



ACT
Government

PROPERTY CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY 2016-2020

SAFE PLACES,
SECURE PROPERTY,
CRIMEWISE PEOPLE



MINISTER'S STATEMENT



The Government is committed to ensuring that ACT residents live in a safe community. While Canberra continues to be one of the safest places to live, we need to remain vigilant in the fight against property crime.

The aim of the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020* is to keep property crime down and our vision is for the ACT to have safe places, secure property and crime wise people.

This Strategy focuses on preventing crime from occurring by reducing crime opportunities. This complements progressive justice reforms introduced by the Government and a range of existing initiatives that focus on early intervention, reducing recidivism and improving access to justice services.

The actions in the Strategy centre around: improving community connections; promoting personal responsibility for safeguarding property; improving data sharing and accessibility; responding collaboratively to changes in the property crime environment; supporting vulnerable people; and targeting recidivist offenders.

This Strategy builds on the success of the *ACT Property Crime Reduction Strategy 2012-2015*, which achieved a 41.5% decrease in burglary and 27.2% decrease in motor vehicle theft from the 2010 baseline. Targets remain in place in this Strategy to continue the work of keeping burglary and motor vehicle theft rates down. In addition we have broadened the targets to include bicycle theft, other theft and property damage.

This Strategy highlights that Government, police, community organisations and individuals all have a role to play in preventing property crime. I would like to thank the community organisations that provided input into the development of this Strategy through the consultation process.

I look forward to the continued involvement of a cross-sector of organisations in the forum that will be established under this Strategy to share responsibility for preventing property crime in the ACT.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'S. Corbell'.

Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney-General

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

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INTRODUCTION

While the ACT benefits from some of the lowest property crime rates in Australia, there is no room for complacency because property crime can affect any ACT resident at anytime. Remaining vigilant is essential to keeping property crime rates down.

This Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20 continues the ACT Government's long-standing commitment to a fair and safe community. It builds on the success of the ACT Property Crime Reduction Strategy 2012-15 that resulted in a significant decline in property crime, with a 41.5% decrease in burglary and 27.2% decrease in motor vehicle thefts from the 2010 baseline.^a

The ACT Government has a substantial investment in and commitment to early intervention, reducing recidivism and improving access to justice services. This Property Crime Prevention Strategy will be delivered in the context of the Government's progressive justice reforms and initiatives.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT STRATEGY

Justice reinvestment is about developing a smarter, more cost-effective approach to improving criminal justice outcomes by reducing crime, improving public safety and strengthening communities.

The Government has committed to the development of a whole of government justice reinvestment

approach aimed at reducing recidivism and diverting offenders, and those at risk of becoming offenders, from the justice system.

The development of the Justice Reinvestment Strategy commenced in 2014-15 and is due for completion in 2017-18. It involves the Justice and Community Safety Directorate working closely with a range of

government and non-government stakeholders, over a four year period, to identify drivers of crime and criminal justice costs and then develop and implement new ways of reinvesting scarce resources – both in the community and within the prison system – in a way that results in a more cost-beneficial impact on public safety.

JUSTICE REFORM STRATEGY

The Justice Reform Strategy examined sentencing and related issues in the ACT to determine how to deliver the best outcomes for victims, offenders and the wider community and to reduce recidivism.

The Justice Reform Strategy concluded in July 2016 and has resulted in a number of key initiatives including:

- a new community-based sentencing alternative to full-time imprisonment, the ‘intensive correction order’;
- the expansion of the restorative justice scheme to include adult offenders and more serious offences, with a further expansion to include domestic violence and sexual offences planned for 2018;
- the development of a trial of a bail support service;
- a trial of cultural information pre-sentence reports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders; and
- ongoing work on disability issues and a problem-solving approach for managing offenders in the criminal justice system.





BLUEPRINT FOR YOUTH JUSTICE IN THE ACT 2012-22

The strategic direction for youth justice is set out in the Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22. The Blueprint establishes a youth justice response and intervention continuum that creates lasting change in the lives of children, young people and their families, and builds a safer community. The Blueprint provides strategies that set the direction for the youth justice system over a ten year period.

The Blueprint has a focus on early intervention, prevention and diversion with custody used as a measure of last resort. The vision that guides the Blueprint focuses on:

- keeping children and young people safe from harm;
- building their resilience;
- strengthening their connections with their families; and
- encouraging their participation in the wider community.

ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP 2015-18

The Partnership aims to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over representation in the criminal justice system, as both victims and offenders, by improving accessibility, utilisation and effectiveness of justice related programs and services, and improving data collection and reporting.

The Partnership takes a targeted approach to addressing the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT justice system through three key objectives:

- reducing over-representation by reducing recidivism and increasing access to diversionary programs;
- improving access to justice services; and
- improving data collection and reporting.



Complementing these initiatives, the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20 focuses on preventing crime from occurring, and victimisation, by reducing crime opportunities rather than on the characteristics of offenders or potential offenders.



VISION

The vision of the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020 is for the ACT to have safe places, secure property and crimewise people.

Property crime prevention is everybody's business. Government, police, community organisations and individuals all have a role to play in preventing property crime.

A crimewise community leads to safe places and secure property and will keep property crime down.



OBJECTIVES

THE PROPERTY CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY IS DRIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES FOR A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE 1

Community and neighbourhood connections are strengthened

OBJECTIVE 2

The community is educated about personal responsibility for preventing property crime

OBJECTIVE 3

Useful data and information about property crime are available and more accessible to the community

OBJECTIVE 4

Collaborative responses are developed to address existing crime trends and changes in the crime environment

OBJECTIVE 5

Those who are more vulnerable to property crime are supported to safeguard their property

OBJECTIVE 6

The quality of data and intelligence to inform police driven crime prevention activities are improved

To achieve these objectives, this strategy includes actions that centre on making places more difficult and less appealing for criminal activity, education, awareness and empowering individuals, businesses and communities to safeguard their property.

These will support the achievement of a safe, secure and crimewise community.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY IS CONNECTED

OBJECTIVE 1 – COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS ARE STRENGTHENED

Communities and neighbourhoods that are connected experience lower levels of crime.

When people know each other and have respect for one another they are more likely to watch out for each other. Connected communities also increase the likelihood of being able to recognise suspicious behaviour and assist in safeguarding property at high risk times like holiday periods.

Getting to know the people you live near also helps create a sense of belonging and trust which is likely to increase people's perception of safety.

To educate the community about property crime prevention and foster connections, the Government will engage in events and activities that promote neighbourhood and community connectedness.





ACTION

1.1 Promote National Neighbour Day

Held on the last Sunday in March every year, Neighbour Day^b is Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door or across the street.

Neighbour Day brings together like-minded people, resources, and organisations to grow stronger, well connected communities.

ACTION

1.2 Support existing events that promote neighbourhood connectedness

There are many events held in Canberra every year that celebrate community and promote connections, for example Parties at the Shops and Community Council events.

The ACT Government will identify relevant events and explore ways to work with organisers to promote messages around connectedness and community safety.

ACTION

1.3 Promote a sense of shared responsibility to protect community facilities

When community facilities and public spaces such as schools are used more, people are likely to have a greater sense of ownership and responsibility to protect these places and spaces. In addition to a sense of ownership, people using facilities and spaces provide a level of passive surveillance that can be a deterrent for crime.

The Education Directorate's *Community Use of School Facilities Policy*^c states that Canberra Public Schools are ACT Government facilities and these facilities are to be made available for community use when not in use by the school. The Directorate will continue to encourage members of the local community and education groups to access these facilities when they are available.

The Environment and Planning Directorate will provide opportunities for sharing spaces through creating sustainable, compact and liveable communities and delivering high quality public spaces and streets through 'placemaking' as outlined in the *Statement of Planning Intent*.^d

The ACT Government will identify relevant events and explore ways to work with organisers to promote messages around connectedness and community safety.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY IS EDUCATED

OBJECTIVE 2 – THE COMMUNITY IS EDUCATED ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTING PROPERTY CRIME

People who don't take precautions put themselves at higher risk of becoming a victim to property crime. There are many reasons why people don't take precautions, from complacency, thinking "it won't happen to me", to a lack of knowledge or means to safeguard their property.

Encouraging and sometimes challenging people to take responsibility for safeguarding their own property and providing education on how to reduce the risk of property crime is an important part of sharing the responsibility to keep property crime down.

