



Central Coast Community Safety Plan 2017 - 2022





Community Safety requires a 'whole of community approach' and feeling safe is essential for a happy life. To be safe is a responsibility and also a right of everyone as a resident in a vibrant and liveable community – a right and responsibility we all share.

The Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee was established in 2004 and has a strong commitment to assisting an approach to help build a sense of community and shared responsibility through the developed partnerships and positive relationships. It is the notion that we all believe that a sense of safety within the community comes from being connected and informed.

I encourage every resident to think about how they can best contribute. Central Coast Council has taken an active role in promoting and delivering community safety and crime prevention for many years. The development and publication of the Community Safety Plan Framework provides current direction and actions for the immediate future.

I encourage every resident to be actively involved in making Central Coast a safe place for everyone, where both residents and visitors enjoy this great community.

Mayor Jan Bonde



Central Coast Community Safety Plan Framework

Introduction

The Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014 – 2024, includes a platform for the future *‘Liveability – encompasses notions such as quality of life, character of our place, ease of living, the health and well-being of our community who live here, and the sense of security afforded by living and working in each community.’*

The aim of Central Coast Community Safety Plan is to provide a framework through which issues of community safety can be addressed in a coordinated way. It is a tool to guide decision-making and to encourage community ownership and participation.

The Central Coast Community Safety Partnerships Committee is a Community Advisory Group of the Council that is made up of representatives from organisations as well as individuals representing their respective community, whom actively support the development of community safety initiatives. The committee proactively informs and endorses the Plan as a purposeful document, and as an important component in assisting the community to be vibrant and safe.

The Plan, under the guidance and responsibility of the Committee seeks to:

- ◆ Inspire and strengthen community participation in aspects of safety,
- ◆ Encourage a sense of connection, trust and confidence in community,
- ◆ Promote community leadership through local initiative of community safety,
- ◆ Direct appropriate resources and programs to identified areas of need
- ◆ Support the effectiveness of policing operations and emergency services

Safe Community – Attaining Accreditation.

The International Safe Community Model, developed by the World Health Organization and mirrored in the Pan Pacific Safe Community process, is held as a reputable standard for community safety. Safety programs that are accredited against this framework have been independently assessed as meeting best-practise. The Committee is best positioned to ensure the Central Coast Community Safety Plan is developed to reach the standards of accreditation under the Pan Pacific Safe Community process. Accreditation requires an annual report reflecting on areas within the plan including collaboration and partnership, program reach, priority setting, data analysis and evaluation.

The Central Coast Community Safety Plan

The Central Coast Council Community Safety Plan 2017-2022 identifies four key areas in which community organisations, individuals and services through a strengthened alliance can positively impact safety in our community. Closely aligned and at times overlapping, these areas identify critical goals for community safety as well as being opportunities where Council services can produce meaningful and significant safety outcomes.

These key areas have been identified through community consultation, data analysis and stakeholder input, and include consideration of some re-occurring issues raised in discussions at the Community Safety Partnership meetings.

The key areas are;

1. Safe people

- *to be safe and to feel safe in Central Coast.*

2. Safe places

- *design, create and maintain places that provide for safe community activity.*

3. Resilient communities

- *a strong, supportive community able to adapt and recover from hazards, shocks and stresses.*

4. Program development and partnerships

- *collaborate to share responsibility to ensure community safety.*



1. Safe people

- *to be safe and to feel safe in Central Coast.*

GOAL: People in the Central Coast feel safe and are supported with services, information and programs that assist in maintaining community safety.

The Plan will assist the perceptions and confidence in the community, and is aimed at connecting with both individuals and groups of people in our community including:

- ◆ residents
- ◆ visitors
- ◆ culturally diverse residents, including Tasmanian Aboriginals,
- ◆ community organisations
- ◆ businesses
- ◆ industry
- ◆ government agencies and
- ◆ community services.

Areas of priority include:

- ☐ Cyber safety and emerging scams
- ☐ Healthy, active and safe sports participation
- ☐ Violence, especially family violence and drug fuelled violence
- ☐ Mental health promotion and suicide prevention
- ☐ Alcohol and other drugs
- ☐ Bullying
- ☐ Threats brought about through cultural diversity.



