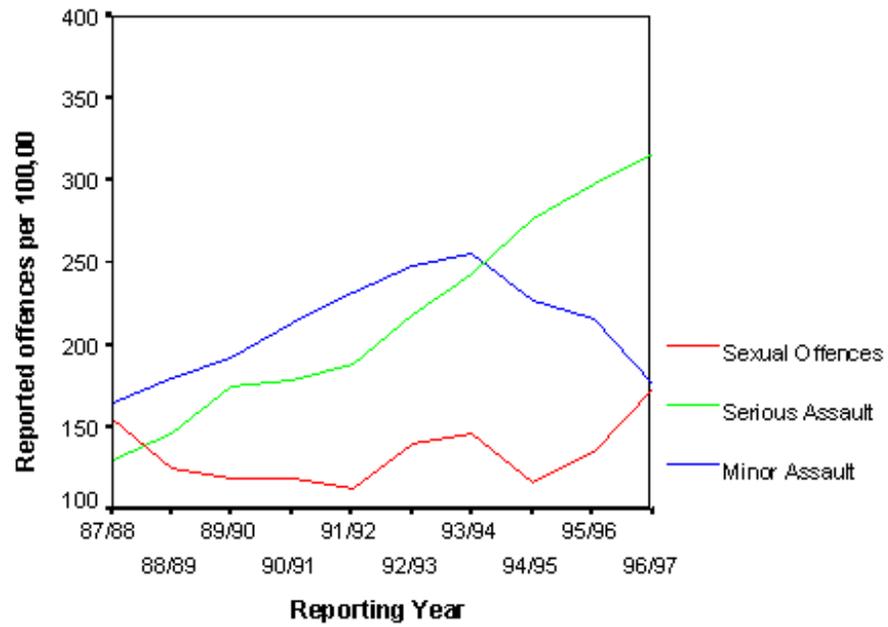
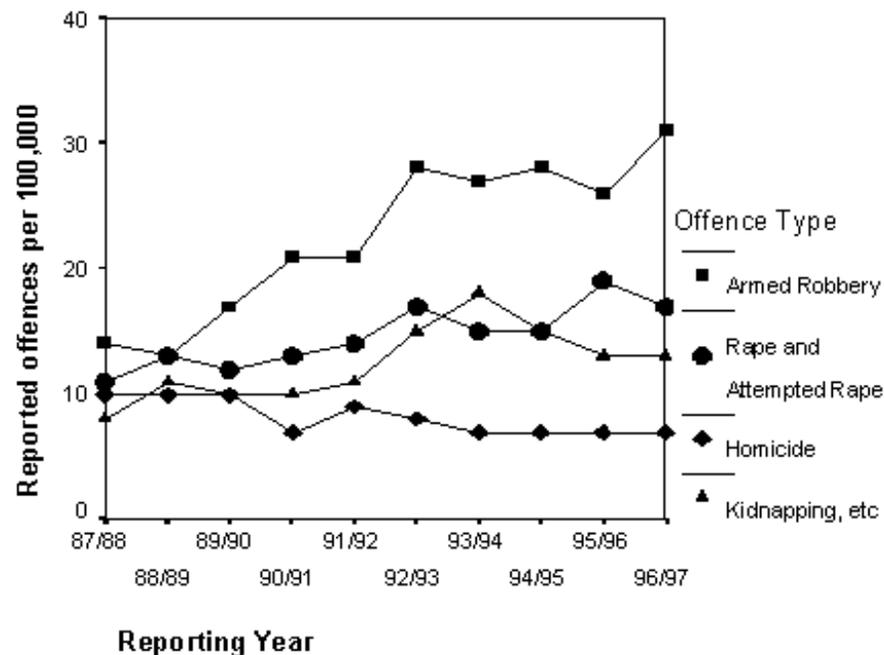


Figure 1:2

Figure 1.2

Fluctuation in reported offences of Armed Robbery, Rape and Attempted Rape, Homicide, and Kidnapping Abduction and Deprivation of Liberty over ten (10) years



## Methodology

### The Survey Instrument

Design of questions was driven by several factors; the focus of the research, the aims of the research, previous research conducted by ACRO, and previous research conducted worldwide. To be included questions needed to target three broad areas; crime attitudes, crime experiences, and crime prevention needs/attitudes/experiences.

The questionnaire is self administered, combining open/closed response formats. Most closed format questions utilise a likert scale response or dichotomous response. Most questions required single responses, but several allowed for multiple responses.

The questionnaire is composed of four sections; Section One (1) Attitude questions; Section Two (2) Experiential questions; Section Three (3) Crime Prevention questions; Section Four (4) Demographic questions.

The questionnaire contained a total of thirty-eight (38) questions. The questionnaire booklet provided instructions for completion and a comment section for use by respondents. A free call number was provided if respondents had questions about the research or required assistance with completion of the questionnaire.

Throughout development of the questionnaire, individuals within the community (not research population) completed draft surveys and provided feedback on the questions, format, and suggestions for inclusion. Feedback was also sought from crime prevention practitioners via the Internet, and from community organisations working with gay and lesbian community members and victims of domestic violence.

Thuringowa Community Policing Partnership members viewed the final draft of the survey (prior to typesetting) and provided feedback regarding content and format.

### **Survey Package**

Survey packages were mailed to each dwelling listed on the sample derived from the council database.

Survey packages contained:

- A cover letter introducing the questionnaire, establishing the bona fides of the sender, and instructions for questionnaire return.
- A copy of the Questionnaire
- A participation form
- A reply paid envelope

### **Sample**

A sample of 8000 residential dwellings were selected from a population of all households recorded on Thuringowa City Council databases as structures utilised as residential dwellings.

8000 residential dwellings from a population of 14 576 dwellings were selected through random sampling

An Excel file containing the 8000 sample addresses was sent via email to Brisbane where a mail out organisation was contracted to insert survey packages, print envelopes, and present to Australia Post for mailing and delivery.

### **Survey Distribution and Return**

Distribution was handled by Australia Post delivery as per the address labels on survey envelopes. Distribution occurred in the third week of November 1997. Respondents were asked to return the survey as soon as possible, no return date was provided.

Return of surveys occurred through the use of reply paid envelopes provided within the survey package. Surveys were returned to Thuringowa City Council and held for collection by ACRO.

Final collection of surveys occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1997.

### **Limitations of the Research**

A small number of survey packages (less than 120) were returned to Thuringowa City Council undelivered, most commonly labeled that no such address existed. As stated earlier, the method of obtaining addresses was to utilise Thuringowa City Council rates database and randomly select residential addresses. Survey packages were addressed to these residential addresses and not postal addresses that may have been utilised by a number of recipients of the survey package. As the sample was selected based on Local Government boundaries and was conducted with the Local Government as the client, the rates database was selected as the most practicable option to use in the selection of a sample from the targeted population.

It is well known that maximum returns utilising postal surveys are achieved by multiple mail-outs; at least two but three often are required to achieve maximum returns. It is acknowledged here that financial constraints within the real world most often do not permit for such multiple mail outs and that was the case within the current research.

Return rates may have been affected by the time of year at which the survey mail out occurred. It is accepted that the month of December (and several weeks each side of that month) is a traditional time for 'wind down' to occur. The research documents produced as a result of the survey were required for use by local Partnerships in a twelve month pilot crime prevention program and as such delays in the processes leading up to the commencement of research were not able to be countered by delaying the survey mail-out until after the December 'wind down' period.

A particular issue for the coding of surveys was the definition of categories into which responses could be recorded. When asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe, day and night, a number of respondents reported that they felt unsafe 'everywhere'. This answer was not anticipated and a code did not exist for this response and as such these responses were coded as other. It is suggested that future research include this option when asking about areas where people feel unsafe in a local community.

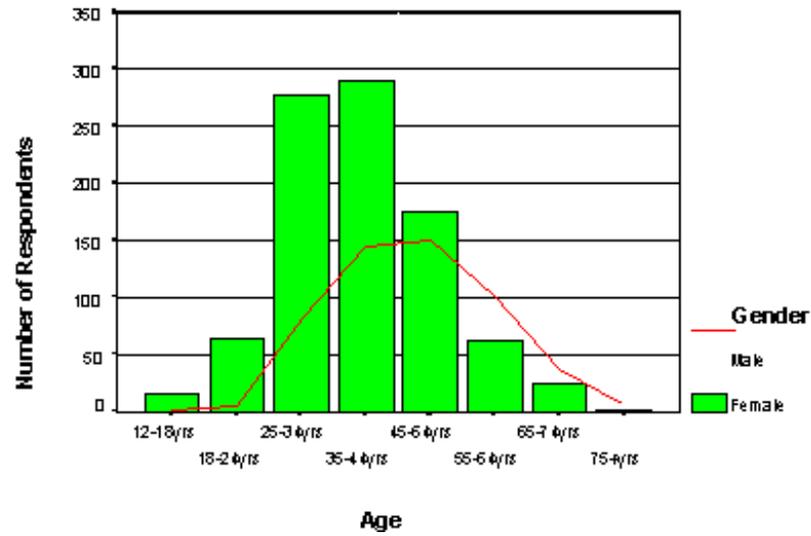
A category referring to policing issues was also needed in the two questions relating to property and personal/violent victimisation experiences. A number of respondents reported reasons for dissatisfaction with outcomes that referred directly to dissatisfaction with police attitudes or experiences they had had with police after the victimisation had occurred.

## **Analysis**

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-

**Figure 2:1**

**Distribution of Respondents by Age and Gender**



**Table 2:1**

**Age of Respondents by Gender of Respondents (All)**

Age Category	Female	Male	Total
12-18 years	1.6%(15)	0.4%(92)	1.2% (17)
19-24 years	7%(64)	0.9%(5)	4.8%(69)
25-34 years	30.4%(277)	15.5%(82)	24.9%(359)
35-44years	31.8%(290)	27.4%(145)	30.2%(435)
45-54 years	19.3%(176)	28.4%(150)	22.6%(326)
55-64 years	6.8%(62)	19.3%(102)	11.4% (164)
65-74 years	2.7%(25)	7%(37)	4.3%(62)
75 years and over	0.2%(2)	1.1%(6)	0.6%(8)

Table 1

<b>Total</b>	100% (529)	100%(911)	100% (1440)
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**Table 2:2****Racial/Ethnic Background as Identified by Respondents (All) and for Respondents who selected only one Category**

<b>Racial/Ethnic Background</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Category (All)</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic Background</b>	<b>% of Respondents per Category (one selected)</b>
<b>Australian</b>	89%	<b>Australian</b>	89.7%
<b>European</b>	11.8%	<b>European</b>	5.3%
<b>New Zealand</b>	5.2%	<b>New Zealand</b>	2.2%
<b>Aboriginal Australian</b>	3.5%	<b>Aboriginal Australian</b>	1.1%
<b>Asian</b>	2.5%	<b>Asian</b>	.7%
<b>Torres Strait Islander</b>	2%	<b>Torres Strait Islander</b>	.1%
<b>Other</b>	1.8%	<b>Other</b>	1%

**Table 2:3****Number of Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds Identified by Respondents (All)**

<b>No. of Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds</b>	<b>% of Respondents</b>
<b>One Category</b>	86.7%

Table 1

Two Categories	9.2%
Three Categories	2.0%
Four or more Categories	1.0%

## Demographics

### Gender

Of the 1533 surveys returned, the gender of 81 respondents was unable to be determined because no response was given to this question or a multiple response was given. Of the remaining 1452 respondents, 63.3% (919) were female and 36.7% (533) were male.

### Age

Of the 1533 surveys returned the age of 36 respondents was unable to be determined because no response was given to this question or a multiple response was given. The most common age reported by the remaining respondents was 35-44 years, followed by 25-34 years and 45-54 years respectively. Table 2:1 provides the number and percentage of male and female respondents in each age category. This gender and age group comparison was unable to be completed on 93 surveys where no response/or multiple response was given to the questions relating to age and gender.

Figure 2:1 provides a graphical depiction of the distribution of respondents by age and gender. Figure 2:1 shows that while female respondents had greatest representation in the age range of 25 to 44 years, male respondents were most heavily represented in the age range of 35 to 54 years. Overall, Figure 2:1 shows a reasonably normal distribution for males and females across age categories.

### Racial/Ethnic Background

Respondents were asked to identify those ethnic categories that they most identified with, more than one choice was acceptable. Most respondents selected an Australian Racial/Ethnic Background and most respondents selected only one category of racial/ethnic background. Refer Table 2:2 and 2:3. Those people who identified as Australian were less likely than any other group to select an additional racial/ethnic background. As respondents were able to select more than one racial/ethnic background it is difficult to assess this information comparatively with available ABS statistics, however, the information provided by respondents can be broken down in several ways that provides useful information.

Table 2:4 shows the number of Respondents in each racial/ethnic background that selected more than one racial/ethnic background. All people who identified as Torres Strait Islanders also identified as Australians. The greatest majority of respondents who selected two or more racial/ethnic backgrounds selected Australian as one of those categories. This strong identification of respondents as Australians while recognising other racial/ethnic backgrounds would seem to support the notion of an 'Australian Identity' that comprises of many racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Table 1

**Employment**

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the categories provided best described their employment situation. The greatest majority of respondents indicated that they had full time employment (38.1%), followed by full time homemaker (14.5%), retired (12%), self employed (10.5%), and part time employment (10.2%) respectively. A smaller percentage of respondents selected other categories, such as casual employment (5.9%), unemployed (3.1%), other (2.5%), university/TAFE student (2.1%), student with part time employment (0.7%), and secondary school student (0.5%).

**Accommodation**

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the categories provided best described their household. The greatest majority of respondents described themselves as a couple with children (50.4%), followed by couples (28.1%). Smaller percentages of respondents selected the categories living alone (8%), one parent with children (5.8%), extended family (5.4%), and share accommodation (2.3%).

**Table 2:4****Racial/Ethnic Background reported by Respondents who chose more than one Racial/Ethnic Background Category**

	<b>Australian</b>	<b>Aboriginal Australian</b>	<b>Torres Strait Islander</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>European</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Australian</b>	173 (1365)	31	25	23	103	48	13
<b>Aboriginal Australian</b>	31	38 (53)	21	12	12	9	2
<b>Torres Strait Islander</b>	25	21	31(31)	9	11	10	3
<b>Asian</b>	23	12	9	29(38)	16	7	1
<b>European</b>	103	12	11	16	111(181)	16	4
<b>New Zealand</b>	48	9	10	7	16	50(79)	4
<b>Other</b>	13	2	3	1	4	4	14(27)

**Table 2:5****% and Number of Respondents living in each Suburb**

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>% of Respondents identified suburb as place of residence</b>
<b>Alice River</b>	3.7% (51)
<b>Balgai</b>	0.9% (13)
<b>Black River</b>	2.4% (33)
<b>Bluewater</b>	1.6% (22)
<b>Bluewater Park</b>	0.6% (8)
<b>Bohle Plains</b>	0.4% (6)
<b>Bushland Beach</b>	3.5% (49)
<b>Condon</b>	7.3% (102)
<b>Deeragun</b>	4.1% (57)
<b>Jensen</b>	4.2% (59)
<b>Kelso</b>	16.4% (228)
<b>Kirwan</b>	33.6% (468)
<b>Mount Low</b>	1.9% (26)
<b>Rangewood</b>	2.7% (37)
<b>Rasmussen</b>	8.1% (113)
<b>Rollingstone</b>	1.2% (17)
<b>Saunders Beach</b>	1.2% (17)
<b>Shaw</b>	0.1% (2)
<b>Thuringowa Central</b>	1.7% (24)

Table 1

<b>Toolakea</b>	0.1% (1)
<b>Toolakea Beach</b>	0.1% (2)
<b>Toomulla</b>	0.1% (2)
<b>Yabulu</b>	1.1% (15)
<b>Other</b>	2.2% (31)

## **Suburb**

Respondents were asked to provide information about the suburb or town that they lived in and the length of time they had lived in that suburb. Table 2:5 provides the percentage and number of respondents who indicated the listed suburbs as their place of residence, 150 respondents did not provide information regarding which suburb was their place of residence. 46.7% of respondents indicated that they had lived in their current suburb for more than five (5) years, 23% between one (1) and three (3) years, 19.4% between three (3) and five (5) years, and 10.9% for less than one (1) year. 14 respondents did not reply to this question or chose multiple answers. More detailed information regarding each suburb is provided in the relevant section.

**Table 2:6 Feelings of Safety - All**

	<b>Response Categories</b>											
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>		<b>Agree</b>		<b>Unsure</b>		<b>Disagree</b>		<b>Strongly Disagree</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Safety Statements :Section One</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>I feel safe from crime in my own home</b>	6.5%	99	40.7%	620	19.5%	297	26.3%	401	6.9%	105	100%	1522
<b>I feel safe from crime when at Shopping Centres at night</b>	2.3%	34	22.8%	343	26.0%	391	36.6%	549	12.3%	185	100%	1502
<b>I feel safe when passing a group of young men on the street</b>	1.3%	20	16.8%	255	29.1%	422	36.0%	547	16.8%	256	100%	1520
<b>I feel safe when using parking lots at night</b>	1.3%	19	9.4%	143	19.9%	301	45.3%	686	24.2%	366	100%	1515
<b>I feel safe when travelling to and from work/school alone</b>	11.8%	175	62.3%	926	11.9%	177	11.4%	170	2.6%	39	100%	1487
<b>I feel safe when out alone in my neighbourhood during the day</b>	12.2%	185	57.4%	870	15.6%	237	11.8%	179	3.0%	46	100%	1517
<b>I feel safe when out alone in my neighbourhood at night</b>	2.0%	31	15.9%	240	18.5%	280	40.2%	608	23.4%	354	100%	1513

**Table 2:7 Feelings of Safety – Gender**

Concern Statement : Section One	Response Categories											
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
I feel safe from crime in my own home	5.8%	6.9%	40.5%	41.1%	20%	20%	26%	26%	7.7%	6%	100%	100%
	31	63	215	375	106	182	138	237	41	55	531	912
I feel safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood during the day	14.2%	10.8%	58.3%	58.4%	12.7%	16.8%	11.9%	11.2%	2.8%	2.9%	100%	100%
	75	98	308	531	67	153	63	102	15	26	528	910
I feel safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood at night	2.5%	1.9%	23.4%	11.5%	21.6%	16.5%	36.1%	42.9%	16.4%	27.2%	100%	100%
	13	17	124	104	114	150	191	389	87	247	529	907
I feel safe when passing a group of young men on the street	1.7%	1%	24.3%	12.4%	30.2%	28.8%	34%	37.2%	9.8%	20.6%	100%	100%
	9	9	129	113	160	263	180	340	52	188	530	913
I feel safe from crime when at Shopping Centres at night	2.8%	1.6%	27.9%	20.5%	24.7%	27.2%	33.4%	38.3%	11.1%	12.5%	100%	100%
	15	14	148	184	131	244	177	344	59	112	530	898
I feel safe from crime when using parking lots at night	1.9%	0.9%	14.7%	6.1%	25%	17.2%	41.2%	48.3%	17.1%	27.6%	100%	100%
	10	8	78	55	133	156	219	438	91	250	531	907
I feel safe when travelling to and from work/school alone	12.2%	11%	66.1%	61.3%	10.5%	12.5%	9.5%	12.3%	1.7%	2.9%	100%	100%
	63	99	341	552	54	113	49	111	9	26	516	901

**Table 2:8 Merged Age Categories used in Analysis or Responses by Age**

Merged Age Categories	% (n) of Respondents in Merged Age Category
12-24 years	5.7% (87)
25-34 years	23.9% (366)
35-44 years	28.8% (441)
45-54 years	21.9% (336)

Table 1

55-64 years	11.6% (178)
Over 65 years	5.8% (89)

## Concern about Crime

Prior to examining specific issues and locations that are of concern to the community of Thuringowa, it is useful to consider the general level of concern and even fear of crime that is experienced by people living in this region.

### Feelings of Safety

Survey respondents were asked to respond to statements relating to their personal feelings of safety in specific situations. Seven statements concerning feelings of safety from crime were posed to respondents, with responses ranging along a five-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

### Crime in Suburb

Respondents were asked to respond to two statements relating to crime in their own suburb with a response format ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Two dichotomous questions were asked about crime increases in their suburb with a response format of yes or no. Two multi part questions were asked regarding areas in their suburb where they feel unsafe, parts of this question were open ended and responses coded by researchers and volunteers supervised by researchers.

### Feelings of Safety - All

Feelings of safety varied between the situations described in the survey statements. When considered as a single group, respondents tended to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe from crime in their own home, while out in their neighbourhood during the day, and when travelling to and from work/school (Statements 1, 5, and 6). However in response to statements about using public areas at night and young men in public space, respondents tended to report diminished feelings of safety (Statements 2,3, 4, and 7). Refer Table 2:6.

**Respondents felt most safe (from crime) when at home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, and when travelling to and from work/school. Respondents felt diminished feelings of safety when using shopping centres at night and while out alone in their neighbourhood at night. Of the situations respondents were asked about, respondents felt most unsafe when passing a group of young men on the street.**

### Feelings of Safety – Gender

Responses to all questions were examined to detect any differences in the way surveyed males and females responded. Table 2:7 provides the percentage and number of male and female respondents who selected each of the five response options when answering questions in Section One of the survey that related to concern about crime. Males and females expressed feeling similar levels of safety in their own home, 46.3% of males and 48% of females agreeing or strongly agreeing that they felt safe from crime in their own home. Males and females also expressed feeling similar levels of safety in their neighbourhood during the day, 72.5% of males and 69.2% of females agreeing or strongly agreeing that they felt safe from crime when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day. Males and females expressed feeling similar levels of safety when travelling alone to and from work/school, 78.3% of males and 72.3% of females agreeing or strongly agreeing that they felt safe in this situation.

Significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to the statement; *I feel safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood at night*, with females

Table 1

more likely to disagree or strongly disagree that they felt safe from crime in this situation,  $\chi^2(4) = 55.80$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . Significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to the statement; I feel safe when passing a group of young men on the street, with females more likely to disagree or strongly disagree that they felt safe in this situation,  $\chi^2(4) = 54.62$ ,  $p < 0.001$ .

Table 2:9 Feelings of Safety – Victimisation

	Response Categories											
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
Concern Statement : Section One	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
<b>I feel safe from crime in my own home</b>												
No Victimisation	9.2%	55	49%	293	19.9%	119	17.7%	106	4.2%	25	100%	598
Property Victimisation	5.2%	33	36.9%	234	18.6%	118	32.3%	205	6.9%	44	100%	634
Personal/Violent Victimisation	4.6%	4	39.8%	43	15.7%	17	30.6%	33	9.3%	10	100%	108
Both Victimisation	3.3%	6	27.5%	50	23.6%	43	31.3%	57	14.3%	26	100%	182
<b>I feel safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood during the day</b>												
No Victimisation	14.8%	88	58.9%	350	16.2%	96	7.9%	47	2.2%	13	100%	594
Property Victimisation	11.7%	74	58.2%	369	13.4%	85	13.9%	88	2.8%	18	100%	634
Personal/Violent Victimisation	12.0%	13	57.4%	62	16.7%	18	12%	13	1.9%	2	100%	108
Both Victimisation	5.5%	10	49.2%	89	21%	38	17.1%	31	7.2%	13	100%	181
<b>I feel safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood at night</b>												
No Victimisation	3%	18	17.8%	106	20.5%	122	38.3%	228	20.3%	121	100%	595
Property Victimisation	1.1%	7	15.9%	100	17.3%	109	42.4%	267	23.2%	146	100%	629
Personal/Violent Victimisation	0.9%	1	12%	13	20.4%	22	38%	41	28.7%	31	100%	108
Both Victimisation	2.8%	5	11.6%	21	14.9%	27	39.8%	72	30.9%	56	100%	181
<b>I feel safe when passing a group of young men on the street</b>												
No Victimisation	1.2%	7	19%	114	28.9%	173	34.7%	208	16.2%	97	100%	599
Property Victimisation	1.4%	9	15.7%	100	32.4%	205	35.2%	223	15.2%	96	100%	633

Table 1

Personal/Violent Victimisation	1.9%	2	12%	13	22.2%	24	41.7%	45	22.2%	24	100%	108
Both Victimisation	1.1%	2	15.6%	28	22.2%	40	39.4%	71	21.7%	39	100%	180
<b>I feel safe from crime when at Shopping Centres at night</b>												
No Victimisation	2.4%	14	26%	153	29.4%	173	32.8%	193	9.5%	56	100%	589
Property Victimisation	2.2%	14	22.6%	141	24.8%	155	40%	250	10.4%	65	100%	625
Personal/Violent Victimisation	2.8%	3	12%	13	25.9%	28	44.4%	48	14.8%	16	100%	108
Both Victimisation	1.7%	3	20%	36	19.4%	35	32.2%	58	26.7%	48	100%	180
<b>I feel safe from crime when using parking lots at night</b>												
No Victimisation	1.2%	7	11.3%	67	23.4%	138	43.1%	255	21%	124	100%	591
Property Victimisation	0.9%	6	9%	57	18.1%	115	48.8%	310	23.1%	147	100%	635
Personal/Violent Victimisation	0.9%	1	4.6%	5	17.6%	19	48.1%	52	28.7%	31	100%	108
Both Victimisation	2.8%	5	7.7%	14	16%	29	38.1%	69	35.4%	64	100%	181
<b>I feel safe when travelling to and from work/school alone</b>												
No Victimisation	11.7%	68	67.2%	392	10.6%	62	8.1%	47	2.4%	14	100%	583
Property Victimisation	13.4%	83	60.4%	375	13.2%	82	11.0%	68	2.1%	13	100%	621
Personal/Violent Victimisation	9.4%	10	61.3%	65	10.4%	11	17%	18	1.9%	2	100%	106
Both Victimisation	7.9%	14	53.1%	94	12.4%	22	20.9%	37	5.6%	10	100%	177

Significant differences were found between male and female in their responses to the statement; I feel safe from crime at Shopping Centres at night, with females more likely to disagree or strongly disagree that they felt safe from crime in this situation,  $\chi^2(4) = 14.04, p < 0.01$ . Significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to the statement; I feel safe when using parking lots at night, with females more likely to disagree or strongly disagree that they felt safe in this situation,  $\chi^2(4) = 55.87, p < 0.001$ .

**Females reported diminished feelings of safety (when compared to males) when using shopping centres at night, when out alone in their neighbourhood at night and when passing a group of young men on the street. Females felt most unsafe when using parking lots at night.**

#### **Feelings of Safety – Age**

Note: Few respondents reported their age in the categories of 12-18 years (1.2%, 17) and over 75 years (0.6%, 8). To enable these respondents to be included in the analysis of age differences, these categories were merged with 19-24 years and 65-74 years respectively. Table 2:8 shows the age categories utilised in the following analyses.

Responses to all questions were examined to detect any differences in the responses made by respondents according to age. No significant differences between age categories were found between responses made to any of the statements in Section One relating to concern about crime.

**Respondent's age had no effect on their feelings of safety in response to any of the statements.**

### **Feelings of Safety - Victimization**

Responses to all questions were examined to detect any differences in the way respondents answered in relation to the level of victimisation they reported within the survey. Victimization was examined in the following way; no victimisation, responded 'no' when asked if victim of property crime and personal/violent crime; property victimisation, responded 'yes' to property crime but no to personal/violent crime; personal/violent victimisation, responded no to property crime but yes to personal/violent crime; both victimisation, responded 'yes' to property crime and 'yes' to personal/violent crime. For the purposes of comparison personal/violent crime is considered as a higher level of victimisation than is property crime.

Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and feelings of safety in response to almost all of the statements in Section One of the survey. as victimisation levels increased, feelings of safety in the respondents own home decreased. 30.8% of respondents who reported 'both' victimisation agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe in their own home, while 58.2% of respondents who reported 'no' victimisation responded in the same way,  $\chi^2(12)=84.23$ ,  $p<0.001$ . See Table 2:9.

No significant differences were found between levels of victimisation when feelings of safety while out alone in the neighbourhood during the day were examined. Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and responses regarding feelings of safety while out alone in the neighbourhood during the night. Respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation felt more (than all other categories) unsafe while out alone in the neighbourhood at night, followed by respondents who reported 'both' victimisation, 'property' victimisation, and those who reported 'no' victimisation felt most safe,  $\chi^2(12)=23.83$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and reported levels of 'safety feelings' in respondents answers to use of parking lots at night. Respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation reported more (than all other categories) diminished feelings of safety when asked about the use of parking lots at night, only 5.5% of respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation agreed or strongly agreed they felt safe when using parking lots at night, while 12.5% of respondents who reported 'no victimisation' responded in the same way,  $\chi^2(12)=33.36$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Beyond the differences of reported feelings of safety is the generally low percentage of respondents in all categories that reported diminished feelings of safety in the described situation.

Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and reported levels of 'safety feelings' when at shopping centres at night. Again victims of personal/violent crime were less likely (than all other categories) to agree or strongly agree that they felt safe from crime in this situation,  $\chi^2(4) = 58.43$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Only 14.8% of respondents who reported 'personal/violent/ victimisation agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, while 28.4% of respondents who reported 'no' victimisation agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe in this situation.

No significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and reported levels of 'safety feelings' when passing a group of young men on the street. The pattern of reported 'safety feelings' found in response to the other statements discussed above applied to this issue also; 13.9% of respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation agreed or strongly agreed they felt safe, while 20.2% of respondents who reported 'no' victimisation responded in the same way.

**Respondents reported level of victimisation had no effect on reported levels of safety when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, and when passing a group of young men on the street. Respondents who reported personal/violent victimisation reported greatest diminished feelings of safety (followed by 'both') in response to almost all other situations described; out alone in their neighbourhood at night, when using shopping centres at night, and when using parking lots at night. Respondents who reported 'both' levels of victimisation reported greatest diminished feelings of safety when in their own home.**

**Feelings of Safety – Household Type**

No significant differences were found between the reported type of household and feelings of safety in the home. Parents with children were most likely to report diminished feelings of safety when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, while respondents living in share accommodation reported greatest feelings of safety in this situation,  $\chi^2 (20) = 41.31, p < 0.01$ . No significant differences were found between the reported type of household and feelings of safety out alone in their neighbourhood at night.

Respondents who reported their household as a parent with children reported more diminished feelings of safety when using shopping centres at night, while respondents who reported their household as share accommodation reported greatest feelings of safety when using shopping centres at night,  $\chi^2 (20) = 38.47, p < 0.01$ . No significant differences were found between the reported type of household and feelings of safety when using parking lots at night.

No significant differences were found between the reported type of household and feelings of safety when passing a group of young men on the street.

No significant differences were found between the reported type of household and feelings of safety when travelling to and from work/school alone.

**Household type had a limited effect on feelings of safety in specific situations. Those living in share accommodation felt safest (of all household types) when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, and when at shopping centres at night. A parent with children felt diminished feelings of safety in both of these situations.**

**Feelings of Safety – Time Lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and feelings of safety in the home. Respondents who reported suburb residency as over 5 years were most likely to report diminished feelings of safety in their home, while respondents who reported residency of less than one (1) year reported greatest feelings of safety in this situation,  $\chi^2 (12) = 29.75, p < 0.01$ .

No significant differences were found between the reported length of suburb residency and feelings of safety when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day or at night.

No significant differences were found between the reported length of suburb residency and feelings of safety using shopping centres or parking lots at night.

No significant differences were found between the reported length of suburb residency and feelings of safety when passing a group of young men on the street.

No significant differences were found between the reported length of suburb residency and feelings of safety when travelling to and from work/school alone.

**Time lived in suburb only had an effect when respondents feelings of safety in their own home was examined. As the time lived in suburb increased, respondents feelings of safety in their own home diminished.**

## Crime in Suburb - All

42.5% of the total respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'Crime is a problem in my suburb', while 26.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. 40.7% of the total respondents agreed or strongly agreed that *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*, while 21.1% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. 68.1% of respondents said 'yes' when asked if property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years, while 49.2% said 'yes' when asked if personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

Respondents were also asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe during the day followed by a question relating to areas at night. 21.2% of respondents reported that there were areas within their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe during the day and 62.9% reported areas where they felt unsafe during the night. Local parks (38.8% day, 26.5% night), specific streets (18% day, 24.4% night), and entertainment venues or shopping centres (13.7% day, 15.4% night) were the most common areas where people felt unsafe. The most common reasons respondents gave for feeling unsafe were that they felt unsafe around people who frequent that place (54.9% day, 39.7% night) and poor lighting or poor design (14.3% day, 31.8% night). Responses were coded as 'felt unsafe around people who frequent that place' if they referred to a specific group of people or a specific type of behaviour by people. Responses were coded as 'poor lighting, poor design' if they referred to lighting, pathways, isolation from open public view (obstructed by buildings or vegetation). More detail regarding respondent's answers to these questions is provided in the Suburbs section, as these questions specifically referred to areas in the respondent's own neighbourhood.

**Respondents tended to agree that crime was a problem (in their suburb) and had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were more likely to report beliefs that property crime had increased in their suburb, rather than personal violent crime, however, most respondents believed that both crimes had increased.**

**The majority of respondents reported there were no areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe during the day, while the majority of respondents reported there were areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe at night. The areas where people felt unsafe were similar for both day and night, local parks generated most safety concern, followed by specific streets, and entertainment and shopping venues. Concern about safety during the day was often for reported reasons 'felt unsafe around people who frequent that place', while concern about safety at night was often reasons such as 'felt unsafe around people who frequent that place' and 'poor lighting, poor design'.**

## Crime in Suburb – Gender

Respondents were asked to respond to two statements in Section One regarding crime in their suburb. There were no significant differences between males and females in their response to the statement; *Crime is a problem in my suburb*. A small percentage of males or females strongly agreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, 34.4% of males and 32.1% of females agreed, 27.6% of males and 33.7% of females were unsure, and 23.4% of males and 21.3% of females disagreed. Significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to the statement; *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*, 43% of females were unsure while males tended to agree or strongly agree with this statement,  $\chi^2(4) = 27.58, p < 0.001$ .

Respondents were asked if they believed that property crime and personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years. There were no significant differences in the responses of males and females to these questions, slightly more respondents believing that property crime had increased (67.4% males, 68.4% females) than believed that personal/violent crime had increased (53.2% males, 46.2% females).

Respondents were also asked if there were areas in their suburb where they did not feel safe during the day followed by a question relating to areas at night where they didn't feel safe.

## Table 1

Males and females responded in a similar manner when asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe during the day; 79.3% of males and 78.6% of females said there were no such areas in their neighbourhood. For those respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day, males were slightly more likely (than females) to nominate local entertainment venues and shopping centres and females were more likely (than males) to nominate a local beach. However, the most commonly nominated area was local parks for both males and females,  $\chi^2(4) = 14.01$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . There were no significant differences between males and females in the reasons given for feeling unsafe.

There were no significant differences between males and females when asked about areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe during the night. 56% of males and 67.1% of females reported that there were areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe at night. For those respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day, males were slightly more likely (than females) to nominate local entertainment venues and shopping centres and females were more likely (than males) to give responses that were coded to the 'other' section,  $\chi^2(4) = 14.76$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . There were no significant differences between males and females in the reasons given for feeling unsafe.

**Respondents gender had no effect on beliefs that crime was a problem in their suburb, but males were more likely to agree that crime had a negative effect on lifestyle in their suburb, while females were unsure. Respondents gender had no effect on their beliefs regarding increases (in their suburb) of property crime or personal/violent crime.**

**Gender had no effect on respondents safety concerns regarding specific areas in their neighbourhood during the day, however, after local parks, females reported more concern about their local beach while males were more likely to nominate entertainment venues and shopping centres. Gender also had no effect on respondents safety concerns regarding specific areas in their neighbourhood at night, however, females concerns were more widespread in terms of areas where they felt unsafe. Gender had no effect on respondent's reasons for feeling unsafe either during the day or at night.**

### Crime in Suburb - Age

Respondents were asked to respond to two statements in Section One regarding crime in their suburb. Significant differences were found between age categories in their response to the statement; *Crime is a problem in my suburb*, however, these differences proved difficult to interpret due to the large percentage of people in all age categories that responded that they were 'unsure'. Respondents aged between 12-24 years and 25-34 years were most unsure about this statement,  $\chi^2(20) = 44.35 = 0.001$ . To enable further interpretation, responses were reanalysed without the 'unsure' category and no significant differences were found. Thus, the interpretation concluded that people in younger age categories tended to be more unsure as to whether crime is a problem in their suburb, while older age categories tended to be firmer in their belief, whether that was agreement or disagreement.

Significant differences were found between age categories in their responses to the statement; *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*. Again a large percentage of respondents in all age categories were unsure; younger age categories tended to be most unsure in their responses, with beliefs tending to be firmer as age increased,  $\chi^2(20) = 43.07 = 0.01$ . As with the previous statement, further interpretation was attempted by removing the 'unsure' category from analysis. Weakened but still significant differences were found between age categories. As age increased, the likelihood that respondents would agree or strongly agree that 'crime has a negative impact on the lifestyle of people in my suburb' decreased,  $\chi^2(15) = 29.30 = 0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between age categories in their responses to the question *Do you believe that property crime has increased in your suburb in the last three (3) years*, with most respondents in all age categories agreeing that it had (68.1% all respondents). No significant differences were found between age categories in their responses to the question *Do you believe that personal/violent crime has increased in your suburb in the last three (3) years*, with respondents almost evenly split in their responses (49% yes, 51% no).

Respondents were also asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe during the day followed by a question relating to areas at night.

No significant differences were found between age categories in the responses when asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe during the day, however, respondents aged over 55 years were less likely to respond that there were areas where they felt unsafe during the day. Significant differences were found between age categories in the areas they did not feel safe; respondents aged between 12-14 most often named specific streets, while all other age categories most often nominated local parks,  $\chi^2(30) = 43.92 = 0.05$ . There were no significant differences between age categories in the reasons given for feeling unsafe.

Significant differences were found between age categories when asked about areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe during the night, respondents aged over 65 years were less likely (than all other age categories) to report that there were areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe at night,  $\chi^2 (5) 12.22=0.05$ .

**No significant differences were found between age categories in the places in their neighbourhood where they nominated as feeling unsafe at night; respondents aged 12-24 years were less likely (than all other age categories) to report local parks as an area where they felt unsafe. There were no significant differences between age categories in the reasons given for feeling unsafe.**

**Beliefs about crime being a problem in their suburb and having a negative effect on lifestyle in their suburb become firmer (either agreement or disagreement) as respondents age increased. Respondent's age had no effect on beliefs about property and personal/violent crime increases in their suburb in the last three (3) years.**

**Young people tended to nominate specific streets of concern for them, while all other age categories most commonly nominated local parks. Aside from this, age had no other effect on areas of safety concern in respondent's neighbourhood during the day or at night.**

**Respondents over 65 years were most likely to report no areas of safety concern in their neighbourhood at night. Reasons for this are unclear, however, people aged over 65 may indeed feel safer (than other ages) in their suburb at night, or people aged over 65 years may be less likely (than other ages) to engage in activities that require them to be in their neighbourhood at night, or people aged over 65 years may be so concerned about crime that they do not venture into their neighbourhood at night as often as younger people. As respondents were not asked if they 'went out in their neighbourhood at night' it is not possible to be certain as to the reasons why people aged over 65 years were less likely to report areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe at night.**

### Crime in Suburb - Victimization

Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; *Crime is a problem in my suburb*. Respondents who reported 'both' victimisation were most likely to agree or strongly agree, followed by 'property' victims, 'personal' victims, with those respondents who reported 'no' victimisation least likely to agree or strongly agree with this statement,  $\chi^2 (12) =84.17, p<0.001$ . Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*; 53.8% of respondents who reported 'both' victimisation agreed or strongly agreed, followed by 'property' victims, 'personal' victims, and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation had the lowest levels of agreement with the statement (34.8%),  $\chi^2 (12) = 44.57, p<0.001$ .

Respondents were asked if they believed that property crime and personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years. Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and responses to these questions. Not surprisingly, respondents who reported 'both' levels and 'property' levels of victimisation were most likely to indicate they believed property crime had increased, although the majority of all respondents held this belief,  $\chi^2 (12) = 17.38, p<0.001$ . When asked about personal/violent crime, respondents who reported 'both' levels of victimisation and 'personal/violent' levels of victimisation were most likely to indicate they believed personal/violent crime had increased,  $\chi^2 (12) = 16.12, p<0.001$ .

Significant differences were found between victimisation levels when respondents were asked if there were areas in their neighbourhood where they did not feel safe during the day. Respondents who reported 'both' victimisation (35.5%) and 'personal/violent' victimisation (26.8%) were most likely to report that there were such areas in their neighbourhood, followed by 'property' victims (20.6%), and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation (16.3%),  $\chi^2 (3) = 30.28, p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between victimisation levels and the specific areas where respondents felt unsafe, or for the reasons given for feeling unsafe, that is, respondents reported similar areas and similar reasons regardless of the reported victimisation level.

Table 1

Significant differences were found between reported victimisation levels when asked about areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe during the night; respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation (74.7%) or 'both' victimisation (72.2%) were most likely to report that there were such areas in their neighbourhood, followed by 'property' victims (67.2%), and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation (67.2%),  $\chi^2(3) = 35.20, p < 0.001$ . Aside from these differences it is important to note that the majority of all respondents reported areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe. Significant differences were found between levels of victimisation and areas where respondents felt unsafe; respondents who reported 'property' and 'no' victimisation were most likely to name local parks, while respondents who reported 'both' and 'personal/violent' victimisation most often gave reasons that were coded as other,  $\chi^2(3) = 43.28, p < 0.01$ . This propensity for responses made by respondents of 'both' and 'personal/violent' victimisation to be recorded within the 'other' category suggests that the coding categories did not adequately cater to the concerns of these respondents in terms of the areas where they felt unsafe. No significant differences were found between reported victimisation levels and reasons respondents gave for feeling unsafe in specific areas of their suburb at night.  $\chi^2(3) = 35.20, p < 0.001$

**Respondents who reported any victimisation (as compared to no victimisation) more often believed that crime was a problem in their suburb and that crime had a negative effect on lifestyle, with property crime victimisation appearing to have most effect on this belief. Victimization also effected beliefs about crime increases in their suburb. Property crime victimisation most affecting belief about property crime increases, and personal/violent victimisation most affecting belief about personal/violent crime increases.**

**Degree of victimisation appeared to have most effect on increased reporting of areas in their neighbourhood where respondents felt unsafe during the day. Reported victimisation levels had no effect on areas where respondents felt unsafe, nor on the reasons they felt unsafe. Personal/violent victimisation appeared to have most effect on increased reporting of areas in their neighbourhood where respondents felt unsafe at night. Respondents who reported personal/violent victimisation also reported a more diverse range of areas where they felt unsafe than did respondents who reported no personal/violent victimisation. Reported victimisation levels had no effect on reasons for feeling unsafe in the nominated areas at night.**

#### **Crime in Suburb – Household Type**

Significant differences were found between the type of household and responses to the statement; *Crime is a problem in my suburb*. Respondents who reported they had children were more likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement, while respondents in share accommodation were least likely to agree or strongly agree,  $\chi^2(20) = 34.17, p < 0.05$ . Respondents in share accommodation were also least likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement; *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*,  $\chi^2(20) = 34.87, p < 0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between the type of household and beliefs that property or personal/violent crime had increased in the last three (3) years.

