



NSW POLICE SUBMISSION TO

Inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built environment

NSW Police contributes significantly to implementing crime prevention practices within the built environment in a number of ways, most significantly through the Safer by Design Program coordinated by Sgt Gary Groves of the Commissioner's Inspectorate.

NSW Police recognises that children and young people are interactive in the wider environment as community members, consumers, pedestrians, commuters, drivers, passengers, players and victims or perpetrators of crime; and vulnerable because of all these roles. NSW Police attempts to ameliorate this vulnerability through a variety of means, for example:

- The work with local shopping centres to minimise complaints and create a shared space as consumers and users.
- The work with local councils in relation to public spaces, parks, skate and bike areas etc.
- The work with State rail and under Legislation around safety of rail yards rail crossings and equipment.
- Managing safe transit routes to and from school through enforcing road rules and for pedestrians through route design and access usage.
- Managing school environments to reduce crime and vandalism. This is coordinated through the Schools Security Directorate.
- Proactive policing of hotspots where crimes involving children have occurred.
- Enforcing legislation relating to restricting the movements of known offenders against children.
- Involving children and young people and their families in activities and programs that 'reclaim' the community where crime has been a significant issue. For example the work undertaken on the Northcott estate in Surry Hills

NSW Police contributes significantly to implementing safer practices within the built environment through Safer by Design. Since April 2001, the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) have provided guidelines to assist in interpreting Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. These guidelines outline Council obligations to identify crime risk and to minimise opportunities for crime through the development assessment process. To help councils and police to identify and reduce crime opportunity when assessing development proposals, NSW Police provides Safer by Design training to council planners, crime prevention officers and other key professionals. The *Safer by Design* program is based upon the

principles and practice of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a strategy that aims to influence offender's decision-making process. It uses urban planning, design and place management strategies to reduce the likelihood of necessary crime ingredients from intersecting in time and space. CPTED reduces crime opportunities by increasing the reality or perception of risk to offenders, increasing the effort required to commit crime, reducing opportunities for excuse making and reducing the likely rewards of criminal behaviour. CPTED strategies fall into 4 broad categories; surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement and space management. The Safer by Design program is a co-operative initiative involving NSW Police, local Councils, government departments and key private sector organisations.

These principles and the shared responsibility between police and local councils to develop areas that are 'friendly' to children and young people is the cornerstone of improving the built environment from a crime prevention perspective.

NSW Police will continue to expand the understanding of police and urban planners within the Safer by Design course of the specific needs of children and young people in planning safe, secure and crime preventative environments. NSW police also endeavour to ensure programs that relate to the use of public space incorporate the participation of children and young people. The involvement of NSW Police in legislative review also ensures changes to areas of vulnerability of children and young people are considered in the management of space, buildings and offenders.

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