Core Actions Safe people

1. Engage and survey community members to identify issues.
2. Maintain the Central Coast Community Safety Plan and ensure it is promoted and widely available through social media, websites and promoted by the Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee.
3. Share community knowledge and provide information and awareness of services and approaches that support the community to be better informed about issues of safety, including emergency assistance and recovery programs/procedures as required.
4. Use existing resources to identify issues impacting on marginalised groups in the community (including the socio-economically disadvantaged, people with a disability and those culturally diverse).
5. Promote awareness of escalating or emerging crime and safety risks including scams, cyber safety and other technologies.
6. Promote positivity around safety in our community:
 - Recognise local residents who actively work to reduce crime and promote community safety
 - Strengthen partnerships with business community and provide information on crime prevention
 - Support the Inter Agency Support Team to improve outcomes for young people at risk.
 - Investigate and support injury prevention promotions targeting families on farms, older people, drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.
 - “Protective Behaviours” promotes resilience in children, young people, and adults, using empowerment strategies, clear communication, and awareness of “safe” behaviours.
7. Embed messages of community safety, targeted safety information and existing programs through:
 - community celebrations (i.e. national awareness weeks / days) and/or events (Council’s community events and community festivals)
 - key projects (i.e. Neighbourhood House programs, Neighbourhood Watch program and Council community consultation processes)
8. Improve promotion of safety messages and initiatives in the Central Coast with a focus on:
 - reach to key audiences such as seniors, young people using a range of media and those in our community that are socially isolated.
 - partnership – bridging messages from other stakeholders to Central Coast audiences and supporting local media agencies.
 - promoting and activating safety related policy and programs through the Council’s Emergency Management and Social Recovery services.

2. Safe places -

Design, create and maintain places that provide for safe community activity.

GOAL: To create built and natural environments that are safe, assisting people to live confidently and well connected in the Central Coast, enhancing community life and business vitality

Safer design principles involve reducing the opportunities for crime and increasing both safety and the sense of safety through management and design of the physical environment. One of the goals of this strategy is to maintain community usage of public places, identify areas that are perceived as unsafe, improving designs to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour thus improving the quality of life for the community.

Areas of priority include:

- ☐ Safe design and connection in new development locations
- ☐ Street lighting and safe street design concepts
- ☐ Perceptions of safety and CCTV
- ☐ Drug use and syringe disposal
- ☐ Road safety
- ☐ Safe active transport opportunities



Core Actions - Safe Places

1. Use safer design guidelines to positively influence safety in new developments
2. Work with Tasmania Police, Chamber of Commerce, businesses and sporting organisations to maintain safe precincts through relevant local safety groups.
3. Implement Department of State Growths Road Safety Strategies, and develop and deliver communication and education strategies to address safety issues and vulnerabilities on our roads.
4. Ensure that streets and public spaces in Central Coast are well lit, well maintained and safe.
5. Develop a Council policy position for the use of CCTV in Central Coast.
6. Support the local implementation of targeted crime prevention activities.
7. Monitor community contacts to Council to identify and respond to place-based safety issues, and initiate targeted responses to safety hotspot issues such as graffiti or syringe reports
8. Consult with community regarding active transport options and promote safe routes with emphasis on ageing friendly components.

3. Resilient communities

- determinants of safety to establish and promote the Central Coast as a safe community.

Perceptions of a safe town and community contribute to the viability of the local economy by increasing business confidence and willingness to invest. Residents and visitors will be inclined to promote Central Coast in a positive light, with a feeling of safeness.

Early intervention has proven to be an effective long-term strategy to prevent crime by addressing issues such as social disadvantage, dis-engagement from learning opportunities and where there is an absence of developed life skills. Early intervention that occurs at a critical time in a person's development will provide that person with a greater opportunity to lead a safe and productive life.

Community information and education increases awareness of issues but is most powerful when accompanied by information about strategies proposed to resolve specific concerns. The community then develops a sense of ownership and pride in their "patch".

Areas of priority include:

- ☐ Support of emergency recovery and awareness,
- ☐ Emergency Response – community confidence developed from consistent, reliable communication.
- ☐ Promote access, equity and inclusion
- ☐ Community driven approaches to crime prevention

Core actions - Resilient Communities

1. Support agencies to deliver appropriate services to cater for and care for those affected by family violence and/or bullying. Identify any gaps and unmet needs in the services that support those affected by inequality, or who face barriers to inclusion in Central Coast.
2. Support broader safety program initiatives to benefit Central Coast – in areas such as crime prevention, drug and alcohol abuse issues, protective behaviours and domestic violence.
3. Ensure that people are informed about localised safety risks including natural disasters and emergencies.
4. Ensure that the community of Central Coast will be adequately supported to recover in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.
5. Develop a Reconciliation Plan for Central Coast.