No significant differences were found between the type of household and responses regarding areas in their neighbourhood where respondents felt unsafe during the day, nomination of specific areas, or reasons for feeling unsafe. Significant differences were found between the type of household and responses regarding areas in their neighbourhood where respondents felt unsafe at night. Respondents who reported they had children or were living in an extended family were more likely to report areas where they felt unsafe at night,  $\chi^2(5) = 20.6, p < 0.001$ . No significant differences were found between the type of household and nomination of specific areas, or reasons given for feeling unsafe.

**Those in share accommodation were least likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb or that it had a negative impact on lifestyle. Households that reported having children were most likely to indicate there were areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe at night.**

#### **Crime in Suburb – Time Lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between the time lived in the respondents current suburb and responses to the statement; *Crime is a problem in my suburb*. As length of residency increased, so did the likelihood that respondents would agree or strongly agree with the statement,  $\chi^2(12) = 59.45, p < 0.001$ . Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to the statement; *Crime has a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in my suburb*. As length of residency increased so did the likelihood that respondents would agree or strongly agree with the statement,  $\chi^2(12) = 59.45, p < 0.001$ .

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and belief that property/violent crime had increased in the last three (3) years. As length of residency increased, so did the likelihood that respondents would express the belief that property crime had increased,  $\chi^2 (3) = 26.33, p < 0.001$ . There were no significant differences between length of residency and responses when asked of property/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current neighbourhood and responses regarding areas in their suburb where respondents felt unsafe during the day. As length of residency increased, so did the likelihood that respondents would report areas where they felt unsafe during the day,  $\chi^2 (3) = 9.08, p < 0.05$ . No significant differences were found between the reported length of neighbourhood residency and the nomination of specific areas where people felt unsafe or the reasons they gave for feeling unsafe.

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses regarding areas in their neighbourhood where respondents felt unsafe at night. As length of residency increased so did the likelihood that respondents would report areas where they felt unsafe at night,  $\chi^2 (3) = 11.1, p < 0.05$ . No significant differences were found between the reported length of suburb residency and the nomination of specific areas where people felt unsafe or the reasons they gave for feeling unsafe.

**The longer a respondent had lived in a suburb the more likely they were to indicate that crime was problematic in their neighbourhood, that property crime had increased, and that crime affected lifestyles. The longer a respondent had lived in a suburb the more likely they were to indicate there were areas in their neighbourhood where they felt unsafe, day and night.**

### Attitudes toward Crime

Surveys that examine community attitudes regarding crime issues typically look at attitudes that may be held by respondents; particularly attitudes that may not be supported by reported evidence such as police statistics. As attitudes towards crime was not the primary focus of this research, the crime attitude questions were limited to those asking directly about groups of people generally of heightened concern to the community when crime is discussed, young people and the elderly.

#### Attitudes toward Crime

Survey respondents were asked to respond to several statements relating to offender and victim issues. Four statements concerning attitudes towards crime were posed to respondents, with responses ranging along a five-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

#### Attitude towards Crime - All

52.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is young people (under 24 years) who commit most crime, and only 10.3% agreed or strongly agreed that young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime. The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that young people make a positive contribution to the community.

57.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that elderly people are more likely than others to be victims of crime.

**The majority of respondents believed that young people are more likely to commit crime than they are to be victims of crime. The majority of respondents believed that elderly people are most likely to be victims of crime.**

### Attitudes toward Crime - Gender

Respondents were asked for responses to statements directly related to offender and victim issues. There were significant differences between males and females in response to the statement; *It is young people (under 24 years) who commit the most crime*, 61.9% of males agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, while females tended to more unsure regarding this statement. 45.9% of females agreed or strongly agreed while a further 32.5% were unsure,  $\chi^2(4)=37.79$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

There were no significant differences between males and females in response to the statement; *Young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*, with most respondents either disagreeing (48.2% males, 49.3% females) or reporting that they were unsure (32.4% males, 33.2% females).

Significant differences were found between males and females in response to the statement; *I believe that young people make a positive contribution to the Community*; Males were more likely to disagree with the statement (16.1% male, 10.6% female), while females were more likely to agree (45.2% males, 54.6% females),  $\chi^2(4)=17.17$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Regardless of the differences between males and females in response to this question, it should be seen as positive that the majority of respondents, both male (55.8%) and female (64.4%) agreed or strongly agreed that young people make a positive contribution to the Community.

Significant differences were found between males and females in response to the statement; *Elderly people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*, males were more likely (than females) to agree or strongly agree (63.9% males, 52.5% females) and females were more likely (than males) to disagree (17.3% males, 26.5% females),  $\chi^2(4)=29.63$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

**Males reported greater belief that young people commit most crime, while females tended to be unsure. Gender had no effect on respondent's belief that young people are more likely than others to be victims of crime, few agreed. Females were most likely to agree that young people make a positive contribution to the community.**

**Males reported greater belief that elderly people were more likely than others to be the victims of crime.**

### Attitude towards Crime - Age

Respondents were asked for responses to statements directly related to offender and victim issues. There were significant differences between age categories in response to the statement; *It is young people (under 24 years) who commit the most crime*, respondents aged between 12-24 were most likely (of all age categories) to disagree or strongly disagree and least likely to agree or strongly agree, while respondents aged over 65 were least likely (of all age categories) to disagree or strongly disagree,  $\chi^2(20) 44.13=0.001$ . There were no significant differences between males and females in response to the statement; *Young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*, with most respondents either disagreeing or reporting that they were unsure. Young people (12-24 years) were least likely (of all age categories) to agree or strongly agree (5.9%) that *Young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*.

No significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; *I believe that young people make a positive contribution to the Community*; It is interesting to note that respondents aged over 65 were most likely (of all age categories) to agree or strongly agree (68.6%) and young people (12-24 years) were least likely (of all age categories) to agree or strongly agree (50.6%) with the statement.

Significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; *Elderly people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*, as age increased so did the likelihood that respondents would agree or strongly agree with the statement. 41.4% of respondents aged 12-24 years agreed or strongly agreed, while 74.7% of respondents aged over 55 agreed or strongly agreed that *Elderly people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime*,  $\chi^2(20)=70.37$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

**Young people (12-24 years) were most likely to disagree that young people commit most crime, while people aged over 65 were more unsure than all other categories. Young people were least likely to believe that young people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime, while other age categories disagreed or were unsure. While most respondents agreed that young people make a positive contribution to the community, people aged over 65 years were most likely to agree, and young people were least likely to agree.**

**Respondent's age affected belief that elderly people were more likely than others to be the victims of crime, as age increased so did the likelihood that respondents would agree with the statement.**

### **Attitude towards Crime - Victimisation**

Respondents were asked for responses to statements directly related to offender and victim issues. There were no significant differences between reported levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; It is young people (under 24 years) who commit the most crime. Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; Young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime, while a large percentage of all respondents tended to report they were 'unsure' in response to this question, respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation were most unsure (40.7%),  $\chi^2 (3) = 22.87, p < 0.05$ . There were no significant differences between reported levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; I believe that young people make a positive contribution to the Community. There were no significant differences between reported levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; Elderly people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime,  $\chi^2 (4) = 29.63, p < 0.001$ .

**Reported levels of victimisation had no effect on respondents beliefs regarding the statements concerning; young people as offenders, young peoples contribution to the community, and elderly people as victims. Reported victimisation levels appeared to have an effect on respondent's beliefs regarding young people as victims of crime, but aside from the increased likelihood that 'personal/violent' victims were most unsure, this affect was not clear.**

### **Attitudes towards Crime – Household Type**

No significant differences were found between the type of household and responses made to any of the statements related to attitudes towards crime.

### **Attitudes towards Crime – Time Lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to the statement; It is young people (under 24 years) who commit the most crime. As length of residency increased so did the likelihood that respondents would agree or strongly agree with the statement,  $\chi^2 (12) = 46.44, p < 0.001$ . No significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to the statement; Young people (under 24 years) are more likely than others to be the victims of crime. No significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to the statement; I believe that young people make a positive contribution to the Community.

Significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to the statement; Elderly people are more likely than others to be the victims of crime. Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one (1) year were least likely to agree or strongly agree with the statement,  $\chi^2 (12) = 29.97, p < 0.01$ .

**Length of residency in a suburb had a limited effect on attitudes towards crime when asked about within the survey. The longer a respondent lived in a suburb the more likely they were to agree that young people committed most crime.**

**Table 2:10 Attitudes towards Crime Prevention - All**

	Response Categories											
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Unsure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
Crime Prevention Statements : Section One	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime	25%	377	58.7%	886	11.1%	168	4.1%	62	1.1%	17	100%	1510
Effective community programs that tackle crime issues would benefit my suburb	20.5%	311	57.7%	875	18.6%	282	2.6%	39	0.6%	9	100%	1516
Police alone cannot prevent crime in the community	40%	608	54.5%	829	2.3%	35	2.2%	33	1.1%	16	100%	1521
The Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community	4.0%	60	32.5%	492	32.3%	489	23.6%	357	7.6%	115	100%	1513
Crime Prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime (unemployment, poverty, isolation, etc)	38.7%	589	45.9%	699	9.1%	139	4.7%	72	1.5%	23	100%	1522

**Table 2:11 Attitudes towards Crime Prevention - Gender**

	Merged Response Categories								
	Agree or Strongly Agree		Unsure		Disagree or Strongly Disagree		Total		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	

Table 1

Crime Prevention Statements : Section One	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count										
The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime	83.5%	440	83.7%	758	9.9%	52	12.0%	109	6.6%	35	26%	237	100%	527	100%	906
Effective community programs that tackle crime issues would benefit my suburb	79.6%	422	77.2%	701	14.9%	79	20.7%	188	5.5%	29	2.1%	19	100%	530	100%	908
Police alone cannot prevent crime in the community	91.9%	487	96.1%	876	2.1%	11	2.2%	20	6.1%	32	1.7%	16	100%	530	100%	912
The Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community	32.8%	174	37.9%	344	28.3%	150	35.8%	324	38.9%	195	26.3%	238	100%	530	100%	906
Crime Prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime (unemployment, poverty, isolation, etc)	82.6%	438	85.2%	777	7%	37	10.9%	99	10.4%	55	4%	26	100%	530	100%	912

### Crime Prevention

It is considered that the community, with appropriate levels of support, in terms of effective program design, resourcing and training can be effective, (and are in fact necessary) for crime prevention to reach optimum levels of effectiveness. Community involvement in crime prevention can and should run the gamut of involvement levels, from reporting crime via services such as Crimestoppers, to attending Neighbourhood Watch meetings, through to active involvement in social programs that seek to prevent crime through addressing causal factors.

### Attitudes towards Crime Prevention

Survey respondents were asked to respond to statements relating to attitudes toward crime prevention, specifically the role of the community and the police. Five statements concerning attitudes towards crime prevention were posed to respondents, with responses ranging along a five-point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

### Crime Prevention Programs

Respondents were asked one question regarding crime prevention programs/services/facilities they would like introduced in their suburb. Ten (10) program concepts were listed and an other category was provided, multiple selections were allowed.

### Safety Strategies undertaken in the last year

Respondents were asked one question regarding strategies they had undertaken in the last year to improve their or their family's safety. Thirteen (13) safety measures were listed and an "other" category was provided, multiple selections were allowed.

### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention - All**

36.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community, while 32.3% were unsure, and 31.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, however respondents unequivocally supported the statement that *Police alone cannot prevent crime in the community*, with 94.5% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement. Refer Table 2:10.

The need for community involvement in crime prevention was further supported by the responses made to statements directly targeted at community based crime prevention. 83.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention, and 78.2% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like effective community based crime prevention programs in their suburb. In relation to crime prevention programs, 84.6% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that crime prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime. Refer Table 2:10.

**The majority of respondents agreed that crime prevention programs should target the underlying causes of crime and that effective crime prevention programs would benefit their suburb, and that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention. Respondents were more unsure as to whether police are doing a good job tackling crime in the community, however, nearly all respondents agreed that police alone cannot prevent crime.**

### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention - Gender**

Table 2:11 shows the frequency with which males and females selected each of the available response categories. No significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to the statement; The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime, with the greatest percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing (83.5% males, 83.7% females). Significant differences were found between the responses made by males and females to the remaining 'crime prevention' statements.

In response to the statement; Effective community programs that tackle crime issues would benefit my suburb, men tended to be firmer than women regarding their responses, that is, significantly more females (than males) indicated they were 'unsure',  $\chi^2(4)=22.46$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Aside from this difference, most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (79.6% males, 77.2% females).

Significant differences were also found between males and females in response to the statement; Crime prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime (unemployment, poverty, isolation, etc). Males were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree with the statement and tended to be firmer in their responses than females, females being more likely than males to indicate that they were unsure,  $\chi^2(4)=27.7$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Aside from these differences, most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (82.6% males, 85.2% females).

Significant differences were found between males and females in response to both statements directly relating to the role of Police in crime prevention. Almost all respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement Police alone cannot prevent crime in the community (91.9% males, 96.1% females), however, of those who did not agree males were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree than females,  $\chi^2(4)=24.77$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Significant differences were also found between males and females in their responses to the statement; Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community, females were more likely (than males) to agree or strongly agree (32.8% males, 37.9% females), while males were more likely (than females) to disagree or strongly disagree with the statement (38.9% males, 26.3% females),  $\chi^2(4)=35.98$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

**Gender had no effect on respondents belief that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention, males tended to be more sure that effective crime prevention programs would be of benefit to their suburb. Males were more likely (than females) to disagree that crime prevention programs should target the underlying causes of crime, however most respondents agreed with this statement. Males were more likely (than females) to disagree that police are doing a good job tackling crime in the community and that police alone cannot prevent crime, however, the overwhelming majority of respondents agreed with these statements.**

#### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention - Age**

No significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime, with the greatest percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly. No significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; Effective community programs that tackle crime issues would benefit my suburb, with the greatest percentage of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing.

Significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; Crime prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime (unemployment, poverty, isolation, etc). Young people (12-24 years) responded that they were unsure more often than any other age category, and were least likely to agree or strongly agree. Respondents aged over 65 years were most likely to agree or strongly agree and least likely to disagree or strongly disagree that; Crime prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime,  $\chi^2(20) = 40.53, p < 0.01$ .

No significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; Police alone cannot prevent crime in the Community, with over 90% of respondents in all age categories agreeing or strongly agreeing. Significant differences were found between age categories in response to the statement; Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community, young people (12-24 years) indicated that they were unsure more often than they selected any other response, while respondents aged over 65 years were most likely (of all age categories) to agree or strongly agree,  $\chi^2(20) = 77.12, p < 0.001$ .

**Age had no effect on respondent's belief that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention or that effective crime prevention programs would be of benefit to their suburb. Young peoples beliefs that crime prevention programs should target the underlying causes of crime were less definite than any other age category, young people reported they were unsure or disagreed more than any other age category, however most respondents agreed with this statement. Age had no effect on respondents that police alone cannot prevent crime. In response to the statement that 'police are doing a good job tackling crime in the community' young people were more unsure and people aged over 65 years most likely to agree.**

#### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention - Victimization**

Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and responses to the statement; The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime, respondents who reported 'both' victimisation were least likely to agree or strongly agree with this statement (75.8%), followed by 'property' crime victims, 'personal/violent' victims, and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation indicated strongest agreement (86.6%),  $\chi^2(12) = 21.89, p < 0.05$ . No significant differences were found between the responses made by respondents reporting differing levels of victimisation to the remaining 'crime prevention' statements in Section One.

**Reported victimisation impacted on respondent's belief that the community can be an effective force in crime prevention, as victimisation increased the likelihood that respondents would agree with this statement decreased. Victimization had no effect on beliefs that effective crime prevention programs would be of benefit to their suburb. Victimization had no effect on beliefs that crime prevention programs should target the underlying causes of crime. Victimization had no effect on beliefs that police are doing a good job in the community or that police alone cannot prevent crime.**

#### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention – Household Type**

No significant differences were found between the type of household in response to the statement; The Community (with Police/Government support) can be an effective force in preventing crime. Significant differences were found between the type of household in response to the statement; Effective community programs that tackle crime issues would benefit my suburb, with those living alone or in extended families most likely to agree or strongly agree,  $\chi^2(20)=38.11, p<0.01$ . No significant differences were found between the type of household in response to the statement; Crime prevention programs should target the underlying social causes of crime (unemployment, poverty, isolation, etc).

No significant differences were found between the type of household in response to the statements; Police alone cannot prevent crime in the Community or Police are doing a good job tackling crime in the Community.

**Household type had a limited effect on attitudes towards crime prevention asked about within the survey. Those living alone or in an extended family were most likely to agree that effective crime prevention programs would benefit their suburb.**

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**Attitudes towards Crime Prevention – Time Lived in Suburb**

No significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to any of the statements concerning crime prevention.

**Crime Prevention Programs - All**

Respondents were also asked about specific programs that they would like to see introduced in their suburb. The question asked did not presume respondents had any prior knowledge of crime prevention programs already existing in their suburb and did not utilise currently existing programs, either by concept or by name. Respondents were able to select as many programs/services/facilities as they would like to see introduced in their suburb, and were also provided with an ‘Other’ section. The low percentage of people who chose to select the ‘other’ category (8.5%), indicates that respondents were satisfied with the options provided to them in the question. Refer Table 2:12.

The most commonly selected services that respondents selected for introduction in their suburb were improved lighting, paths, etc. The second and third most commonly selected programs were targeted at young people and support the general thrust of many responses and comments made by respondents throughout the survey. Foot/bike patrols by police was the fourth most commonly selected program and was supported by comments made by respondents that they felt the mere presence of Police on patrol was desirable, both in terms of crime prevention and in increased feelings of safety for residents.

**The most commonly selected services were improved lighting, paths, etc. This is a common issue in the crime prevention field and resources may be best directed at those areas where residents like to spend leisure time during evening hours, but are reluctant to do so because of their belief of inadequate lighting. Programs that targeted young people were strongly supported in responses and further supported by the general thrust of many responses and comments made by respondents throughout the survey. A general widespread level of concern was expressed over the perceived lack of concerted effort being directed both at providing young people with the necessary citizenship skills and ensuring that all young people are involved, and have access to, positive activities that will have effectiveness in crime prevention outcomes.**

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**Table 2:12 Crime Prevention Programs selected for introduction - All**

Crime Prevention Program/Service/Facility	% of Respondents who would like Program introduced
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Table 1

<b>Facilities such as lighting, paths, etc</b>	57.7%
<b>School based crime prevention programs</b>	55.1%
<b>After school activities for youth (12-18)</b>	52.1%
<b>Foot/bike patrols by Police</b>	50.9%
<b>Safety checks for older neighbours</b>	44.1%
<b>Support networks for those living alone</b>	36%
<b>Support services for families</b>	26.1%
<b>Programs for increased communication between neighbours</b>	25.7%
<b>Neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups</b>	25.2%
<b>Facility for community development programs</b>	22.4%
<b>Other</b>	8.5%

**Table 2:13 Crime Prevention Programs selected for introduction - Gender**

Crime Prevention Program/Service/Facility : Section Three	Selected by Respondent				Not selected by Respondent			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count

Table 1

<b>After school activities for youth (12-18 years)</b>	49.15%	262	54.08%	480	50.85%	271	45.92%	438
<b>Safety checks for older neighbours</b>	41.46%	221	45.27%	416	58.54%	312	54.73%	503
<b>Support services for families</b>	21.95%	117	28.73%	264	78.05%	416	71.27%	655
<b>Support networks for those living alone</b>	30.02%	160	39.17%	360	69.98%	373	60.83%	559
<b>Programs for increased communication between neighbours</b>	25.33%	135	26.22%	241	74.67%	398	73.78%	678
<b>Neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups</b>	30.58%	163	22.09%	203	69.42%	370	77.91%	716
<b>Foot/Bike patrols by Police</b>	54.41%	290	48.97%	450	45.59%	243	51.03%	469
<b>Facility for Community development programs</b>	19.14%	102	24.27%	223	80.86%	431	75.73%	696
<b>School based crime prevention programs</b>	54.03%	288	57.34%	527	45.97%	245	42.66%	392
<b>Facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.</b>	52.72%	281	61.59%	566	47.28%	252	38.41%	353
<b>Other</b>	9.94%	53	7.62%	70	90.06%	480	92.38%	849

**Table 2:14****Crime Prevention Programs ranked by Popularity – Gender**

	Popularity Ranking	
	Male	Female
<b>Crime Prevention Program/Service/Facility : Section Three</b>		
<b>After school activities for youth (12-18 years)</b>	4	3
<b>Safety checks for older neighbours</b>	5	5
<b>Support services for families</b>	9	7
<b>Support networks for those living alone</b>	7	6

Table 1

Programs for increased communication between neighbours	8	8
Neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups	6	10
Foot/Bike patrols by Police	1	4
Facility for Community development programs	10	9
School based crime prevention programs	2	2
Facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.	3	1
Other	11	11

### **Crime Prevention Programs – Gender**

Significant differences were found between males and females in the selection of programs/services/facilities they would like to see introduced in their suburb. Females were more likely (than males) to select 'Support services for families',  $\chi^2(1)=8$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Females were more likely to select 'Support networks for those living alone',  $\chi^2(1)=12.29$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Females were slightly more likely to select 'Facility for Community development programs',  $\chi^2(1)=5.1$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Females were also more likely to select 'Facilities such as lighting, paths, etc',  $\chi^2(1)=10.91$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Males were more likely (than females) to select 'Neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups',  $\chi^2(1)=12.9$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Males were slightly more likely to select 'Foot/Bike patrols by Police',  $\chi^2(1)=3.99$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Refer Table 2:13.