ACTION

2.1 Promote personal responsibility for preventing property crime

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate in partnership with ACT Policing will promote the importance of people taking responsibility for safeguarding their own property.

A communication strategy will be developed to provide consistency across the messaging provided to the community.

The communication strategy will include scheduled public awareness activities as well as mechanisms for Government and community organisations to be responsive to spates of particular crime types.

Some of the property crimes the communication strategy will address are:

- Motor vehicle theft
- Theft from cars
- Burglary
- Mail theft
- Keys and bankcards being stolen from houses
- Items with high resale appeal eg tools and mobile phones
- Property owners/agents and tenant responsibilities
- Business related property crime
- Building site thefts

ACTION

2.2 Provide practical workshops on how to secure property, including low cost and simple solutions

To support the communication strategy, practical workshops will be provided as part of the expanded Home Safety Program. The workshops will focus on low cost and simple solutions to safeguarding property.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY IS INFORMED

OBJECTIVE 3 – USEFUL DATA AND INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY CRIME ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Relevant crime data is crucial for effective crime prevention planning. Knowing what crime happened and where it has happened can assist individuals and communities to react and respond appropriately.

If data is not available to help understand local crime issues, opportunities may be lost and prevention strategies could be inadequate.

It is also crucial for government strategies to be informed by data and based on evidence.

ACTION

3.1 Identify gaps in property crime data and its accessibility

The ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile is a historical series of crime data that is compiled and published twice a year by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

ACT Policing provides monthly crime statistics including an interactive crime map that allows users to research the crime data for suburbs relating to a number of crime types including burglary and theft.

Gaps will be identified in the data that is currently published and ways to increase community knowledge about property crime statistics will be explored.

ACTION

3.2 Develop mechanisms to improve information sharing around crime activity and data

In addition to the published crime statistics in the ACT, a number of other agencies collect localised data on criminal activity.

Relevant data sources within agencies will be identified and information sharing around property crime data will be improved.

ACTION

3.3 Consider the feasibility of evaluating how the *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) General Code*⁵ has been applied

Evaluating how industry has complied with the *CPTED General Code* will assist in understanding how it is applied and identify best practice examples or where improvements could be made in the future.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY IS RESPONSIVE

OBJECTIVE 4 – COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES ARE DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS EXISTING CRIME TRENDS AND CHANGES IN THE CRIME ENVIRONMENT

When people are connected and educated they can make informed decisions and respond appropriately. Mechanisms for people to share information and find solutions collectively are crucial to sharing the responsibility for keeping property crime down.

The crime environment is constantly changing, including the items offenders target and the techniques they use to steal property. An example of this is the recent rise in offenders breaking into houses to steal car keys to access cars or bankcards to take advantage of new pay wave technology. It is important the community is educated as these trends emerge so that they can take necessary precautions.

Bicycle theft and theft from apartment buildings are issues that have seen an increase in the ACT in recent years. This may be attributed to Canberra being the “cycling capital of Australia” and the high volume of new apartment buildings.

These developments call for further consideration and a collaborative response to reverse the increasing trends in these areas.





ACTION ↻

4.1 Establish an interagency forum consisting of government, police, crime prevention and community organisations

The interagency forum will bring together organisations and agencies who have an interest in preventing property crime. The forum will provide a platform to share the responsibility for preventing property crime through considering data, sharing information and developing responses to changes in the property crime environment.

ACTION ↻

4.2 Identify and respond to emerging property crime issues

One of the key roles of the property crime interagency forum will be to identify and collaboratively respond to emerging issues. It will provide an opportunity for agencies to analyse data, share information and develop responses to emerging property crime issues.

ACTION ↻

4.3 Deliver initiatives to reduce bicycle theft

Reducing bicycle theft requires a collaborative response.

The Environment and Planning Directorate is currently undertaking a review of the *Bike Parking General Code*. This will inform changes that may help to encourage the provision of better quality and more secure facilities in a variety of commercial and residential buildings.

In addition to this, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Policing will work with key stakeholders including peak cycling bodies and industry to encourage and educate people to safeguard their bicycles.

ACTION ↻

4.4 Identify and respond to enablers for property crime in apartment buildings

Research and analysis is required to address the enablers for property crime in apartment buildings.

