

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**

**Organisation:** Albury Netball Association

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Edmond Atalla MP  
Chair Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety  
6 Macquarie Street  
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Dear Mr Atalla,

Please find below a submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into regional youth crime in New South Wales from the Albury Netball Association.

The Albury Netball Association is a volunteer-based organization located in Albury, New South Wales. The club is run by a committee of around 20 members, 90% of whom are women. The association offers a variety of netball opportunities, including:

- Net Set Go - Introductory sessions for 5-10-year olds
- Saturday Junior Netball - Under 11, Under 13, and Under 15 grades
- REP Netball Program - Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, and Under 17
- Monday Night Competition - Open Ladies Competition
- Pre-Season Competition - Hume League, Tallangatta League, Ovens & Murray League
- Summer Short Competition

The Albury Netball Association was formed in 1965 as the Married Women's Basketball Association and has since grown to involve almost 1,000 players, umpires, coaches, and volunteer administrators each year. The association's philosophy is to provide affordable programs and competitions for participants of all skill levels, while maintaining a sense of fun and enjoyment.

### **Incidents of Break-ins and Theft**

Sadly, in 2024, the Albury Netball Association has been the victim of multiple break-ins and theft incidents. Within a five-week period, there were four separate break-ins, causing substantial damage to the clubrooms. The incidents occurred on the following dates:

- 13th March: Front doors smashed, with canteen items stolen.
- 3rd March: Third office window smashed, with minimal theft.
- 2nd March: Second office window smashed, with minimal theft.
- 10th February: First office window smashed, with minimal theft.

On all four occasions, the police attended immediately to check the safety of the venue, and forensics were called in. However, no viable prints or DNA evidence was found that could be used by the Albury Police.

### **Financial Impact and Mitigation Efforts**

The break-ins have had a significant financial impact on the Albury Netball Association. The association had to lodge four insurance claims, costing between \$250 and \$500 per claim. This does not include the cost of 4 a.m. alarm callouts, time spent by volunteer committee members attending the site and meeting with the police, and the hours of clean-up after each event. In response to the incidents, the association has had to install six internal Cameras, with plans to install more around the perimeter of the building. Additionally, the association was forced to employ a security company to remain on site overnight during their annual Representative Carnival, further adding to their expenses.

The Albury Netball Association is a volunteer-based organization that provides valuable sporting and community opportunities for the local area. The recent incidents of break-ins and theft have had a significant impact on the association, both financially and in terms of the time and effort required by the volunteer committee to address the issues.

The association is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its members, but the ongoing costs of security measures are a burden on the organization's limited resources.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and would be happy to speak to the committee further.

Kind Regards



Desiree Georgiou  
President  
Albury Netball Association