As initial examination revealed a number of significant differences between males and females in the way they responded to the question regarding crime prevention programs they would like to see in their suburbs. Further examination was conducted to examine differences that may exist. No significant differences were found between males and females in the number of programs they selected as ones they would like to see introduced in their suburb. Both males and females most commonly selected between two (2) and four (4) programs/services/facilities. When the programs were ranked according to their popularity in terms of selection (1 being the most popular, 11 being the least popular) the differences between males and females in their responses to this question were easily discernable. Refer Table 2:14.

**Although the overall selection of crime prevention programs was similar between genders, females were generally more likely (than males) to support relationship oriented programs, while males were generally more likely to support action based programs. Females were also slightly more likely to select lighting, paths, etc.**

### **Crime Prevention Programs – Age**

Significant differences were found between age categories in the selection of specific crime prevention programs/services/facilities that they would like to see introduced in their suburb. Significant differences were found between age categories in the selection of Foot/bike patrols by Police; respondents aged over 65 (66.3%) and 12-24 years (55.2%) most likely to select this program,  $\chi^2(5) 14.59=0.05$ . Respondents aged over 65 (39.3%) and 12-24 years (44.8%) were least likely to indicate that they would like the introduction of school based crime prevention programs,  $\chi^2(5) 18.83=0.01$ . Significant differences were found between age categories in the selection of 'Lighting, paths, etc' as a 'program' they would like to see introduced in their suburb. As age increased so did the likelihood that a respondent would select this program, only 14.9% of respondents aged 12-24 years selected 'Lighting,

Table 1

paths, etc' while 70.8% of respondents aged over 65 selected the program,  $\chi^2 (5) 74.90=0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between age categories in the selection of the following program/services/facilities; After school activities for youth (12-18 years), safety checks for older neighbours, support networks for families, support networks for those living alone, programs for increased communication between neighbours, neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, and facility for community development programs.

**Age appeared to have limited effect on the selection of crime prevention programs. Young people and people aged over 65 years were most likely to select foot/bike patrols by police and least likely to select school based crime prevention programs. As aged increased so did the likelihood that respondents would select lighting, paths, etc.**

### **Crime Prevention Programs – Victimization**

Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of 'safety checks for older neighbours', with respondents who reported 'both' and 'personal/violent' victimisation most likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (3)=14.93$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of 'support services for families', with respondents who reported 'both' victimisation most likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (3)=13.73$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of 'programs for increased communication between neighbours', with respondents who reported 'both' victimisation and 'personal/violent' victimisation most likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (3)=12.81$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of 'neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups', with respondents who reported 'no' least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (3)=14.99$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of 'foot/bike patrols by police', with respondents who reported 'no' victimisation least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (3)=15.98$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of the 'other' category, with respondents who reported 'both' victimisation most likely to indicate strategies other than those provided,  $\chi^2 (3)=9.81$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation in the selection of; after school activities for youth (12-18 years); support networks for those living alone; facility for community development programs; school based crime prevention programs; and facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

As initial examination revealed a number of significant differences between reported levels of victimisation and the manner in which respondents indicated preferences for crime prevention programs/services/facilities they would like to see in their suburbs. Further examination was conducted to examine further differences that may exist. Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and the number of programs selected as ones they would like to see introduced in their suburb. Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were likely to select more programs, followed by 'property' victims, and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation selecting the least number of programs,  $\chi^2 (33)=55.75$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

**Reported victimisation levels appeared to effect respondent's selection of crime prevention programs. Respondents who reported personal/violent victimisation (alone or 'both') were more likely to select programs that targeted families and communication between neighbours. Respondents who reported no victimisation were least likely to select action based strategies such as graffiti clean-ups and foot/bike patrols by police. Increased victimisation also led to increased numbers of programs being selected by respondents.**

### **Attitude toward Crime Prevention – Household Type**

Significant differences were found between the type of household in response to the question regarding crime prevention programs they would like to see introduced in their suburb. Respondents who reported having children were most likely to select 'after school activities for youth' while respondents who were living alone or in share accommodation were least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (5)=14.55$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Significant differences were found between household type and selection of 'school based crime prevention programs', respondents who reported having children or living in a extended family more likely to select this program,  $\chi^2 (5)=13.7$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Respondents who reported having children or living in a extended family were also more likely to select 'facilities such as lighting, paths, etc',  $\chi^2 (5)=25.51$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

One parent with children were most likely to select 'support services for families', while respondents living in share accommodation were least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2(5)=15.12$ ,  $p<0.05$ . One parent with children and those living alone were most likely to select 'support networks for those living alone', while respondents living in share accommodation were least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2(5)=18.39$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Significant differences were found by household type and selection of 'programs for increased communication between neighbours', with couples and couples with children least likely to select this program,  $\chi^2(5)=11.98$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between household type and selection of safety checks for older neighbours, neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, foot/bike patrols by police, facility for community development programs.

Respondents living alone were most likely to utilise the 'other' category,  $\chi^2(5)=14.64$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

Significant differences were found between household type and the number of programs selected as ones they would like to see introduced in their suburb, respondents living in share accommodation selected the fewest strategies,  $\chi^2(55)=87.04$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

**Those in share accommodation were least likely to select crime prevention programs for introduction in their suburb. Household type that reported having children and extended families were most likely to select a range of programs including; after school activities for youth, school based crime prevention programs, and lighting, paths etc. A parent with children were most likely to select support services for families and support networks for those living alone.**

#### **Crime Prevention Programs – Time Lived in Suburb**

No significant differences were found between the time lived in current suburb and responses to any of the statements concerning crime prevention.

#### **Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year - All**

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any, of the thirteen options provided they had utilised in the last year in an effort to improve the safety of them or their family. An 'Other' option was also provided and multiple responses were also acceptable for this question. 16.6% of respondents indicated that they had utilised none of the offered strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Of those respondents that had utilised the offered strategies in the last year, the four most commonly utilised were the installation of security/screens or alarms, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, bought a dog/guard dog, and discussing safety with children/parents. These four options are reasonable steps that community members may take to improve safety for themselves and their family. More disturbing, in terms of effect on lifestyle, is that 23.5% of respondents reported that they had restricted their activities at night to improve safety, and a number had changed shopping times/places (9.6%) and leisure activities (5.7%). Refer Table 2:15. Of those respondents who had utilised the strategies offered in the last year, 20% indicated that they had utilised only one (1), 22% had utilised two (2), 16.3% had utilised three (3), 10.2% had utilised four (4), and 8.5% had utilised five (5) or more.

**Respondents most commonly reported taking between one (1) and four (4) reasonable steps in the last year to improve the safety of themselves or their family. Of concern was the percentage of respondents who reported restricting activities at night in an effort to improve safety and to a lesser degree changing shopping places and leisure activities.**

**Strategies undertaken in the last year to improve safety of self and family - All**

Strategy Taken to Improve Safety of Self or Family	% of Respondents who reported using strategy
Installed security screens/alarms	36.6%
Locked doors when travelling in a vehicle	34.4%
Bought a dog/guard dog	28.9%
Discussed safety with children/parents	28.4%
Restricted activities (eg:leisure, work) at night	23.5%
Pruned shrubs away from doors/windows	17.0%
None, we feel safe	16.6%
Other	10.2%
Changed shopping times/places	9.6%
Changed leisure activities	5.7%
Moved house	4.1%
None, we are not sure what to do	3.1%
Changed method of transport/travel	2.5%
Stopped living alone	2.3%

**Table 2:16****Strategies undertaken in the last year to improve safety of self and family - Gender**

	Selected by Respondent				Not selected by Respondent			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
Safety measures taken in the last year	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
None, we feel safe	18.8%	100	15%	138	81.2%	433	85%	781
None, we are not sure what to do	4.3%	23	2.6%	24	95.7%	510	97.4%	895
Pruned shrubs away from doors/windows	17.6%	94	16.4%	151	82.4%	439	83.6%	768
Discussed safety with children/parents	23.1%	123	31.8%	292	76.9%	410	68.2%	627
Bought a dog/guard dog	25%	133	31.3%	288	75%	400	68.7%	631
Installed security screens/alarms	38.5%	205	35%	322	61.5%	328	65%	597
Moved house	2.1%	11	5.3%	49	97.9%	522	94.7%	870
Changed method of transport/travel	1.9%	10	2.8%	26	98.1%	523	97.2%	893
Changed leisure activities	6.2%	33	5.4%	50	93.8%	500	94.6%	869
Changed shopping times/places	7.7%	41	9.9%	91	92.3%	492	90.1%	828
Restricted activities (e.g. leisure, work) at night	22.7%	121	23.1%	212	77.3%	412	76.9%	707
Stopped living alone	1.1%	6	3%	28	98.9%	527	97%	891
Locked doors when travelling in a vehicle	23.1%	123	40.8%	375	76.9%	410	59.2%	544
Other	7.7%	41	12.2%	112	92.3%	492	87.8%	807

**Table 2:17 Strategies undertaken in the last year to improve safety of self and family ranked by Popularity – Gender**

Table 1

Safety measures taken in the last year	Popularity Ranking	
	Male	Female
None, we feel safe	6	7
None, we are not sure what to do	11	14
Pruned shrubs away from doors/windows	7	6
Discussed safety with children/parents	3	3
Bought a dog/guard dog	2	4
Installed security screens/alarms	1	2
Moved house	12	11
Changed method of transport/travel	13	13
Changed leisure activities	10	10
Changed shopping times/places	8	9
Restricted activities (e.g. leisure, work) at night	5	5
Stopped living alone	14	12
Locked doors when travelling in a vehicle	3	1
Other	9	8

**Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year - Gender**

Significant differences were found between the responses made by males and females to this question. Females tended to indicate that they had undertaken more of the options provided than males, 23.1 % of males indicated they had taken no 'safety' measures in the last year, while only 17.6% of females indicated no measures had been taken,  $\chi^2(1)=28.28$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Females were more likely (than males) to indicate that they had 'discussed safety with children/parents' in an effort to improve the safety of them or their family,  $\chi^2(1)=12.5$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Females were more likely to indicate that they had 'bought a dog/guard dog,  $\chi^2(1)=6.68$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Females were more likely to indicate they had 'moved house' in the last year to improve their safety,  $\chi^2(1)=9.09$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Females were also more likely than males to indicate that they had 'stopped living alone' in an effort to improve their safety,  $\chi^2(1)=5.44$ ,  $p<0.05$ . 16.6% of respondents indicated that they had utilised none of the offered strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Despite these significant differences on a number of the 'safety measures' provided, when the measures were ranked according to the frequency with which they were selected (popularity) males and females had chosen them in a very similar manner. Refer Table 2:16. This would seem to indicate that although there are slight differences in the ways males and females go about ensuring their or their families safety, overall, the similarities are greater than the differences.

When the programs were ranked according to their popularity in terms of selection (1 being the most popular, 14 being the least popular) the five most commonly selected strategies were the same for females and males; however, the ranking of programs within the 'top five' tended to differ slightly based on gender. 'Locking doors while travelling in a vehicle' was ranked 1 for females and 3 for males; 'installed security screens/alarms' was ranked 2 for females and 1 for males; 'discussed safety with children/parents' was ranked 3 for females and 3 for males; bought a dog/guard dog was ranked 4 for females and 2 for males; and 'restricted activities at night' was ranked 5 for both females and males. Refer Table 2:17.

**Gender appeared to have an effect on the utilisation of the listed safety strategies. Females tended to utilise more strategies than males and were more likely to discuss safety with children/parents and to have bought a dog/guard dog. Females were more likely to have made significant accommodation changes in an effort to improve the safety of themselves or their family. Gender had a limited effect on the ranking of the safety strategies listed in terms of frequency of selection.**

#### Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year - Age

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any, of the thirteen options provided they had utilised in the last year in an effort to improve the safety of them or their family. An 'Other' option was also provided, multiple responses were acceptable for this question. Significant differences were found between age categories in response to this question. Young people (12-24 years) were most likely (of all age categories) to indicate that they had taken no measures as 'they were not sure what to do',  $\chi^2(5) 11.91=0.05$ . Respondents aged between 25-54 years were more likely to have 'discussed safety with children/parents',  $\chi^2(5) 91.90=0.001$ . As age increased the likelihood that the respondent had 'bought a dog/guard dog' in an effort to improve their safety decreased, 35% of respondents aged 12-24 had bought a dog, while only 14.6% of respondents aged over 55 years had done so,  $\chi^2(5) 31.97=0.001$ . Young people (12-24 years) were more than twice as likely (as all other age categories) to indicate that they had moved house to improve their safety,  $\chi^2(5) 16.85=0.01$ . Young people (12-24 years) were also more than twice as likely to indicate that they had stopped living alone in an effort to improve their safety,  $\chi^2(5) 25.38=0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between age categories in their selection of the remaining safety measures; None, we feel safe, pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, installed security screens/alarms, changed method of transport/travel changed leisure activities, changed shopping times/places, restricted activities at night, and locked doors when travelling in a vehicle.

**Young people were most likely to indicate they had utilised no strategies, as they were not sure what to do. Of those young people who had utilised strategies, they were more likely (than other age categories) to indicate that they had moved house, stopped living alone, or bought a dog/guard dog. People aged between 25-54 years were most likely to indicate they had discussed safety with children/parents.**

#### Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year - Victimisation

Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and responses when asked to indicate which of the thirteen (13) 'strategies' had been undertaken to improve the safety of themselves or their family. Respondents who reported 'no' victimisation were most likely to indicate that they had 'taken no measures, as they felt safe', respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation were least likely to select this option,  $\chi^2(3)=44.65$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to indicate they had 'discussed safety with children/parents',  $\chi^2(3)=10.8$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were also most likely to indicate they had 'bought a dog/guard dog',  $\chi^2(3)=12.39$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

Respondents who reported 'both' victimisation were most likely to have 'moved house' in an effort to increase their safety, however only a small percentage of these respondents had taken this measure (8.3%),  $\chi^2(3)=13.07$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to indicate they had 'changed their leisure activities' in an effort to increase their safety,  $\chi^2(3)=17.98$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to indicate they had 'changed shopping times/places' in an effort to increase their safety,  $\chi^2(3)=37.54$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to indicate they had 'restricted activities at night' in an effort to increase their safety,  $\chi^2(3)=27.18$ ,  $p<0.001$ . As reported level of victimisation increased so did the likelihood that respondents had 'stopped living alone' in an effort to improve their safety, however, only a small percentage of respondents had taken this measure,  $\chi^2(3)=15.15$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely that they 'locked doors when travelling in a vehicle',  $\chi^2(3)=16.81$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to provide responses in the 'other' category,  $\chi^2(3)=17.12$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

**Reported levels of victimisation had an effect on the utilisation of safety strategies and on the number of strategies undertaken by respondents. Respondents who reported no victimisation were most likely to report they had utilised none of the strategies, as they felt safe. Respondents who had experienced personal/violent victimisation (alone or 'both') were more likely to indicate that they had; discussed safety with children/parents, bought a dog/guard dog, changed leisure activities, changed shopping times/places, restricted activities at night, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, and stopped living alone. Respondents who reported personal/violent victimisation (alone or 'both') were also most likely to utilise the 'other' category. Respondents who reported 'both' victimisation (followed by personal/violent and property victimisation) were most likely to indicate that they had moved house.**

**Respondents who reported personal/violent victimisation (alone or 'both') tended to utilise slightly more strategies than did those who reported property victimisation or no victimisation.**

#### **Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year – Household Type**

No significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that respondents had utilised no safety strategies because they felt safe. Respondents living in an extended family were most likely to indicate that they had not undertaken any safety strategies because they did not know what to do,  $\chi^2(5)=12.82$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

Couples with children and parents with children were most likely to have discussed safety with children/parents,  $\chi^2(5)=187.51$ ,  $p<0.001$ . A parent with children, extended family, and couple with children were most likely to have bought a dog/guard dog,  $\chi^2(5)=17.21$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Those living in share accommodation and a parent with children were least likely to have installed security screens/alarms,  $\chi^2(5)=16.42$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Those living in share accommodation and a parent with children were most likely to have moved house,  $\chi^2(5)=16.42$ ,  $p<0.01$ . A parent with children, extended family, and those living alone were most likely to indicate that they had changed leisure activities,  $\chi^2(5)=12.74$ ,  $p<0.05$ . A parent with children, were most likely to have changed their shopping times/places,  $\chi^2(5)=14.34$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Those living in share accommodation were most likely to indicate that they had stopped living alone,  $\chi^2(5)=48.52$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between household type and the selection of; pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, changed method of transport, restricted activities at night, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, or use of the 'other' category.

No significant differences were found between household type and the number of safety strategies respondents had utilised in the last year.

**Household type appeared to have an effect on the types of safety strategies respondents were likely to have utilised in the last year. Respondents who reported living in a family unit (with or without children) were more likely to have discussed safety with children/parents and/or bought a dog. A parent with children was more likely than other respondents with children to have restricted leisure activities, changed shopping times, and/or moved house. Household type had an effect on the likelihood that respondents had installed security screens/alarms, with those living in share accommodation or as a parent with children least likely to utilise this strategy. Those living in share accommodation were more likely to have moved house and/or stopped living alone in an effort to improve their safety.**

#### **Safety Strategies Undertaken in the last year – Time lived in Suburb**

No significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and the likelihood that respondents had utilised no safety strategies because they felt safe, or because they did not what to do.

Respondents who had lived in their current suburb from one to three years or three to five years were most likely to have bought a dog/guard dog,  $\chi^2 (3)=13.15$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were most likely to indicate that they had moved house,  $\chi^2 (3)=91.58$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who had lived in their current suburb for less than one year were also most likely to indicate they had stopped living alone,  $\chi^2 (3)=30.27$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between time lived in a suburb and the selection of; pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, discussed safety with children/parents, installed security screens/alarms, changed method of transport, changed leisure activities, changed shopping times/places, restricted activities at night, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, or utilisation of the 'other' category.

**Time lived in suburb had a limited effect on the safety strategies respondents were likely to have undertaken in the last year. Respondents who had lived in their suburb less than one year were most likely to report that they had moved house and/or stopped living alone in an effort to improve their safety (of the safety of their family). Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than five years were more likely to indicate they had bought a dog/guard dog.**

## **Crime Experiences**

### **Property Crime**

Respondents were asked one multi-parted question regarding property crime victimization. Parts of this question were open ended and responses coded by researchers.

### **Personal/Violent Crime**

Respondents were asked one multi-parted question regarding personal/violent crime victimization. Parts of this question were open ended and responses coded by researchers and volunteers supervised by researchers.

### **Bullying at School**

Respondents were asked one multi-parted question regarding school bullying victimization. Parts of this question were open ended and responses coded by researchers and volunteers supervised by researchers.

### **Bullying in the Workplace**

Respondents were asked one multi-parted question regarding workplace bullying victimization. Parts of this question were open ended and responses coded by researchers and volunteers supervised by researchers.

### **Violence related to Race and Sexuality**

Respondents were asked one question each regarding violence victimisation that they felt was based on their racial background or sexuality. Response format was dichotomous, yes or no.

### **Violence within the Family**

Respondents were asked one question regarding violence within their family. Response format was a five point likert scale.

### **Witnessed Crime**

Respondents were asked to report any of the listed crimes that they or a member of their household had personally seen or heard (witnessed) being committed in their suburb in the last year. Fourteen (14) crimes were listed, and a 'no crime witnessed' and 'other' categories were provided. Multiple selections were allowed.

### **Property Crime- All**

55.1% of respondents reported that they had been the victim of a property related crime, such as break and enter, vandalism, motor vehicle theft, stealing, etc. 55.4% of those people who had been a victim had been living in their current suburb when the offence occurred. 87.9% did not personally know the person who had committed the offence (to their knowledge). 75% stated that the offence occurred at their place of residence, 16.3% stated that the offence occurred at their place of business or employment. 79.6% of people had reported the crime to the police, and of these 49.2% were informed of the action taken regarding the crime. Of the 20.4% respondents who did not report the crime to the police, the most common reason given for not reporting it was that it wasn't important/valuable enough. The second most common reason was that there would be nothing the police could do or if police caught and charged the offender that an ineffective sentence would be received from the court system.