4. Program development and partnerships -

Collaborate to share responsibility to ensure community safety.

A community is strengthened when individuals and groups form collaborative partnerships to achieve common goals. Strong communities are well connected, pro-active and resilient, creating an improved sense of confidence, well-being that leads towards increased social and economic opportunities within the community. The Community Safety Partnership Committee is leading the actions in the plan, whilst maintaining useful partnerships between communities, businesses, agencies, organisations, and all levels of government to achieve the desired outcomes for the community.

Areas of priority include:

- ☐ Working in partnership - information sharing and collective action
- ☐ Maintaining networks and strong participation
- ☐ Collaboration with community leaders
- ☐ Youth engagement
- ☐ Statistical data assessment and analysis – aligned actions.
- ☐ Evaluation and projected outcomes



Core actions - Development and Partnerships

1. Work towards obtaining, for the Central Coast's Safety Plan, accreditation as a Pacific/ Australian Safe Community.
2. Develop processes that engage key and influential stakeholders, encourages cross-council participation and supports the role of community as a key partner in safety through the Community Safety Partnership Committee network.
3. Identify opportunities to engage young people and reflect youth issues in the safety plan, including a survey opportunity, as well as existing groups – ie. Council's Youth Engaged Steering Committee.
4. Ensure the safety plan is informed by current and relevant crime and injury data, and maintain a record of identified issues that provides information relevant to community safety.
5. Measure the effectiveness of the actions of the safety plan and the outcomes.
6. Advocate for the community of Central Coast in matters of safety including submissions and funding applications.

Key Information Resources

The Central Coast Community Safety Plan is supported by several information resources:

- ❑ Central Coast Community Safety Plan (2006-2009)
- ❑ Central Coast Community Safety Plan (2010 – 2014)
- ❑ Inclusive Ageing: Tasmania 2012-2014 Strategy
- ❑ Central Coast Youth Strategy (2014-2024)
- ❑ Central Coast Community Survey, November 2015 – Data Report, Insync.
- ❑ Moonee Valley Community Safety Program 2015 – 20
- ❑ Pan Pacific Safe Community Accreditation Criteria and Process Guidebook March 2016.
- ❑ Central Coast Positive Ageing Plan 2017
- ❑ Meander Valley Community Safety Plan 2015 - 2017

and should be read in conjunction with:

- ❑ Central Coast Social Planning Framework
- ❑ Central Coast Council Strategic Plan (2014-2024)

Methodology

The Central Coast Council has maintained a Partnership Committee with the Police Department and Department of State Growth since the mid 1990's. The Community Safety Partnership Committee was established in 2004. The group has surveyed and keep in touch with the broad community on issues of safety through regular survey and collaboration of key service organisations and groups during the time. The development of the 2016 – 2020 Community safety Program has been developed utilisation past and present input, focus group discussion July - September 2016 and survey data, statistical data.

Priority focuses and opportunities for improving community safety were identified by a project group (CSPC and identified community representatives) in February 2017. Following the forum, a detailed action plan has been developed to respond to the identified priority areas.





Central Coast Community Safety Plan ACTIONS



Priority Area 1: Safe People

GOAL: People in the Central Coast feel safe and are supported with services, information and programs that assist in maintaining community safety.

Action	Measure	Timeline
Survey the community through focus group discussions.	Number of focus groups surveyed.	Annually - Feb/March.
Conduct up to date information session on Cyber Safety in the Community and schools.	Number of workshops conducted.	Annually.
Training provided in the community to promote and provide "Protective Behaviours" community program - Department of Education.	No. of programs conducted.	Annually
Actively develop an 'Aged Friendly Community' - thru ` developed strategies, including disability access, positive aging and dementia Inclusive, smoke free.	Strategy developed.	2018/2019
Work toward Central Coast becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.	Framework and Strategy developed.	2017 - 2019
Nominations received and certificate presented, with media coverage to acknowledge 'Crime Prevention Community Champion'.	Number of nominations recieved.	Annually - November.
Provide information to sporting organisations on safe practices. Ie. 'Play by the Rules'.	Information is shared.	Ongoing - annual reporting.
Increase crime prevention education - within the business community (Chamber/Council/ Tas Police) VMS board messages, targeted safety information, social media posts.	Number of education sessions conducted.	Ongoing - annual reporting.

