



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Committee on Law and Safety

MEDIA RELEASE

Community safety in the regions

The NSW Legislative Assembly's Committee on Law and Safety today adopted a new inquiry into community safety in regional and rural communities.

Committee Chair and MP for Mount Druitt, Mr Edmond Atalla, said the inquiry would investigate the drivers of youth crime in the regions and actions the NSW Government can take to improve community safety.

"Every person deserves to feel safe in their community, regardless of where they live," Mr Atalla said.

"Over the past five years, NSW has experienced worrying increases in specific forms of regional crime, such as motor vehicle offences and break and enter offences."

"As well as looking at the root causes of youth crime, the inquiry will also examine the wraparound and diversionary services available for youth and families in the regions and rural areas. We will consider how the NSW Government can better match services to individuals and how these services can be measured, improved and coordinated to divert youth from crime."

"Throughout its work, the inquiry will have regard to the NSW Government's commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal people."

"We will also look at staffing and workforce issues in regional and rural areas, the pressures on NSW Police officers and the impact of recidivism on regional communities, on services and on law enforcement."

"The Committee wants to hear first-hand from regional communities and their representatives about best practice prevention initiatives – from standout community services to law enforcement initiatives and leading diversionary programs."

The Committee is accepting public submissions until 31 May 2024. To read the inquiry's terms of reference, and to make a submission, please visit the Committee's [webpage](#).

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