It was initially difficult to determine satisfaction with outcome and reasons for dissatisfaction due to the manner in which many property crime respondents answered this section of the survey. It was expected that respondents would not answer any further parts of the question, once they indicated that they had not been informed of any action taken. The reason for this expectation was that respondents could not express satisfaction or dissatisfaction with an outcome that they had no knowledge regarding. Many respondents continued to answer the question after indicating they had not been informed of any action, so separate analysis was undertaken of the parts of the question relating to satisfaction of outcome, respondents were placed in categories based on their response to 'being informed of outcome' either yes or no.

Significant differences were found between the respondents informed and not informed and outcome satisfaction levels. Of those respondents who were informed by police of action taken, 62.9% were satisfied with the outcome. Those who were not satisfied with the outcome most often gave reasons that were coded as; offender was not identified and no action was taken (35.6%), or that the offender was identified and no action was taken (29.7%). A small percentage reported that action was taken but that they were not satisfied with that action (9.3%). Of those respondents who were not informed by police of action taken, 19.2% were satisfied with the outcome and 80.8% were not. Those who were not satisfied with the outcome indicated they were not satisfied because they were not informed of any action taken,  $\chi^2 (1)=119.78$ ,  $p<0.001$

**More than half of respondents reported being the victim of a property related crime at some point in their life, more than half of property crime victims had been living in their current suburb, and the crime most commonly occurred at their place of residence. Most victims of property related crime did not know the offender and had reported the crime to the police. Respondents who did not report the crime often said that the crime wasn't important or not enough value involved. Slightly less than half of property crime victims who reported the crime had been informed of any action taken. Respondents were far more likely to be satisfied with the outcome if they were informed of action taken by police, regardless of the nature of that outcome.**

#### Property Crime- Gender

Males were more likely than females to report that they had been the victims of a property related crime, such as break and enter, vandalism, motor vehicle theft,  $\chi^2 (1)=5.22$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Males were more likely than females to report that they had been living in their current suburb when the crime occurred,  $\chi^2 (1)=5.6$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they knew the person who committed the offence. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the crime occurred at their place of residence. Females were more likely than males to indicate that the crime had occurred at their business or place of employment,  $\chi^2 (1)=4.54$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the crime occurred somewhere other than their place of residence or business/place of employment. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had reported the crime. No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not reporting the crime. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the police had informed them of any action that had been taken. Females were more likely (than males) to express dissatisfaction with outcome if they were not informed of action taken, while males were more likely (than females) to express dissatisfaction when they were informed of action,  $\chi^2 (3)=9.44$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for dissatisfaction.

**Males were generally more likely than females to report property crime victimisation. Females were slightly more likely than males to report the crime had occurred at their business/place of employment rather than their place of residence. Not being informed of the action taken by police resulted in greater dissatisfaction by females, while males were more likely to express dissatisfaction with the outcome when they received information from the police.**

#### Property Crime- Age

No significant differences were found between age categories when asked if they had been the victims of a property-related crime. There was significant difference between age categories when asked if they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred; respondents aged between 25-34 were most likely to indicate that they were living in another suburb when the crime occurred, over half of all other age categories reported that they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred,  $\chi^2 (5)=22.63$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if they knew the person who committed the offence, most did not. No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if the crime occurred in their place of residence or in their place of business/employment, most crimes had occurred at the place of residence.

Significant differences were found between age categories when respondents were asked if they had reported the crime, as age increased so did the likelihood that the crime had been reported to the police, 63.6% of respondents aged between 12-24 years had reported the crime, while 85.7% of respondents aged over 65 years had reported the crime,  $\chi^2(5)=22.63$ ,  $p<0.01$ . No significant differences were found in the reasons given for not reporting the crime. No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if they had been informed of any action taken by police, and whether they had been satisfied with the outcome of that action.

**Respondents age had no effect on the reporting of property crime victimization. Respondents aged between 25-54 were more likely to have lived in another suburb when the crime occurred. As age increased so did the likelihood that the respondent had reported the crime, however the majority of respondents in all age categories reported the crime. Age had no effect on responses regarding being informed of the outcome or satisfaction with the outcome.**

### Property Crime - Victimization

No analysis was conducted of responses to this question because the variable for analysis was already being utilised in respondent categories.

### Property Crime – Household Type

No significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that respondents would report being the victim of a property related crime at some point in their life, or whether they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred, or if they had known the person who had committed the offence. A parent with children was most likely to report that the crime had occurred at their place of residence,  $\chi^2(5)=11.72$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Those living in an extended family were most likely to report the crime had occurred at their business/place of employment,  $\chi^2(5)=11.22$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that the crime occurred elsewhere.

No significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that respondents had reported the matter to the police - reasons for not reporting being; informed of action taken by police, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction.

**Household type had a limited effect on responses to the question in relation to victimization of property crime. A parent with children was more likely (than other household types) to report the offence had occurred at their place of residence, while an extended family was more likely (than other household types) to report the offence had occurred at their business or place of employment.**

### Property Crime – Time lived in Suburb

Significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that respondents would report being the victim of a property related crime at some point in their life. Those who had lived in their suburb for more than five years were most likely to report victimisation (59.2%) while those that had lived in their current suburb for less than one year were least likely to report victimisation (49.4%),  $\chi^2(3)=8.64$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Significant differences were also found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that respondents were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred. 74.4% of respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years indicated that the crime had occurred while they were living in their current suburb, while only 8.6% of respondents who had lived in their current suburb for less than one year responded in the same manner,  $\chi^2(3)=169.11$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between the time lived in a suburb and the likelihood that the respondents knew the offender. No significant differences were found between the time lived in a suburb and the likelihood that the crime occurred in their place of residence, that the crime occurred in their place of business, or that the crime occurred elsewhere. No significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that the respondent had reported the matter to the police. The reasons given for not reporting to the police being informed by police of any action taken, satisfaction with the outcome, or reasons for dissatisfaction.

**Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were least likely to report victimisation of a property related crime, and least likely to report that the crime had occurred in their current suburb. Respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years were most likely to report victimisation of a property related crime, and most likely to report the offence had occurred in their current suburb.**

### **Personal/Violent Crime- All**

19.6% of respondents reported that they had been the victim of a violent or personal crime, such as assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, stalking, etc. 32.7% of those people who had been a victim had been living in their current suburb when the offence occurred. 60.1% personally knew the person who had committed the offence. 51.4% stated that the offence occurred at their place of residence, 12.8% stated that the offence occurred at their place of business or employment. 61.5% of people had reported the crime to the police. Of the 38.5% of affected respondents who did not report the crime to the police, the Other category had the largest percentage. The most common reasons given were fear/concern about revenge, personally knew the offender. Another common reason was that there would be nothing the police could do or if police caught and charged the offender that an ineffective sentence would be received from the court system.

It was initially difficult to determine satisfaction with outcome and reasons for dissatisfaction due to the manner in which many reported victims of personal/violent crime answered this section of the survey. It was expected that respondents would not answer any further parts of the question, once they indicated that they had not been informed of any action taken. The reason for this expectation was that respondents could not express satisfaction or dissatisfaction with an outcome that they had no knowledge regarding. Many respondents continued to answer the question after indicating they had not been informed of any action, so separate analysis was undertaken of the parts of the question relating to satisfaction of outcome. Respondents were placed in categories based on their response to 'being informed of outcome' either yes or no.

Significant differences were found between the respondents informed and not informed and outcome satisfaction levels. Of those respondents who were informed by police of action taken, 70.3% were satisfied with the outcome. Those who were not satisfied with the outcome most often gave reasons that were coded as; action was taken but that they were not satisfied with that action (36.7%), offender not identified and no action taken (23.3%), and reasons coded as 'other' (23.3%). Of those respondents who were not informed by police of action taken, 14.1% were satisfied with the outcome and 73.4% were not. Those who were not satisfied with the outcome indicated they were not satisfied because they were not informed of any action taken,  $\chi^2(1)=54.12$ ,  $p<0.001$

**19.6% of respondents reported being the victim of a personal/violent related crime at some point in their life, about one third of personal/violent crime victims had been living in their current suburb when the crime occurred, and the crime most commonly occurred at their place of residence. Most victims of personal/violent related crime knew the offender and had reported the crime to the police. Reasons given by respondents for not reporting the offence tended to be varied and coded as 'other', Of the coded reasons the most common were reasons related to a relationship with the offender. Respondents were far more likely to be satisfied with the outcome if they were informed of action taken by police, regardless of the nature of that outcome.**

### **Personal/Violent Crime- Gender**

Females were more likely than males to report that they had been the victims of a personal/violent victimization such as assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, stalking, etc,  $\chi^2(1)=6.08$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Males were more likely than females to report that they had been living in their current suburb when the crime occurred,  $\chi^2(1)=4.54$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Females were more likely to indicate that they knew the person who committed the offence,  $\chi^2(1)=19.49$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Females were more likely to indicate that the crime occurred at their place of residence,  $\chi^2(1)=21.76$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the crime had occurred at their business or place of employment. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the crime occurred somewhere other than their place of residence or business/place of employment.

Males were more likely than females to indicate that they had reported the crime to the police,  $\chi^2(1)=4.93$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not reporting the crime; females were more likely to indicate that they did not report for reasons of fear about the consequences from the offender, females were

Table 1

also more likely to not report because they did not want anyone to know or did not want the police involved, males were more likely than females to not report because they considered the 'crime' was not serious enough to warrant reporting,  $\chi^2(1)=14.22, p<0.05$ . Of those who did report the crime, females were more likely than males to indicate that the police had informed them of any action taken regarding the offence,  $\chi^2(1)=5.63, p<0.05$ . Females were also more likely than males to report that they were satisfied with the outcome of offences reported to the police,  $\chi^2(1)=8.93, p<0.01$ . No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not being satisfied with the outcome of any investigation by police.

**Females were more likely to report personal/violent victimisation and personally knowing the offender, and to report that the crime occurred in their place of residence. Males were more likely to have been living in their current suburb when the crime occurred, and to have reported the crime to the police. Females were more likely to report they had been informed of action taken by police and that they were satisfied with that action. Of those who did not report the crime, females were more likely to report reasons based on a relationship with the offender or desire for no-one to know, while males were more likely to indicate the crime was not important or serious enough to warrant reporting.**

### Personal/Violent Crime- Age

Significant differences were found between age categories when respondents were asked whether they had been the victims of personal/violent victimization such as assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, stalking, etc. The younger the age category the higher the likelihood that the respondent would indicate they had been the victim of a personal/violent crime, 32.5% of respondents aged between 12-24 years reported victimisation, while 8.9% of respondents aged over 65 years reported victimisation,  $\chi^2(5)=23.86, p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between age categories when asked if they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred. No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if they had reported the crime. No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if they knew the person who committed the offence. No significant differences were found when respondents were asked if the crime occurred in their place of residence or in their place of business/employment.

No significant differences were found between age categories when respondents were asked if they had reported the crime. No significant differences were found in the reasons given for not reporting the crime. Significant differences were found when respondents were asked if they had been informed of any action taken by police; young people (12-24years) and people aged over 65 years were most likely to indicate that they had been informed of action taken, only 28.6% of people aged between 45-54 years indicated that they had been informed of action taken,  $\chi^2(5)=12.59, p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between age categories when asked whether they had been satisfied with the outcome of that action.

**As age increased the likelihood respondents would report personal/violent victimisation decreased. Age had no effect on whether respondents were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred, if they knew the offender, if the crime occurred at their place of residence, or if they had reported the crime to the police, satisfaction with the outcome, or reasons for dissatisfaction.**

### Personal/Violent Crime - Victimisation

No analysis was conducted of responses to this question because the variable for analysis was already being utilised in respondent categories.

### Personal/Violent Crime – Household Type

A parent with children and those living in share accommodation were most likely to report they had been the victim of a personal violent crime at some point in their life,  $\chi^2(5)=43.92, p<0.001$ . A parent living alone and a member of an extended family was most likely to report they knew the person who committed the offence,  $\chi^2(5)=20.89, p<0.001$ . A parent with children was most likely to report that the crime occurred at their place of residence,  $\chi^2(5)=20.74, p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between household type and whether they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred, or if they had known the person who had committed the offence. No significant differences were found between

household type and the likelihood that the crime had occurred at their business/place of employment elsewhere.

No significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that respondents had reported the matter to the police, reasons for not reporting, being informed of action taken by police, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction.

**Household type had an affect on the likelihood that respondents had been victims of a personal/violent crime; a parent with children was most likely to; have been the victim of crime (along with those in share accommodation); known the person who committed the offence (along with extended family), and that the offence occurred in their place of residence.**

### **Personal/Violent Crime – Time lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that respondents would report being the victim of a personal/violent related crime at some point in their life. Those who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were most likely to report victimisation (26.8%) while those that had lived in their current suburb for more than five years were least likely to report victimisation (14.3%),  $\chi^2 (3)=24.50$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Significant differences were also found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that respondents were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred. 52% of respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years indicated that the crime had occurred while they were living in their current suburb, while only 4.5% of respondents who had lived in their current suburb for less than one year responded in the same manner,  $\chi^2 (3)=39.40$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and likelihood that the respondents knew the offender. Significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and likelihood that the crime occurred in their place of residence. Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were more likely to report that the crime had occurred in their residence (not necessarily current residence),  $\chi^2 (3)=8.52$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and the likelihood that the crime occurred in their place of business, or that the crime occurred elsewhere. No significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and the likelihood that the respondent had reported the matter to the police, in reasons given for not reporting to the police, being informed by police of any action taken, satisfaction with the outcome, or reasons for dissatisfaction.

**Time lived in suburb had a limited effect on respondent's answers in relation to personal/violent crime. Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were most likely to indicate that they had been the victim of personal/violent crime at some point in their life and that the offence had occurred in their place of residence (not necessarily current residence). Respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years were most likely to report that they were living in their current suburb when the crime occurred.**

### **Bullying at School – All**

The incidence of school bullying reported within the survey is of concern. 1473 respondents answered the question; In the last three (3) years have you (or your children) been bullied at school. Of those respondents who did answer the question, 17% indicated that bullying had occurred. The greatest majority (81%) of the respondents who reported bullying had reported it to the school. The 'other' category contained the most entries for the reason the bullying was not reported, indicating a variety of responses that could not be coded into existing categories. Within the defined categories the most common reasons given for not reporting the bullying were; the school would not do anything about it anyway (25.9%), handled it myself/child handled it themselves (22.2%), and not important enough/not serious enough incident (18.5%).

70% of those respondents who said they had reported the bullying had been informed by the school of any action taken regarding the bullying, 53.9% of those said that they were

satisfied with the outcome. Of those respondents who were not satisfied with the outcome, most reported that action had been taken but they had not been satisfied with that action (50%), other reasons given for dissatisfaction included; offender was identified but no action was taken (20.8%), and offender was not identified so no action was taken (8.3%). 20.8% of respondents who were not satisfied gave reasons that were coded into the 'other' category.

**17% of respondents reported bullying victimisation at school in the last three (3) years, of themselves or their children. Most had reported the bullying, and had been informed of action taken, more than half of these were satisfied with the outcome. Of those who did not report the bullying, reasons for not reporting were varied and many were coded into the other categories, of those defined categories reasons reflected a lack of faith in the school to deal with bullying, handled it themselves, and that the incident/s was/were not serious enough.**

### **Bullying at School - Gender**

Females were more likely (than males) to report that in the last three (3) years they or their children had been bullied at school,  $\chi^2(1)=4.36$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had reported the bullying, with most indicating that they had (77.3% males, 81.3% females). Of those who did not report the bullying to the school no significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the school had informed them of any action that had been taken, with most indicating they had been informed. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had been satisfied with the outcome, however, females responded that they were satisfied more often than males. No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not being satisfied with the outcome.

**Females reported more bullying than males. Gender had no effect on the reporting of bullying, reasons given for not reporting, being informed of any action taken by school, satisfaction with outcome of action taken, and reasons for dissatisfaction.**

### **Bullying at School - Age**

Significant differences were found between age categories when respondents were asked if they or their children had been bullied at school in the last three (3) years. Respondents aged over 44 years were the least likely to report any bullying, while respondents aged between 35-44 years reported the highest incidence of bullying (28.1%),  $\chi^2(5)=59.35$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Significant differences were found between age categories when asked if they had reported the bullying, most indicated they had. Young people (12-24 years) were the least likely to indicate they had reported (44.4%) while respondents aged between 35-44 years were the most likely to indicate they had reported (85.8%),  $\chi^2(5)=59.35$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Of those who did not report the bullying to the school no significant differences were found between age categories in the reasons given. No significant differences were found between age categories when asked if the school had informed them of any action that had been taken, with most indicating they had been informed. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had been satisfied with the outcome. No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not being satisfied with the outcome.

**Respondents aged between 35-44 years reported most bullying and were most likely to report the bullying. Young people (12-24 years) were less likely to have reported the bullying to the school. Age had no effect on reasons given for not reporting, on being informed of action taken by the school, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction.**

### **Bullying at School - Victimisation**

Significant differences were found between reported victimisation levels and responses to the question regarding bullying at school. Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' levels of victimisation were more likely to report that they or their children had been bullied at school in the last three (3) years,  $\chi^2(3)=26.76$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and the following parts of the question; reporting levels, reasons for not reporting, informed of action, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons not satisfied.

**As victimisation increased so did the likelihood that respondents reported bullying had occurred. Victimisation level had no effect on reporting the bullying, reasons for not reporting, being informed of the outcome, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction.**

### **Bullying at School – Household Type**

A parent with children was most likely to report that they or their children had been bullied at school, followed by couples with children, and those living in an extended family,  $\chi^2(5)=123.01$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between household type and responses to any of the remaining parts of the question relating to bullying at school.

**Respondents who reported living in a family unit that did or could include children were most likely to report bullying at school had occurred.**

### **Bullying at School – Time lived in Suburb**

No significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and responses to the question (or any parts of) relating to bullying at school.

### **Bullying in the Workplace - All**

7.3% of respondents reported that in the last three (3) years they or their children had been bullied in the workplace. 63.6% of those who had been bullied had reported it to the employer, and of these 51.3% had been informed of any action that had been taken regarding the bullying. 31.3% of those who had been informed of the action taken were satisfied with that action. Of those affected respondents who did not report the bullying to the employer, the 'Other' category had the largest percentage (many of these reported that the employer was involved in the bullying). Aside from this the most common reason given was that the employer would not do anything about it anyway. Of those affected respondents who were not satisfied with the action taken by the employer, the 'Other' category again had the largest percentage (again often relating to the involvement of the employer). Aside from this the most common reason given was that the offender had been identified but that no action had been taken.

**A small percentage of respondents reported bullying in the workplace, over half had reported it to the employer, about half of these had been informed of action taken by the employer, about one third were satisfied with that action. Of those who did not report the bullying to the employer, reasons given often related to the involvement of the employer or that the employer would not do anything about it anyway.**

### **Bullying in the Workplace - Gender**

No significant differences were found in the responses of males and females when asked if they or their children had been bullied in the workplace in the last three years, 7.9% of males and 6.9% females reported such bullying. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had reported the bullying, with most indicating that they had (65.8% males, 59.7% females). Significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not reporting the bullying. Males were slightly more likely to give reasons such as handled it myself and didn't want the employer involved/to know, while females were slightly more likely to give reasons such as felt it was my own fault/I was partly responsible,  $\chi^2(1)=13.19$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if the employer had informed them of any action that had been taken, with slightly more females indicating they had been informed (46.2% males, 58.1% females). No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had been satisfied with the outcome, with slightly more females indicating that they were satisfied (27.6% males, 36.2% females). No significant differences were found between males and females in the reasons given for not being satisfied with the outcome.

**Gender had no effect on the reporting of bullying in the workplace, the reporting of bullying to the employer, being informed of action taken, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction. Of those who did report the bullying males were more likely to indicate that they had handled the bullying in their own way, while females were more likely to indicate that they felt at fault in some way.**

#### **Bullying in the Workplace - Age**

No significant differences were found between age categories in the responses given to any of the questions relating to bullying in the workplace.

#### **Bullying in the Workplace - Victimisation**

Significant differences were found between reported victimisation levels and responses to the question regarding bullying in the workplace. Respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' levels of victimisation were more likely to report that they or their children had been bullied in the workplace in the last three (3) years,  $\chi^2(3)=40.77$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and the following parts of the question; reporting levels, reasons for not reporting, informed of action, satisfied with outcome, and reasons not satisfied.

**As victimisation increased so did the likelihood that respondents would report bullying in the workplace. Victimisation level had no effect on the reporting of bullying to the employer, being informed of action taken, satisfaction with outcome, and reasons for dissatisfaction.**

#### **Bullying in the Workplace – Household Type**

No significant differences were found between household type and responses to the question (or any parts of) relating to bullying in the workplace.

#### **Bullying in the Workplace – Time lived in Suburb**

No significant differences were found between the time lived in suburb and responses to the question (or any parts of) relating to bullying in the workplace.