Evaluations

- ◆ Community feedback.
- ◆ Rates of crime – crime data from Tasmania Police.
- ◆ Statistics of the community's health status through DHHS.
- ◆ Raised awareness and engagement from Community in education and service provision, working towards the implementation of an 'Aged Friendly Community' recognition.
- ◆ Central Coast Council Annual report – listed achievements, campaigns supported and Community involvement.

Priority Area 2: Safe Places

GOAL: *To create built and natural environments that are safe, assisting people to live confidently and well connected in the Central Coast, enhancing community life and business vitality*

Action

Measure

Timeline

Use safer design guidelines (CEPTED - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) to positively influence safety in new and/or all refurbished public spaces.

CEPTED principles and relevant Aust. standards included in design processes.

Ongoing (Annual reporting).

Advocate for access to improved phone coverage in black spot locations.

Mobile coverage improvements advocated for in low coverage areas including Gunns Plains.

Ongoing (Annual reporting).

Improve public lighting in the Central Coast.

Strategy developed and implementation programmed.

Ongoing - annual reporting.

Reviewed and report on 'closed circuit TV' in the CBD and linking it centrally.

Strategy developed.

2019

Pursue active transport route options with consideration of identified 'Age Friendly' model principles.

Strategy developed.

2019-2020

Evaluations

- ◆ Perceptions of safety in streets, neighbourhoods and public places ascertained through the Central Coast Council survey.
- ◆ Tasmanian Police data and statistics on business areas and other hot spot locations.
- ◆ Safety Partnerships network connection strengthened, positive feedback on impacts of implemented safety measures and programmes.
- ◆ Traffic Management Committee reports on Road safety.



Priority Area 3: Resilient communities

GOAL: Increased social capital in the community and improved perception of safety for people who are less likely to feel safe.

Action

Measure

Timeline

Host community development projects that support crime prevention, education on safety and improve perceptions of safety.

Number of programs supported.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Identify and work with services that support people with barriers to inclusion.

‘Adopt A cop’ program through schools is developed.
Develop a Reconciliation Plan for the Central Coast.

2018 - 2019

Create consistent communication channels. (Ensuring that community are informed about localised safety risks like natural disasters and emergencies.)

No. of frequent info reminders,
No. of regular facebook posts.
Reporting through CSPC.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Support the delivery of drug education in local schools, support agencies to deliver training programs that build community awareness and capacity to combat emerging drug related issues and ‘HotSpots’.

Number of programs provided.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Promotion of key safety messages and initiatives in the Central Coast.

Number of shared targeted messages relevant to key audiences ie. seniors, young people.
Partner organisations include safety messages in newsletters and social media (cross postings).

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Ensure that the community of Central Coast, through social recovery provision will be adequately supported to recover in the event of emergency or natural disaster.

Correct procedures and policies are updated.
Partnerships and inter agency relationships are maintained.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Evaluations

- ◆ Development and adoption of a Reconciliation Plan for the Central Coast Community.
- ◆ The Community Safety Committee maintains strong membership and achieves outcomes of the safety program.
- ◆ Levels of satisfaction and community connection ascertained through the Central Coast Survey and focus group consultation.
- ◆ Inclusion of achievements in Service Provider reports.

Priority Area 4: Program development and partnerships

GOAL: Strengthen collaboration and effective approaches for addressing community safety in the Central Coast.

Action

Measure

Timeline

Work towards obtaining, for the Central Coast's Safety Action Plan, accreditation as a Pacific/ Australian Safe Community.

Accreditation is progressed.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Maintain membership of the Central Coast Inter Agency Support Team.

Number of Meetings held.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Maintain community representation on the CSPC.

Number of members of the group.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Regular reporting of the actions implemented at CSPC is shared with all members.

Number of Meetings held.

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Conduct a review of the effectiveness of the actions of the safety plan via recorded achievements and reaching desired outcomes determined by the community.

Number of programs provided

Ongoing - (annual reporting).

Evaluations

- ◆ The Community is strongly connected to networks and organisations that provide support to current and emerging opportunities.
- ◆ The Central Coast Community Safety Partnership Committee maintains strong membership and represents community safety consistently.
- ◆ The Central Coast plan has obtained accreditation with the Australian Safe Communities Foundation - accreditation as a Pacific/ Australian Safe Community.