#### **Table 2:18**

#### **Types of Crimes Witnessed by Respondents in Their Suburb (All)**

Table 1

Type of Crime	% of Respondents who reported witnessing
None (no crime witnessed)	39.8%
Vandalism	34.6%
Break & Enter	28.7%
Domestic Violence	21.9%
Assault	14.2%
Drug Dealing	13.5%
Robbery	13.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	12.9%
Business Theft/Vandalism	11.2%
Child Abuse /Neglect	10.0%
Other	4.5%
Bag Snatching	4.4%
Stalking	3.6%

Table 1

<b>Rape</b>	2.1%
<b>Other Sexual Offences</b>	1.8%
<b>Homicide</b>	0.5%

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**Table 2:19**

**Number of Crimes Witnessed by Respondents in Their Suburb (All)**

<b>Number of Crimes</b>	<b>% of Respondents who reported witnessing</b>
0 - No crime witnessed	39.8%
1 - One crime witnessed	19.0%
2 - Two crimes witnessed	13.3%
3 - Three crimes witnessed	8.9%
4 - Four crimes witnessed	7.1%

Table 1

5 - Five crimes witnessed	4.5%
6 - Six crimes witnessed	3.1%
7 - Seven crimes witnessed	1.6%
8 - Eight crimes witnessed	1.4%
9 – Nine or more crimes witnessed	1.2%

-  
-  
-

**Violence related to Race and Sexuality - All**

5.3% (79) of respondents reported that in the last three (3) years they had been a victim of violence based on their racial background, of these 18.99% (15) recorded their ethnic background as Australian and at least one other ethnic group.

3.2% (47) of respondents reported that in the last three (3) years they had been a victim of violence based on their sexuality, of these 80.85% (38) recorded their gender as female.

**As the number of respondents who reported being a victim of violence based on their race or sexuality was limited no comparison on gender, age, or victimisation level was conducted on responses to these questions.**

**Violence with the Family – All**

3.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement; Violence from family members is a problem in my home.

**As the number of respondents who reported being a victim of violence based on their race or sexuality was limited no comparison on gender, age, or victimisation level was conducted on responses to these questions.**

### Witnessing Crime - All

The largest percentage of respondents reported that they had not witnessed any crime in their neighbourhood in the last year (39.8%). Of those respondents who did witness crimes in their neighbourhood during the last year, the three most common crimes witnessed were vandalism, break and enter, and domestic violence. It would seem unlikely that 2.4% (31) of respondents (or members of respondents household) had witnessed rape in the last year. Further examination revealed that 10 of these also reported being the victim of a personal violent crime, 19 reported they were not the victim of a personal/violent crime, and 2 did not provide a response when asked if they were the victim of a personal/violent crime. It is conceivable that up to 12 respondents who reported witnessing rape, had indeed been the victims of rape. Refer Table 2:18.

The number of crimes that respondents had witnessed was also examined, with 19% reporting they had witnessed one crime, 13.3% reporting that they had witnessed two crimes, and 13.3% reporting that they had witnessed three crimes. See Table 2:19.

The relationship between the witnessing of crime in their suburb and feelings of safety in their suburb was also examined. Significant relationships were found between increasing numbers of crimes witnessed and the tendency to report diminished feelings of safety in their own home ( $r=.254, p<.01$ ), in their neighbourhood during the day ( $r=.243, p<.01$ ), and in their neighbourhood during the night ( $r=.205, p<.01$ ).

**Respondents most commonly reported witnessing no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who did witness crime, vandalism, break and enter, and domestic violence were the most common crimes witnessed. Of those respondents who reported witnessing crime, most had witnessed between one (1) and three (3) crimes.**

### Witnessing Crime - Gender

Respondents were asked to report any crime that they or a member of their household has personally seen or heard (witnessed) being committed in their suburb in the last year. Respondents were allowed multiple responses and an 'Other' category was provided. Significant differences were found between males and females in their responses to this question.

Females were slightly more likely than males to report having witnessed no crime in the suburb in the last year,  $\chi^2(1) = 5.56, p<0.05$ . Females were more likely to report the witnessing of bag snatching, although only a small percentage of males and females witnessed this offence,  $\chi^2(1) = 7.32, p<0.01$ . Males were more likely (than females) to report the witnessing of vandalism,  $\chi^2(1) = 28.88, p<0.001$ . Males were slightly more likely to report the witnessing of assault,  $\chi^2(1) = 4.62, p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between males and females in witnessing break and enter, motor vehicle theft, business theft/vandalism, stalking, domestic violence, robbery, rape, homicide, other sexual offences, child/abuse neglect, drug dealing, and offences in the 'Other' category.

**Gender had limited effect on the reported witnessing of crime. Females were more likely to report no witnessing of crime. Of those who reported witnessing crime, females were slightly more likely to report bag snatching, while males reported more vandalism and assault.**

### Witnessing Crime - Age

Respondents were asked to report any crime that they or a member of their household has personally seen or heard (witnessed) being committed in their suburb in the last year. Respondents were allowed multiple responses and an 'Other' category was provided. Significant differences were found between age categories in the level of witnessing several of the offences listed in the question.

As age increased the likelihood that the respondent had witnessed any crime in the last year decreased, while only 27.6% of respondents aged between 12-24 years reported witnessing no crime, 55.1% of respondents aged over 65 years reported in the same way,  $\chi^2(5) = 25.04$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . As age increased the likelihood that the respondent had witnessed domestic violence decreased, 32.2% of young people (12-24 years) reported witnessing domestic violence, while 10.1% of respondents aged over 65 years reported in the same way,  $\chi^2(5) = 17.52$ ,  $p < 0.01$ . Younger respondents were more likely to witness child abuse/neglect than were older respondents. Respondents aged between 12-44 years had a mean witnessing rate of 11.5%, while respondents aged over 44 years had a mean witnessing rate of 5.8%,  $\chi^2(5) = 13.35$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . As age increased, the likelihood that the respondent had witnessed drug dealing decreased, 23% of young people (12-24 years) reported witnessing drug dealing, while only 3.4% of respondents aged over 65 years reported in the same way,  $\chi^2(5) = 15.91$ ,  $p < 0.01$ . As age increased the likelihood that respondents had witnessed rape in the last year decreased. Very few respondents reported witnessing rape in the last year (31), the highest incidence of reported witnessing was for respondents aged between 25-34 years at 4.1%, followed by 12-24 years at 3.4%,  $\chi^2(5) = 12.56$ ,  $p < 0.05$ .

No significant differences were found between age categories in the level of reported witnessing of break and enter, motor vehicle theft, vandalism, business theft/vandalism, bag snatching, stalking, assault, robbery, homicide, other sexual offences, and offences listed in the 'other' category.

No significant differences were found between age categories in the total number of crimes that respondents reported witnessing in the last year.

**As age increased the likelihood that respondents reported the witnessing of crime decreased. Young people (12-24 years) were more likely to report witnessing of child abuse/neglect and drug dealing. Respondents aged between 12-34 years reported most witnessing of rape.**

### Witnessing Crime - Victimization

Significant differences were found between levels of reported victimisation and responses made to the question about the witnessing of crime. Respondents who reported 'no' victimisation were most likely (of all victimisation categories) to report they had witnessed no crime in the last year (51.7%), followed by 'property' victims (34%), 'personal/violent' victims (28.7%), with respondents with reported levels of 'both' victimisation least likely to indicate this response (25.3%),  $\chi^2(3) = 66.21$ ,  $p < 0.001$ .

Witnessing of break and enter was almost equally likely to be indicated by respondents who reported 'property' or 'both' victimisation followed by 'personal/violent' victims, and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation were least likely to indicate witnessing of this offence,  $\chi^2(3) = 26.4$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . Witnessing of vandalism was most likely to be reported by respondents who reported 'both' victimisation, followed by 'property', 'personal/violent', and 'no' victimisation respectively,  $\chi^2(3) = 50.25$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . Witnessing of business theft/vandalism was most likely to be reported by respondents who reported 'property' victimisation, followed by 'both', 'personal/violent', and 'no' victimisation respectively,  $\chi^2(3) = 17.54$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . The same pattern of reporting was evident in the witnessing of robbery,  $\chi^2(3) = 35.24$ ,  $p < 0.001$ .

Witnessing of stalking was most likely to be reported by respondents who reported 'both' victimisation, followed by 'personal/violent', 'property', and 'no' victimisation respectively,  $\chi^2(3) = 74.97$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . Only a small percentage of respondents reported witnessing bag snatching, but of those who did, a familiar pattern emerged, respondents who reported 'personal/violent' victimisation were most likely to report witnessing, followed almost equally by 'both' and 'property', and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation respectively,  $\chi^2(3) = 9.51$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . Only a small percentage of respondents reported witnessing other sexual offences, but of those who did, respondents who reported 'both' or 'personal/violent' victimisation were almost equally likely to report witnessing, followed by 'both' and 'property', and respondents who reported 'no' victimisation respectively,  $\chi^2(3) = 19.41$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . The same pattern of reporting was evident in the witnessing of domestic violence  $\chi^2(3) = 63.08$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , child abuse/neglect,  $\chi^2(3) = 48.16$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , and drug dealing  $\chi^2(3) = 20.05$ ,  $p < 0.001$ .

Witnessing of motor vehicle theft was most likely to be reported by respondents who reported 'both' victimisation, followed by 'personal/violent' or 'property' victims almost equally, with respondents who reported 'no' victimisation least likely to indicate witnessing of this offence,  $\chi^2(3) = 17.60$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . The same pattern of reporting was evident in the witnessing of assault,  $\chi^2(3) = 51.36$ ,  $p < 0.001$ .

No significant differences were found between levels of reported victimisation and the witnessing of rape or homicide. No significant differences were found between levels of reported victimisation and use of the other category to report offences not listed.

Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and the total number of crimes that respondents reported witnessing in the last year. Only respondents who reported witnessing at least one crime were included in this analysis. While 76.4% of respondents who reported 'no' victimisation reported witnessing 1-3 offences, 68.8% of 'property', 61.1% of 'personal/violent', and 55.9% reported in the same way,  $\chi^2(36)=65.17$ ,  $p<0.001$ .

**Reported victimisation level had an effect on the reported witnessing of most crime. As victimisation level increased the likelihood that respondents reported no witnessing of crime decreased. Property victimisation appeared to have most effect on the increased reported witnessing of; break and enter, vandalism, business theft/vandalism, and robbery. Personal/violent victimisation appeared to have most effect on the increased reported witnessing of; stalking, bag snatching, other sexual offences, child abuse/neglect, and drug dealing. Respondents who reported victimisation also reported more witnessing of motor vehicle theft and assault. Victimization level appeared to have no effect on the reported witnessing of rape or homicide. As victimisation increased so did the numbers of crimes respondents reported witnessing in their suburb in the last year.**

### Witnessing Crime – Household Type

Those living in share accommodation were least likely to report that they had witnessed no crime in the last year followed by a parent with children, couple with children, extended family, those living alone, and couples respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=21.91$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Those living in share accommodation were most likely to report witnessing vandalism, followed by couples with children, extended family, parent with children, couples, and those living alone respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=11.94$ ,  $p<0.05$ . A parent with children was most likely to have witnessed domestic violence, followed by those in share accommodation, extended family, couples with children, those living alone, and couples respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=19.16$ ,  $p<0.01$ . Those living in share accommodation were most likely to report witnessing assault, followed by parent with children, couple with children, extended family, those living alone, and couples respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=17.45$ ,  $p<0.01$ . A parent with children was more likely to report witnessing of child abuse/neglect than any other household type,  $\chi^2(5)=16.10$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

No significant differences were found between household type and witnessing of break and enter, motor vehicle theft, business theft/vandalism, bag snatching, stalking, robbery, rape, homicide, other sexual offences, or drug dealing.

**Those living in share accommodation or a parent with children were more likely to have witnessed crime in their suburb in the last year, and were also most likely to have witnessed domestic violence and assault. Respondents living in share accommodation and respondents in a family unit that did or could include children were more likely to have witnessed vandalism. A parent with children was more likely to have witnessed child abuse/neglect.**

### Witnessing Crime – Time lived in Suburb

Respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year were most likely to report they had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year, followed by those who had lived there between one and three years, more than five years, and those that had lived in their suburb three to five years respectively,  $\chi^2(36)=12.81$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

Respondents who had lived in their suburb between three and five years were most likely to report witnessing break and enter, followed by more than five years, one to three years, and less than one year respectively,  $\chi^2(36)=11.39$ ,  $p<0.01$ . As time lived in suburb increased so did the likelihood that respondents would report witnessing motor vehicle theft,  $\chi^2(36)=10.32$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Respondents who had lived in their suburb between three and five years were most likely to report vandalism, followed by more than five years, one to three years, and less than one year respectively,  $\chi^2(36)=22.29$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Respondents who had lived in their suburb between three and five years were most likely to report business

theft/vandalism, followed by more than five years, one to three years, and less than one year respectively,  $\chi^2(36)=10.19, p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and reported witnessing of bag snatching, stalking, domestic violence, assault, robbery, rape, homicide, other sexual offences, child abuse/neglect, or drug dealing.

**Time lived in suburb appeared to have an effect on the witnessing of property related crime, but not personal/violent related crime. Respondents who had lived in their suburb between three and five years were more likely to have witnessed crime, and were also most likely to have witnessed the specific crimes of break and enter, vandalism, and business theft/vandalism. The longer a respondent had lived in their current suburb the more likely they were to have witnessed motor vehicle theft.**

## Community Involvement

### Community Group/Programs

Respondents were asked two multi-parted questions regarding current and past involvement in community groups/programs. Parts of these questions were open ended and responses coded by researchers.

### Neighbourly Contact

Respondents were asked one question regarding contact with neighbours. Response format was dichotomous, yes or no.

#### Community Groups/Programs - All

Respondents were asked about their current and past involvement in community based groups/programs. Crime Prevention Partnerships require broadly based community support and involvement to be successful and these questions were utilised as a tool to gain some insight into the number of community members participating in community groups/programs and the types or groups/programs with which they are involved. 15.4% of respondents indicated that they are currently involved in community based groups/programs, and 21.4% indicated that in the last five (5) years they had been involved in community based groups/programs. 84% of respondents who reported current involvement also reported involvement for the last five years.

Of those respondents who indicated current and/or past involvement, the most common categories selected were supportive groups involving welfare or children (current 24.3%, past 25.3%), church/religion based groups (current 23.3%, past 21.2%), and crime prevention groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House, PCYC, etc (current 18.3%, past 18.7%). Other categories which respondents indicated involvement in community based groups/programs were sporting groups (current 13.4%, past 12.1%) and service groups, guides, scouts (current 12.4%, past 17.2%).

**Respondents were more likely to report past (rather than current) involvement in community groups/programs. Respondents were most likely to report involvement in programs that targeted children or welfare oriented services, religion based groups, and programs targeting crime prevention respectively.**

#### Neighbourly Contact - All

Table 1

Respondents were asked if they regularly talked to their neighbours. This question was also designed to be utilised as a gauge of community involvement, on a less formal basis than involvement in structured programs. 78.4% of respondents reported that they regularly talk to people living nearby in their neighbourhood.

Significant differences were found between levels of respondents current and past involvement in community groups and the likelihood that they would report regularly talking to their neighbours. Respondents who reported current+past and current or past, were all slightly more likely to report that they regularly talked to people nearby in their neighbourhood, than were those respondents who reported no current or past involvement with community groups/programs,  $\chi^2(3)=9.14$ ,  $p<0.05$ .

**Most respondents reported that they regularly talked to their neighbours. Respondents who reported either current or past involvement in community groups programs were slightly more likely to report that they regularly talked to neighbours.**

### Community Groups/Programs - Gender

Respondents were asked about their current and past involvement in community based groups/programs. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they were currently involved in any community groups/programs. No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they had been involved in any community groups/programs. No significant differences were found between males and females in the types of groups that they reported being involved with, currently and in the past five years.

### Neighbourly Contact - Gender

No significant differences were found between males and females when asked if they regularly talked to the people living nearby in their neighbourhood.

**Gender had no effect on current or past involvement in community groups/programs or reported communication with neighbours.**

### Community Groups/Programs - Age

Significant differences were found between age categories when asked if they were currently involved in any community groups/programs. Young people (12-24 years) were least likely to indicate any involvement in such groups/programs, only 4.6% of 12-24 year olds reported involvement, while the mean level of involvement for all other age categories was 15.5%,  $\chi^2(5)=13.46$ ,  $p<0.05$ . Significant differences were also found between age categories when asked if they had been involved in any community groups/programs in the last five (5) years. Respondents in the age categories 35-44 years (24.2%), 45-54 years (28.1%), and over 65 years (25.3%) reported most 'past' involvement, while respondents in the age categories 12-24 years (14%), 25-34 years (15.3%), and 55-64 years (15.9%) reported lower levels of past involvement,  $\chi^2(5)=25.28$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant difference between age categories was found for the types of groups/programs that respondents were involved in, either currently or in the past five years.

### Neighbourly Contact – Age

No significant differences were found between age categories when respondents were asked if they regularly talked to the people living nearby in their neighbourhood.

**Younger people reported least involvement (current or past) in community groups/programs. Age appeared to have no effect on communication with neighbours.**

### **Community Groups/Programs - Victimization**

No significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and current involvement in community groups/programs, or in the types of programs respondents were involved in. Significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation and past involvement in community groups/programs. Respondents who reported no victimisation were least likely to report past involvement,  $\chi^2(3)=11.01$ ,  $p<0.05$ . No significant differences were found between victimisation level and the types of program respondents had been involved in.

### **Neighbourly Contact - Victimization**

No significant differences were found between reported levels of victimisation when respondents were asked if they regularly talked to the people living nearby in their neighbourhood.

**Victimization had a limited effect on past involvement in community groups/programs. Respondents who reported no victimisation were least likely to report past involvement. Victimization appeared to have no effect on current involvement with community groups/programs, the types of groups respondents were involved in, and communication between neighbours.**

### **Community Groups/Programs – Household Type**

Couples with children were most likely to report current involvement in community groups/programs, followed by extended family, and couples respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=29.10$ ,  $p<0.001$ . Those living in an extended family were most likely to report past involvement, followed by couples with children, parents with children, and couples,  $\chi^2(5)=29.95$ ,  $p<0.001$ . No significant differences were found between household type and the types of groups/programs people are involved in, currently or in the past.

### **Neighbourly Contact – Household Type**

Significant differences were found between household type and the likelihood that respondents regularly talked to the people living nearby in their neighbourhood. Couples with children were most likely to report they regularly talked to people living nearby, followed by couples, those living alone, parent with children, extended family, and share accommodation respectively,  $\chi^2(5)=15.69$ ,  $p<0.01$ .

**Respondents living in a family unit (as distinct from living alone in share accommodation) were most likely to report current or past involvement in community groups/programs. Most respondents reported regularly talking to their neighbours, however, those living in an extended family or in share accommodation were less likely to indicate they regularly talked to their neighbours.**

### **Community Groups/Programs – Time lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and current involvement in community groups/programs. 18.5% of respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years reported current involvement, while 10.4% of respondents who had lived in their suburb for less than one year reported in the same manner,  $\chi^2(3)=11.65$ ,  $p<0.01$ . No significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and the types of programs respondents were involved in. Significant differences were found between time lived in

## Table 1

suburb and past involvement in community groups/programs, respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years were most likely to have reported past involvement, respondents who had lived in suburb for one to five years or three to five years were equally likely to report past involvement, and respondents who had lived in their current suburb for less than one year were least likely to report past involvement,  $\chi^2(3)=12.57$ ,  $p<0.01$ . No significant differences were found between time lived in suburb and the types of program respondents had been involved in.

### **Neighbourly Contact – Time lived in Suburb**

Significant differences were found between time lived in a suburb and the likelihood of respondents regularly talking to the people living nearby in their neighbourhood. Overall, as time lived in suburb increased so did the likelihood that respondents would report they regularly spoke to people living nearby. However, respondents who had lived in their suburb for more than five years were slightly less likely than respondents who had lived in their current suburb for three to five years to report they regularly talked to people living nearby,  $\chi^2(3)=14.66$ ,  $p<0.01$

**The longer a respondent had lived in their current suburb the more likely they were to report current or past involvement in community groups/programs. Respondents who had lived in their suburb were most likely to report they regularly talked to their neighbours, closely followed by those who had lived in their suburb for more than five years.**

## Individual Suburb

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Analysis based on suburb of residence is generally limited to questions directly relating to respondents identified crime/crime prevention experiences and needs.

*Questions regarding victimisation have been purposely omitted from analysis based on suburb. Concerns were held by the researchers that suburbs should not be identified as 'problem areas' simply based on the level of victimisation that was reported in those suburbs. This Report is driven by a theme of enabling communities to prevent crime in a positive manner. It was considered that targeting specific suburbs simply on the basis of victimisation may have detrimental impact on crime prevention measures in that community and also that communities who have concerns about crime that are not supported by victimisation rates may not receive the support they need to develop crime prevention initiatives in their suburb.*

Thuringowa City Council and active Crime Prevention Partnerships will be provided with analyses of victimisation by suburb and are free to make this information available to interested parties who propose legitimate need for that information.

Note: Households to receive survey packages were randomly selected from a base population of 14 576 households drawn from the Thuringowa City Council database. The use of random selection meant that no external controls were placed on the number of households selected from each of the represented suburbs. Through natural selection larger suburbs would receive more survey packages and smaller suburbs would receive less survey packages or even none.

## Alice River

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree (than the average of all respondents) that they felt safe from crime in their own home, when passing a group of young men on the street, when

Table 1

out alone in their suburb during the day and at night, and when travelling to an from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when at shopping centres at night and when using parking lots at night.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were almost equally likely (compared to the average of all respondents) to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years but were less likely to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

10% of respondents living in Alice River reported there were areas in their suburb where they did not feel safe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe. 43.8% of respondents reported there were areas in their suburb where they do not feel safe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate local parks and a specific street where they did not feel safe and were most likely to give reasons for feeling unsafe that were coded as poor lighting, poor design.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

47.1% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 56.9% selected school based crime prevention programs. 29.4% of Respondents selected safety checks for older neighbours, 21.6% support services for families, and 31.4% support networks for those living alone. 15.7% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours and 17.6% selected facility for community development programs. 23.5% of respondents selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 41.2% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 47.1% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

17.6% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 7.8% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 31.4% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 21.6% had installed security screens/alarms. 23.5% had discussed safety with children/parents. 2% had changed method of transport/travel and 35.3% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 5.9% have changed shopping times/places and 15.7% had restricted activities at night. 2% had moved house and 3.9% had stopped living alone. 3.9% utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents indicated they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do, or changed leisure activities.

### **Witnessing Crime**

47.1% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 21.6% witnessed break and enter, 31.4% vandalism, and 7.8% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 3.9% witnessed stalking, 3.9% domestic violence, 5.9% assault, 7.8% robbery, 2% rape, 2% other sexual offences, and 7.8% child abuse/neglect. 17.6% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents from Alice River felt most unsafe when using shopping centres and parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to report areas in their suburb where they did not feel safe during the day or at night. When respondents did report areas where they felt unsafe at night, it was most likely to be a park because of poor lighting/poor design. Respondents were more likely (than the average of all respondents) to have witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. The most common crimes respondents reported witnessing were vandalism, break and enter, and business theft/vandalism.**

**Many respondents had undertaken at least one safety strategy in the last year. Most respondents locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, followed by bought a dog/guard dog, and installed security screens.**

**Respondents were most likely to select after school activities for youth and school based crime prevention programs. Many respondents also selected lighting, paths, etc, foot/bike patrols and support networks for those living alone.**

## Balgai

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### Feelings of Safety

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when out alone in my neighbourhood at night, and travelling to and from work/school alone, but less likely to agree they felt safe when in their own home, out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, when passing a group of young men on the street, when at shopping centres at night and when using parking lots at night.

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### Crime in Suburb

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb but more likely to agree that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

22.2% of respondents living in Balgai reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe. 16.7% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the night did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe

### Crime Prevention Programs

38.5% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 53.8% selected school based crime prevention programs. 46.2% selected safety checks for older neighbours 15.4% support services for families, and 38.5% support networks for those living alone. 7.7% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, while 23.1% selected facility for community development programs. 23.1% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 46.2% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 53.8% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc

### Strategies Undertaken in the last year

23.1% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 7.7 % indicated they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 23.1% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 30.8% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 7.7% had installed security screens/alarms. 30.8% had discussed safety with children/parents. 7.7% had changed method of transport/travel and 23.1% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 23.1% had changed leisure activities and 15.4% had restricted activities at night. 7.7% had moved house and 7.7% had stopped living alone. 15.4% utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken

that were not listed. No respondents indicated they had changed shopping times/places.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

53.8% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing crime, 38.5% witnessed break and enter, 23.1% motor vehicle theft, 38.5% vandalism, 7.7% business theft/vandalism, 15.4% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 15.4% domestic violence, 15.4% assault, 15.4% robbery, 7.7% rape, and 7.7% child abuse/neglect. 23.1% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents living in Balgal were more concerned about safety in their neighbourhood during the day, and also more likely to name specific areas, however, they did not provide information as to the location of these specific areas. Respondents were also less likely to report they felt safe in their own home, and expressed diminished feelings of safety when at shopping centres at night, using parking lots at night, and when passing a group of young men on the street. Respondents were less likely to report areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Over half of respondents reported witnessing no crime in their suburb in the last year, of those that did report witnessing crime, most had witnessed break and enter, vandalism, and motor vehicle theft.**

**Respondents were more likely to indicate they had undertaken no strategies. Many respondents had discussed safety with children/parents and/or bought a dog/guard dog.**

**Respondents were most likely to have selected school based crime prevention programs and facilities such as lighting, paths etc, followed by safety checks for older neighbours and foot/bike patrols by police.**

## **Black River**

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the night, passing a group of young men on the street, using shopping centres at night, and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were almost equally likely (compared to the average of all respondents) to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years but were less likely to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

13.3% of respondents living in Black River reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Few respondents felt unsafe, but those who did nominate a location nominated an entertainment venue or shopping centre as the area where they felt unsafe. Respondents reasons for feeling unsafe varied from poor design, feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place, and the venue having a reputation for being dangerous. 40.7% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local entertainment venue or shopping centre and a specific street as areas where they did not feel safe and most

often gave reasons that were coded as 'other' or that they feel unsafe around the people who frequent that area.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

39.4% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 39.4% selected school based crime prevention programs. 30.3% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 24.2% support services for families, and 30.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 9.1% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, while 18.2% facility for community development programs. 9.1% of respondents selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 15.2% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 30.3% selected facilities such as lighting, paths, etc

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

18.2% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 9.1% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 36.4% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 27.3% had installed security screens/alarms. 15.2% had discussed safety with children/parents. 39.4% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 3% had changed leisure activities and 24.2% had restricted activities at night. 9.1% had moved house. 39.4% utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. No respondents indicated they had changed shopping times/places, changed method of transport/travel, or had stopped living alone.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

45.5% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 18.2% witnessed break and enter, 3% motor vehicle theft, 27.3% vandalism, and 6.1% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 6.1% witnessed stalking, 21.2% domestic violence, 12.1% assault, 15.2% robbery, 3% other sexual offences, and 12.1% child abuse/neglect. 6.1% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents from Black River felt more unsafe in their neighbourhood during the day, however they were less likely to name specific areas where they felt unsafe, when compared to all respondents. Respondents also felt more unsafe travelling to and from work/school alone, when compared to all respondents. Respondents were no more likely to believe that property crime had increased, and less likely to believe that personal/violent crime had increased. Respondents were most likely to indicate they had not witnessed a crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who did witness crime most reported vandalism, break and enter, and domestic violence.**

**Respondents were more likely to indicate they had utilised no safety strategies because they felt safe. Those that had utilised strategies were equally likely to indicate they locked doors when travelling in a vehicle and strategies in the other category (most commonly locked doors when at home), bought a dog/guard dog, and/or installed security screens.**

**Respondents were less likely to select all crime prevention programs, the most commonly selected programs were after school activities for youth and school based crime prevention programs, followed by safety checks for older neighbours and foot/bike patrols by police.**

## **Bluewater**

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**Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when using parking lots at night and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were equally likely to agree they felt safe when passing a group of young men on the street. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe from crime when at shopping centres at night.

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**Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb but more likely to agree that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

9.5% of respondents living in Bluewater reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe. 35% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to give a response that was coded as 'other' when asked to nominate the area where they felt unsafe.

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**Crime Prevention Programs**

59.1% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 59.1% selected school based crime prevention programs. 22.7% of respondents selected safety checks for older neighbours, 45.5% support services for families, and 27.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 9.1% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, while 27.3% facility for community development programs. 22.7% of respondents selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 22.7% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 54.5% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

**Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

36.4% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 4.5% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 13.6% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 22.7% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 27.3% had installed security screens/alarms. 9.1% had discussed safety with children/parents. 31.8% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 4.5% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 13.6% had restricted activities at night. 4.5% had stopped living alone. 9.1% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents had changed method of transport/travel, changed leisure activities, or moved house.

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**Witnessing Crime**

40.9% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 22.7% witnessed break and enter, 4.5% motor vehicle theft, 36.4% vandalism, and 13.6% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 4.5% witnessed stalking, 31.8% domestic violence, 13.6% assault, 4.5% robbery, and 13.6% child abuse/neglect. 22.7% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety only when at shopping centres at night. Respondents were most likely to select after school activities for youth and school based crime prevention as crime prevention programs they would likely to see introduced in their suburb, followed by support services for families. Respondents**

were slightly less likely (than the average of all respondents) to report they had witnessed crime in their suburb, the crimes they most commonly reported witnessing were; vandalism, domestic violence, and break and enter, respectively.

Many respondents had not undertaken any safety strategies because they felt safe. Of those that did undertake one or more strategies, they were most likely to have locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, installed security screens, and/or bought a dog/guard dog. Despite respondents overall reported feeling safe, they were more likely (than the average of all respondents) to have restricted activities at night as a safety strategy.

### **Bluewater Park**

No interpretation given as number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

### **Bohle Plains**

No interpretation given as number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

### **Bushland Beach**

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#### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when passing a group of young men on the street, when at shopping centres at night, when using parking lots at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

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#### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

14% of respondents living in Bushland Beach reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were more likely to nominate a local park as the area where they felt unsafe and they felt unsafe because it had a reputation for being dangerous. 54.3% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local beach as an area where they did not feel safe at night and most often gave reasons that were coded as poor lighting, poor design, as well as feel unsafe around people who frequent that place.

#### **Crime Prevention Programs**

49% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 42.9% selected school based crime prevention programs. 26.5% of respondents selected safety checks for older neighbours, 22.4% support services for families, and 26.5% selected support networks for those living alone. 22.4% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 20.4% selected facility for community development programs. 22.4% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 22.4% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 51% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

28.6% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 4.1% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 20.4% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 26.5% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 24.5% had installed security screens/alarms. 30.6% had discussed safety with children/parents. 2% had changed method of transport/travel and 20.4% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 8.2% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 2% had changed leisure activities and 18.4% had restricted activities at night. 2% had stopped living alone. 8.2% utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents had moved house.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

37.5% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 12.2% witnessed break and enter, 34.7% vandalism, 8.2% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 2% witnessed stalking, 14.3% domestic violence, 6.1% assault, 12.2% robbery, and 4.1% child abuse/neglect. 8.2% reported witnessing drug dealing.

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**Respondents reported greater feelings of safety (than the average of all respondents) in all situations asked about in Section One of the survey. Respondents were less likely to indicate there were specific areas where they felt unsafe during the day or at night, those that did most commonly nominated a local park (day) and a local beach (night). Respondents were slightly less likely to report they had witnessed no crime in their suburb, the crime most commonly witnessed were; vandalism, domestic violence, and break and enter, robbery, respectively.**

**Respondents were more likely to report they had undertaken no safety strategies because they felt safe and also more likely to report they had undertaken no strategies because they were not sure what to do. Respondents who had utilised safety strategies were most likely to indicate they had discussed safety with children/parents, bought a dog/guard dog, and and/or installed security screens.**

**Respondents were most likely to select lighting, paths, etc as the facility they would like introduced in their suburb, followed by after school activities for youth and school based crime prevention programs.**

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## **Condon**

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when passing a group of young men on the street, when using shopping centres at night, and slightly more likely to report they felt safe when using parking lots at night and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to report they felt safe from crime when out in their neighbourhood during the day or at night.

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**Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb and that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were more likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years and to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

23.4% of respondents living in Condon reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local park as the area where they felt unsafe and that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place. 64.4% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local park and a specific street as the areas where they felt unsafe and were more likely to give reasons that were coded as poor lighting, poor design, feel unsafe around people who frequent that area, or 'other'.

**Crime Prevention Programs**

53.9% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 55.9% selected school based crime prevention programs. 49% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 24.5% support services for families, and 34.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 31.4% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 24.5% selected facility for community development programs. 24.5% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 58.8% foot/bike patrols by Police, 63.7% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

**Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

12.7% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 3.9% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 23.5% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 21.6% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 42.2% had installed security screens/alarms. 28.4% had discussed safety with children/parents. 34.3% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 8.8% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 5.9% had changed leisure activities and 24.5% had restricted activities at night. 3.9% moved house and 2% had stopped living alone. 14.7% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents had changed method of transport/travel.

**Witnessing Crime**

36.3% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 32.4% witnessed break and enter, 21.6% motor vehicle theft, 31.4% vandalism, 8.8% business theft/vandalism, and 3.9% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 3.9% witnessed stalking, 27.5% domestic violence, 10.8% assault, 18.6% robbery, 2.9% rape, 2% homicide, 2.9% other sexual offences, and 16.7% child abuse/neglect. 12.7% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported greatest diminished feelings of safety (when compared to the average of all respondents) when out alone in their neighbourhood, day and night. Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was problematic in their suburb, affected lifestyles, and had increased. Respondents were more likely to nominate specific areas where they felt unsafe day and night. The areas most commonly nominated were local parks (day and night) and specific streets (night). Most common reasons for feeling unsafe were feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place (day and night) and poor lighting/poor design (night). Respondents were slightly less likely to indicate they had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Respondents most commonly reported witnessing break and enter, vandalism, domestic violence, and motor vehicle theft, respectively.**

Respondents were less likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe, and were slightly more likely to indicate they had not utilised any of the listed strategies because they did not know what to do. Of those who had utilised the listed strategies, they were most likely to have installed security screens/alarms, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, discussed safety with children/parents, and restricted activities at night, respectively. Respondents were more likely (than the average of all respondents) to indicate that they had utilised strategies that were not listed.

Respondents selected more crime prevention programs (when compared to the average of all respondents) and the programs most commonly selected were; lighting, paths, etc, foot/bike patrols by police, school based crime prevention programs, after school activities for youth, and safety checks for older neighbours, respectively.

## Deeragun

### Feelings of Safety

Respondents were more likely to report they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, when passing a group of young men on the street, and when at shopping centres at night. Respondents were equally likely to agree they felt safe from crime when out alone in their neighbourhood at night and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe from crime when travelling to and from work/school alone.

### Crime in Suburb

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years but slightly more likely to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

20.4% of respondents living in Deeragun reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local entertainment venue or shopping centre as the area where they felt unsafe. Respondents were equally likely to give a reason for feeling unsafe that was coded as feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place and other. 56.5% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local entertainment venue or shopping centre and a specific street, as the areas where they felt unsafe and were most likely to nominate feeling unsafe around people who frequent that area, and poor lighting/poor design.

### Crime Prevention Programs

66.7% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 59.6% selected school based crime prevention programs. 38.6% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 22.8% support services for families, and 31.6% support networks for those living alone. 21.1% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 29.8% selected facility for community development programs. 36.8% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 45.6% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 54.4% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### Strategies Undertaken in the last year

24.6% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 1.8% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as

Table 1

they were not sure what to do. 12.3% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 26.3% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 43.9% had installed security screens/alarms. 22.8% had discussed safety with children/parents. 22.8% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 8.8% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 5.3% had changed leisure activities and 26.3% had restricted activities at night. 7% moved house and 3.5% had stopped living alone. 8.8% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents had changed method of transport/travel.

### **Witnessing Crime**

31.6% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 29.8% witnessed break and enter, 17.5% motor vehicle theft, 38.6% vandalism, 12.3% business theft/vandalism, 5.3% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 1.8% witnessed stalking, 28.1% domestic violence, 15.8% assault, 12.3% robbery, 1.8% rape, 3.5% other sexual offences, and 10.5% child abuse/neglect. 21.1% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety (when compared to the average of all respondents) only when travelling to and from work/school alone, although the majority still felt safe in this situation. Respondents were slightly more likely to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb, but were no more likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb or affected lifestyles. Respondents were slightly less likely to report areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe, day or night. Respondents nominated an entertainment venue or shopping centres (day and night) and specific streets (night) as areas where they felt unsafe. Feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that area was the most common reason for feeling unsafe (day and night) followed by poor lighting/poor design when in these areas at night. Respondents were less likely to report they (or a member of their household) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing crime, the most common crimes witnessed were; vandalism, break and enter, domestic violence, drug dealing, and assault.**

**Respondents were more likely to indicate that they had not utilised any safety strategies because they felt safe. Of those who had utilised safety strategies, the most commonly selected were; installed security screens/alarms, bought a dog/guard dog, discussed safety with children/parents, and locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. Respondents tended to select more crime prevention programs (than the average of all respondents) for introduction in their suburb.**

**The most commonly selected programs were; after school activities for youth, school based crime prevention, lighting, paths, etc, foot/bike patrols by police, safety checks for older neighbours, and neighbourhood graffiti cleanups.**

## **Jensen**

### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when passing a group of young men on the street, when at shopping centres at night and using parking lots at night.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

28.3% of respondents living in Jensen reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate an area coded as

'other' as the place they felt unsafe, the most common reason for feeling unsafe was that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place. 67.4% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. The greatest number of respondents gave areas that were coded as 'other', respondents also nominated local entertainment venues or shopping centre, local park, and specific streets as areas where they felt unsafe. Respondents were most likely to give reasons for feeling unsafe that were coded as feel unsafe round people who frequent that place and poor lighting/poor design.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

47.5% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 64.4% selected school based crime prevention programs. 45.8% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 35.6% support services for families, and 27.1% selected support networks for those living alone. 16.9% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, while 23.7% selected facility for community development programs. 39% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 59.3% foot/bike patrols by Police, 57.6% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

20.3% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 5.1% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 8.5% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 25.4% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 27.1% had installed security screens/alarms. 32.2% had discussed safety with children/parents. 30.5% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 5.1% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 5.1% had changed leisure activities and 25.4% had restricted activities at night. 1.7% moved house and 1.7% had stopped living alone. 10.2% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents had changed method of transport/travel.

### **Witnessing Crime**

45.8% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 16.9% witnessed break and enter, 13.6% motor vehicle theft, 27.1% vandalism, 8.5% business theft/vandalism, 5.1% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 3.4% witnessed stalking, 15.3% domestic violence, 10.2% assault, 11.9% robbery, 1.7% other sexual offences, and 8.5% child abuse/neglect. 13.6% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety in all situations except when travelling to and from work/school (when compared to the average of all respondents). Despite these reported diminished feelings of safety respondents were less likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb or affected lifestyles or to believe that crime had increased in their suburb. Respondents were more likely (than the average of all respondents) to indicate there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe, day and night. It is difficult to nominate specific areas where respondents felt unsafe, as all areas were selected and the 'other' category was also used extensively. Respondents most commonly said that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place (day and night) and because of poor lighting/poor design. Respondents were more likely to report they had witnessed no crime in their suburb (when compared to the average of all respondents). Of those who had witnessed crime, the most common crimes witnessed were; vandalism, break and enter, and domestic violence.**

**Respondents were more likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies because they felt safe, and were also more likely to not have undertaken any safety strategies because they did not know what to do. Of those respondents who did utilise the listed strategies, the most commonly selected were; discussed safety with children/parents, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, and installed security screens/alarms. Respondents were equally likely to indicate they had bought a dog/guard dog and/or restricted activities at night. Respondents tended to select more crime prevention programs for introduction in their suburb (than the average of all other respondents).**

**The most common programs selected were; school based crime prevention programs, foot/bike patrols by police, lighting, paths etc, after school activities for youth, and safety checks for older neighbours. Over one third of respondents also selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups and support services for families.**

## Kelso

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime, when passing a group of young men on the street, and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when at shopping centres at night, and when travelling alone to and from work/school.

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### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb and that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were more likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years and to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

31.5% of respondents living in Kelso reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were more likely to nominate a local park as the area where they felt unsafe and that they felt unsafe around the people that frequent that place. 70.8% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents nominated local parks, specific streets, and entertainment venue or shopping centre as areas where they did not feel safe at night. Respondents gave varied reasons for feeling unsafe in the areas they nominated but most commonly reported they feel unsafe around the people who frequent that place and poor lighting/poor design.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

57.5% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 62.7% nominated school based crime prevention programs. 48.7% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 30.7% support services for families, and 36.8% selected support networks for those living alone. 26.3% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, while 21.9% selected facility for community development programs. 21.9% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 52.2% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 65.8% selected facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

11% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 3.5% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 18.9% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 41.2% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 44.7% had installed security screens/alarms. 31.1% had discussed safety with children/parents. 4.8% respondents had changed method of transport/travel and 39.5% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 9.6% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 5.7% had changed leisure activities and 23.2% had restricted activities at night. 2.2% moved house and 1.8% had stopped living alone. 11.8% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

34.6% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 36%

witnessed break and enter, 16.2% motor vehicle theft, 32.5% vandalism, 10.1% business theft/vandalism, 3.9% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 4.4% witnessed stalking, 29.8% domestic violence, 18.4% assault, 16.7% robbery, 3.1% rape, 0.9% homicide, 2.6% other sexual offences, and 12.7% child abuse/neglect. 15.4% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety associated with their home and neighbourhood, when at shopping centres and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were more likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb, that crime had increased, and affected lifestyles. Respondents were more likely to nominate specific areas where they felt unsafe, day and night. Local parks were most commonly nominated during the day, while a variety of areas were nominated at night (local parks, entertainment venues/shopping centres, and specific streets). Respondents most commonly felt unsafe around the people who frequent those areas and because of poor lighting/poor design at night. Respondents were slightly more likely to indicate they had witnessed crime in their suburb. The crimes most commonly witnessed were; break and enter, vandalism, domestic violence, assault, robbery, and motor vehicle theft, and drug dealing.**

**Respondents were less likely to report they had undertaken no safety strategies because they felt safe. Of those who had utilised strategies, the most commonly selected were; installed security screens/alarms, bought a dog/guard dog, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, discussed safety with children/parents, and restricted activities at night. Respondents tended to select more crime prevention programs for introduction in their suburb (than the average of all respondents).**

**The most commonly selected programs were; facilities such as lighting, paths etc, school based crime prevention, after school activities for youth, foot/bike patrols by police, safety checks for older neighbours, and support networks for those living alone.**

## Kirwan

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### Feelings of Safety

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when at shopping centres at night. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe from crime in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when passing a group of young men on the street, when using parking lots at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

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### Crime in Suburb

Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb and that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were more likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years and to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

17.8% of respondents living in Kirwan reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local park or a specific street as the areas where they felt unsafe and that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place. 69.6% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents nominated specific streets, local parks, entertainment venue or shopping centres as areas where they did not feel safe at night. Respondents were most likely to give their reasons for feeling unsafe as feel unsafe around people who frequent that place, poor lighting/poor design, and has a reputation for being dangerous.

### Crime Prevention Programs

## Table 1

52.1% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 59.2% school based crime prevention programs. 48.7% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 26.9% support services for families, and 41.7% selected support networks for those living alone. 28.8% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 24.1% selected facility for community development programs. 28.8% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 61.5% foot/bike patrols by Police, 60.9% selected facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### Strategies Undertaken in the last year

14.7% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 2.8% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 19.7% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 25.9% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 40.2% had installed security screens/alarms. 30.3% had discussed safety with children/parents. 1.9% respondents had changed method of transport/travel and 36.8% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 11.3% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 5.6% had changed leisure activities and 26.1% had restricted activities at night. 6% moved house and 2.8% had stopped living alone. 11.1% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

### Witnessing Crime

38.2% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing crime, 31% witnessed break and enter, 14.1% motor vehicle theft, 37% vandalism, 13.9% business theft/vandalism, 6.6% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 3.4% witnessed stalking, 18.2% domestic violence, 16.7% assault, 13.2% robbery, 3% rape, 0.4% homicide, 1.5% other sexual offences, and 6.8% child abuse/neglect. 11.8% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety in all situations in Section One except when at shopping centres at night. Respondents were more likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb, that crime had increased, and affected lifestyles. Respondents were more likely to nominate specific areas where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate local parks or specific streets as areas they felt unsafe during the day, while concerns about specific areas were more widespread at night (specific streets, local parks, entertainment venues/shopping centres). Respondents tended to report they felt unsafe because they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place, poor lighting/poor design, or that the place nominated had a reputation for being dangerous. Respondents were slightly more likely to report they (or a member of their household) had witnessed a crime in their suburb. The most common crime witnessed were; vandalism, break and enter, domestic violence, assault, and motor vehicle theft.**

**Respondents were less likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies because they felt safe. Of those who had utilised safety strategies, the most commonly selected strategies were; installed security screens/alarms, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, restricted activities at night, and bought a dog/guard dog.**

**When asked about crime prevention programs respondents were most likely to select lighting, paths etc, foot/bike patrols by police, school based crime prevention programs, after school activities for youth, safety checks for older neighbours, and support networks for those living alone.**

## Mount Low

### Feelings of Safety

Respondents were more likely to agree that they felt safe from crime in response to all statements; when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, passing a group of young men on the street, when at shopping centres at night, and using parking lots at night and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

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### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

27.3% of respondents living in Mount Low reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were more likely to nominate a local beach as the area where they felt unsafe and to give their reasons as feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place or that it has a reputation for being dangerous. 47.4% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents nominated entertainment venue or shopping centres, local beach and local parks as areas where they did not feel safe at night and gave reasons for feeling unsafe as poor lighting/poor design and feel unsafe around people who frequent that place.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

53.8% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, while 50% suggested school based crime prevention programs. 34.6% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 26.9% support services for families, and 26.9% selected support networks for those living alone. 23.1% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 38.5% selected facility for community development programs. 30.8% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 42.3% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 65.4% selected facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

11.5% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe while 7.7% indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 3.8% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 23.1% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 34.6% had installed security screens/alarms. 30.3% had discussed safety with children/parents. 3.8% respondents had changed method of transport/travel and 36.8% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 11.5% indicated they had changed shopping times/places. 7.7% had restricted activities at night. 3.8% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents indicated they had changed leisure activities, moved house, or had stopped living alone.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

46.2% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing crime, 23.1% witnessed break and enter, 11.5% motor vehicle theft, 30.8% vandalism, and 15.4% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 11.5% witnessed domestic violence, 3.8% assault, 11.5% robbery, and 3.8% witnessed rape. 11.5% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents did not report diminished feelings of safety (when compared to the average of all respondents) in any of the situations in Section One. Respondents were less likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb, that crime had increased in their suburb, or affected lifestyles. Respondents were more likely to nominate specific areas in their suburb where they did not feel safe during the day, but not at night. Local beaches were most commonly named as an area that was of concern during the day, while areas of concern at night were more widespread (entertainment venues/shopping centres, local beach, local park). During the day concerned people gave reasons as feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place or has a reputation for being dangerous. At night reasons were most commonly feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that place or poor lighting/poor design. Respondents were more likely to indicate they had witnessed no crime in their suburb, however, of those that did the most common crimes were; vandalism, break and enter, business theft/vandalism, and equally motor vehicle theft, domestic violence, and drug dealing.**

Respondents were slightly less likely to indicate they had undertaken no safety strategies because they felt safe, but more likely to indicate they had no utilised any strategies because they were not sure what to do. The strategies most commonly utilised were; locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, installed security/screens alarms, discussed safety with children/parents, bought a dog/guard dog, and changed shopping times/places. When asked about crime prevention programs respondents most commonly selected; lighting, paths, etc, after school activities for youth, school based crime prevention programs, foot/bike patrols by police, and facilities for community development programs.

## Rangewood

### Feelings of Safety

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when at shopping centres at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when passing a group of young men on the street and when using parking lots at night.

### Crime in Suburb

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

2.7% of respondents living in Rangewood reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas, or their reasons given for feeling unsafe. 16.1% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local park as an area where they did not feel safe at night and were most likely to give their reasons for feeling unsafe as poor lighting/poor design.

### Crime Prevention Programs

43.2% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 32.4% selected school based crime prevention programs. 32.4% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 13.5% support services for families, and 24.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 21.6% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 16.2% selected facility for community development programs. 13.5% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 40.5% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 40.5% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### Strategies Undertaken in the last year

35.1% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 5.4% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 24.3% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 18.9% had installed security screens/alarms. 27% had discussed safety with children/parents. 24.3% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 8.1% had restricted activities at night. No respondents indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do, had changed method of transport/travel, changed shopping times/places, changed leisure activities, moved house, or had stopped living alone. No respondents utilised the "other" category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

54.1% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 13.5% witnessed break and enter, 35.1% vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 5.4% witnessed domestic violence, and 5.4% witnessed assault. 8.1% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety when passing a group of young men on the street and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb, had increased, or affected lifestyles. Respondents were far less likely to nominate areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day and night. Local parks were most commonly nominated as an area where people felt unsafe at night because of poor lighting/poor design. The majority of respondents reported they had witnessed no crime in their suburb during the last year, those that had most commonly selected vandalism and/or break and enter.**

**Respondents were almost twice as likely (than the average of all respondents) to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. The most commonly selected strategies were; discussed safety with children/parents, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, bought a dog/guard dog, and installed security screens/alarms.**

**When asked about crime prevention programs respondents selected, facilities such as lighting, paths etc and foot/bike patrols by police equally, after school activities for youth, and school based crime prevention programs and safety checks for older neighbours equally.**

## **Rasmussen**

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, when passing a group of young men on the street, when using shopping centres at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb and that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb. Respondents were more likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years and to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

25.7% of respondents living in Rasmussen reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local park or entertainment venue or shopping centre as the areas where they felt unsafe and that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place. 77.7% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents gave extremely varied responses, the majority of which were coded as 'other', specific street, local park, local entertainment venue or shopping centre. Respondents were most likely to report they felt unsafe in these areas because they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place and to a lesser degree poor lighting/poor design.

**Crime Prevention Programs**

49.6% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 52.2% school based crime prevention programs. 46.9% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 26.5% support services for families, and 38.9% selected support networks for those living alone. 34.5% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 17.7% selected facility for community development programs. 24.8% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 55.8% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 64.6% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

**Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

11.5% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe, while 3.5% respondents indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do. 19.5% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 36.3% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 33.6% had installed security screens/alarms. 31.9% had discussed safety with children/parents. 38.9% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle and 4.4% had changed method of transport/travel. 13.3% changed shopping times/places, 30.1% had restricted activities at night and 8% had changed leisure activities. 2.7% moved house. No respondents indicated that they had stopped living alone. 10.6% respondents utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

**Witnessing Crime**

33.6% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 40.7% witnessed break and enter, 21.2% motor vehicle theft, 40.7% vandalism, 9.7% business theft/vandalism, 5.3% bag snatching. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 4.4% witnessed stalking, 35.4% domestic violence, 22.1% assault, 15.9% robbery, 0.9% rape, and 18.6% witnessed child abuse/neglect. 15% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety in all situations in Section One, except when using parking lots at night. Respondents were more likely to agree that crime was problematic in their suburb, had increased, and affected lifestyles. Respondents were more likely to report areas where they felt unsafe, day and night. Local parks and entertainment venues/shopping centres were nominated during the day and at night, while specific streets and responses coded as 'other' were also common at night. Respondents were most likely to indicate that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent these places (day and night) and because of poor lighting/poor design (night). Respondents were less likely to report they had witnessed no crime. Those that had witnessed crime were most likely to report witnessing of; vandalism and break and enter equally, domestic violence, assault, motor vehicle theft, child abuse neglect, robbery, and drug dealing.**

**Respondents were less likely to indicate they had undertaken no safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Of those who had utilised safety strategies, over one third had locked doors when traveling in a vehicle, bought a dog/guard dog, installed security screens/alarms, while nearly one their had discussed safety with children/parents and/or restricted activities at night.**

**Of the listed crime prevention programs, respondents most commonly selected; facilities such as lighting, paths etc, foot/bike patrols by police, school based crime prevention, after school activities for youth, safety checks for older neighbours, support networks for those living alone, and programs for increased communication between neighbours.**

**Rollingstone/Balgol Beach****Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to report they felt safe when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, passing a group of young men on the street, when at shopping centres at night, using parking lots at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb.

Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

17.6% of respondents living in Rollingstone/Balgal Beach reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe. 40% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were equally likely to nominate specific streets, local beach, and local park as areas where they did not feel safe at night. Respondents did not provide information regarding the reasons they felt unsafe.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

47.1% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 64.7% selected school based crime prevention programs. 47.1% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 29.4% support services for families, and 35.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 23.5% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 23.5% selected facility for community development programs. 17.6% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 17.6% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 47.1% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

35.3% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 23.5% reported they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 17.6% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 23.5% had installed security screens/alarms. 17.6% had discussed safety with children/parents. 29.4% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 5.9% had restricted activities at night. 11.8% moved house. No respondents indicated that they had changed leisure activities or had stopped living alone. No respondents utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents indicated that they had changed method of transport/travel or changed shopping times/places. No respondents indicated they had undertaken strategies as they were not sure what to do.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

47.1% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 11.8% witnessed break and enter, 11.8% motor vehicle theft, 47.1% vandalism, and 5.9% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 5.9% witnessed stalking, 29.4% domestic violence, 29.4% assault, 5.9% robbery, 5.9% rape, and 5.9% witnessed child abuse/neglect. 23.5% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents did not report diminished feelings of safety in any of the situations in Section One of the survey. Respondents were less likely to indicate that crime was**

problematic in their suburb, had increased, or affected lifestyles. Respondents were less likely to nominate specific areas where they felt unsafe during the day or at night. Respondents nominated a variety of areas where they felt unsafe at night, but did not provide information as to the reason they felt unsafe or the areas where they felt unsafe during the day and reasons for feeling unsafe. Respondents were more likely to indicate they had witnessed no crime in their suburb during the last year. Of those that did, the crimes most commonly witnessed were; vandalism, domestic violence and assault equally, and drug dealing.

Respondents were almost twice as likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Those that did most commonly utilised; locked doors when traveling in a vehicle, pruned shrubs away from doors/windows and/or installed security screens equally, discussed safety with children/parents and/or bought a dog/guard dog equally. When asked about crime prevention programs respondents most commonly selected school based crime prevention programs, followed by lighting, paths etc, after school activities for youth and safety checks for older neighbours equally. Over one third of respondents also selected support networks for those living alone.

## **Saunders Beach**

### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, passing a group of young men on the street, and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when at shopping centres at night and when using parking lots at night.

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### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb or that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb.

Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

12.5% of respondents living in Saunders Beach reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons given for feeling unsafe. 50% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local beach as an area where they felt unsafe at night and were most likely to give the reason they "feel unsafe around the people who frequent that place".

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

58.8% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 41.2% school based crime prevention programs. 41.2% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 29.4% support services for families, and 58.8% selected support networks for those living alone. 29.4% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 17.6% selected facility for community development programs. 17.6% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 29.4% foot/bike patrols by Police, 41.2% selected facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

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35.3% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 29.4% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 41.2% had installed security screens/alarms. 11.8% had discussed safety with children/parents. 23.5% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle. 5.9% changed shopping times/places, 11.8% indicated that they had changed leisure activities, and 23.5% had restricted activities at night. 5.9% had moved house. No respondents indicated they had undertaken strategies as they were not sure what to, they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, that they had changed method of transport/travel or had stopped living alone. 5.9% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

64.7% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 17.6% witnessed break and enter, 23.5% vandalism, 5.9% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 5.9% witnessed domestic violence, and 5.9% witnessed child abuse/neglect. 5.9% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety when at shopping centres at night and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to indicate that crime was problematic in their suburb, had increased, or affected lifestyles. Respondents were less likely to indicate there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe, during the day or at night. Respondents did not provide information regarding specific areas where they felt unsafe during the day or the reasons for feeling unsafe. The local beach was more likely to be nominated as the area where respondents felt unsafe at night, because they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that area. Two thirds of respondents indicated they had not witnessed any crime in their suburb in the last month. Those that did most commonly reported witnessing; vandalism and/or break and enter.**

**Respondents were almost twice as likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Those that had utilised safety strategies the most commonly selected being; installed security screens/alarms, bought a dog/guard dog, and restricted activities at night. When asked about crime prevention programs, respondents most commonly selected; after school activities for youth and/or support networks for those living alone equally, lighting, paths etc and/or school based crime prevention and/or safety checks for older neighbours equally.**

## **Shaw**

No interpretation given as number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

## **Thuringowa Central/Willows**

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### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and at night, passing a group of young men on the street, at shopping centres at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe from crime when in their own home and when using parking lots at night.

### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb but more likely to agree that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb.

Respondents were more likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years and to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

22.7% of respondents living in Thuringowa Central/Willows reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents were most likely to nominate an area coded as 'other' as the place they felt unsafe, the most common reason given was that they felt unsafe around the people who frequent that place. 47.4% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate local parks and specific streets where they felt unsafe. Respondents were most likely to give their reasons for feeling unsafe as feel unsafe around people who frequent that place, poor lighting/poor design, and has a reputation for being dangerous.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

50% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 54.2% selected school based crime prevention programs. 54.2% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 29.2% support services for families, and 41.7% selected support networks for those living alone. 12.5% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 20.8% selected facility for community development programs. 12.5% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 58.3% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 75% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

8.3% of respondents indicated they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year. 12.5% of respondents indicated that they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 16.7% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 50% had installed security screens/alarms. 12.5% had discussed safety with children/parents. 33.3% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle and 4.2% had changed method of transport/travel. 12.5% changed shopping times/places, 12.5% indicated that they had changed leisure activities, and 33.3% had restricted activities at night. 4.2% utilised the 'other' category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed. No respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe or that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to. No respondents reported that they had stopped living alone or moved house.

### **Witnessing Crime**

50% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 12.5% witnessed break and enter, 8.3% motor vehicle theft, 25% vandalism, and 12.5% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 16.7% witnessed domestic violence, 8.3% assault, 12.5% robbery, 4.2% rape, and 12.5% witnessed child abuse/neglect. 8.3% reported witnessing drug dealing.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety when in their own home and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to report that crime was problematic in their suburb or affected lifestyles, however, they were more likely to believe that crime had increased in their suburb. Respondents were slightly more likely to nominate areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day, but not at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate areas that were coded as "other" for during the day, but felt unsafe because of the people who frequent that area. Half of respondents reported witnessing no crime in their suburb during the last year. Those that did most commonly reported witnessing; vandalism, domestic violence, break and enter, business theft/vandalism and/or child abuse/neglect.**

**Respondents were less likely to indicate they had not undertaken any safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Those that utilised safety strategies most commonly selected; installed security screens/alarms, locked doors when travelling in a vehicle, and restricted activities at night.**

**When asked about crime prevention programs respondents most commonly selected; lighting, paths etc, foot/bike patrols, school based crime prevention programs, safety checks for older neighbours, and after school activities for youth.**

### **Toolakea**

57 surveys were sent to households in Toolakea, 1 was returned, a response rate of 1.7%.

No interpretation is given as the number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

### **Toolakea Beach**

No interpretation is given as the number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

### **Toomulla**

No interpretation is given as the number of respondents was less than ten, refer to Tables for information.

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### **Yabulu, Purono Park**

#### **Feelings of Safety**

Respondents were more likely to agree they felt safe from crime when in their own home, when out alone in their neighbourhood at night, passing a group of young men on the street, at shopping centres at night, and when travelling to and from work/school alone. Respondents were less likely to agree they felt safe when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day, and when using parking lots at night.

#### **Crime in Suburb**

Respondents were less likely to agree that crime was a problem in their suburb but more likely to agree that crime had a negative effect on the lifestyle of people in their suburb.

## Table 1

Respondents were less likely to believe that property crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years or to believe that personal/violent crime had increased in their suburb in the last three (3) years.

15.4% of respondents living in Yabulu/Purono Park reported there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe during the day. Respondents who reported areas where they felt unsafe during the day did not provide information regarding the location of those areas or their reasons for feeling unsafe. 53.8% of respondents reported that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe at night. Respondents were most likely to nominate a local street or a response coded as 'other' when asked to name the areas where they felt unsafe. Respondents were equally likely to give reasons for feeling unsafe as feel unsafe around people who frequent that area and poor lighting/poor design.

### **Crime Prevention Programs**

73.3% of respondents indicated they would like after school activities for youth introduced in their suburb, and 46.7% selected school based crime prevention programs. 53.3% selected safety checks for older neighbours, 33.3% support services for families, 33.3% selected support networks for those living alone. 33.3% selected programs for increased communication between neighbours, and 13.3% facility for community development programs. 13.3% selected neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups, 33.3% foot/bike patrols by Police, and 33.3% facilities such as lighting, paths, etc.

### **Strategies Undertaken in the last year**

33.3% of respondents reported they had undertaken none of the listed strategies in the last year because they felt safe. 6.7% of respondents indicated that they had pruned shrubs away from doors/windows, 46.7% had bought a dog/guard dog, and 20% had installed security screens/alarms. 33.3% had discussed safety with children/parents. 20% locked doors when travelling in a vehicle and 6.7% had changed method of transport/travel. 33.3% changed shopping times/places, 20% indicated that they had changed leisure activities, and 20% had restricted activities at night. No respondents indicated that they had undertaken no strategies as they were not sure what to do, had stopped living alone or had moved house. No respondents utilised the other category for strategies they had undertaken that were not listed.

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### **Witnessing Crime**

40% of respondents reported they (or a member of their family) had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Of those who reported witnessing property related crime, 20% witnessed break and enter, 6.7% motor vehicle theft, 33.3% vandalism, and 20% business theft/vandalism. Of those respondents who reported witnessing personal/violent related crime, 6.7% witnessed stalking, 20% domestic violence, 6.7% assault, 20% robbery, 6.7% other sexual offences, and 13.3% witnessed child abuse/neglect.

**Respondents reported diminished feelings of safety when out alone in their neighbourhood during the day and when using parking lots at night. Respondents were less likely to report that crime was problematic in their suburb, had increased, or affected lifestyles. Respondents were less likely to indicate that there were areas in their suburb where they felt unsafe, during the day or at night. Respondents were most likely to give their reasons for feeling unsafe at night as feeling unsafe around the people who frequent that area and poor lighting/poor design. Respondents were more likely to report they had witnessed no crime in their suburb in the last year. Those that did witness crime, most commonly witnessed; vandalism, business theft/vandalism and/or break and enter and/or domestic violence and/or robbery equally, followed by child abuse/neglect.**

**Respondents were more likely to indicate they had not undertaken any of the safety strategies in the last year because they felt safe. Of those that did utilise safety strategies, the listed options most commonly selected were; bought a dog/guard dog, changed shopping times/places, and discussed safety with parents/children.**

**When asked about crime prevention programs respondents most commonly selected; after school activities for youth, school based crime prevention, and safety checks for older neighbours.**

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