The Justice and Community Safety and Environment and Planning Directorates will undertake work to identify what facilitates property crime in apartment buildings and solutions for new developments as well as existing complexes. This may include a formal evaluation of how developers and owners have applied Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY IS SUPPORTED

OBJECTIVE 5 – THOSE WHO ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO PROPERTY CRIME ARE SUPPORTED TO SAFEGUARD THEIR PROPERTY

We all have a responsibility to support vulnerable people in the community. The elderly, people with disabilities, victims of domestic and family violence, victims of break and enter and tenants are some of the people who experience unique challenges in safeguarding their property.

Supporting people through education, advocacy and the practicalities of securing property will help keep crime down and improve overall safety and security for some of our most vulnerable community members.

ACTION 🐾

5.1 Enhance the Home Safety Program to include practical support

The Home Safety Program currently distributes home safety and security information to break and enter victims and other vulnerable or at-risk residents. The expansion of the Home Safety Program will include the provision of home safety assessments for victims and those who are vulnerable and at risk of property crime.

The expansion will also include the delivery of practical home safety workshops to educate people on how to safeguard their property with a focus on low cost solutions. The program will also explore brokerage options for the provision minor home safety and security improvements for those who are most vulnerable.

ACTION 🐾

5.2 Implement findings on how to improve services and support provided to victims of property crime

Victims Support ACT has commenced research on how to improve the services and support provided to victims of property crime. Once completed, this research will be used to identify improvements that can be made to ensure victims are supported and the risks of becoming a repeat victim are reduced.





ACTION 🐾

5.3 Explore links and opportunities to enhance existing government initiatives to reduce property crime risks for vulnerable groups

The following government initiatives have the potential to support vulnerable people to safeguard their property. Ways to link with these initiatives to further reduce property crime risks for these vulnerable groups will be explored.

Victims of property crime as a result of domestic and family violence

A new brokerage fund has been established under the ACT Government *Safer Families* package to provide small grants to people who require financial assistance to leave a violent relationship. This is in addition to fast tracked access to the existing Housing ACT Bond loan scheme. The grant will assist victims of family violence to find rental accommodation and meet their short term needs after leaving a violent partner.

Under the new *Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme*, victims of property crime in a domestic and family violence context are able to request fast tracked immediate assistance payments for security upgrades and related expenses. This will assist people to establish their sense of safety and support their recovery from their experience.

In addition, under the Commonwealth *Women's Safety Package* funding has been provided to the Domestic Violence Crisis Service to deliver a Safe at Home Programme, including safety risk assessments, safety improvements (including new technologies) and security monitoring.

People with disabilities and older people

The Government will continue to monitor and explore opportunities to reduce property crime risks through the Australian Government *Home Care Packages Programme* and the *National Disability Insurance Scheme* for vulnerable people eligible for services under these initiatives.

Tenants

The recent review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* suggested the need for minimum security standards to be set out in the legislation similar to the approach taken in Western Australia. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate will consult further on this issue with a view to including standards in a second tranche of amendments to the legislation in 2017.

Residents of high density Government housing

The Government funds Reclink Australia to deliver the High Density Housing program, based at Ainslie Avenue. The Program aims to prevent or reduce opportunities for property crime through promoting community safety and security, community engagement and connectedness. An on the ground program manager facilitates activities which include: a wood workshop/skills and learning centre; community gardens; laundry program; bridge to bridge monthly run, roll or walk event at Lake Burley Griffin; and neighbourhood chats.



A CRIMEWISE COMMUNITY TARGETS OFFENDERS

OBJECTIVE 6 – THE QUALITY OF DATA AND INTELLIGENCE TO INFORM POLICE DRIVEN CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES ARE IMPROVED

The community can play a key part in helping police target offenders.

Actively seeking information from the community and channelling community intelligence can add value to police driven crime prevention activities.

Police can utilise tactical and strategic intelligence to inform the identification of hotspots, known offenders, prevalent crimes and vulnerable individuals.

ACTION

6.1 Continue to promote reporting of crime or suspicious behaviour

Every piece of information is important to police and could prove vital to an investigation, leading to an arrest and prosecution. It is important that the community recognises suspicious behaviour and realises the important role they can play in keeping crime down.

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Policing will explore ways to enhance the messaging around reporting crime and suspicious behaviour.

ACTION

6.2 Continue to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders

ACT Policing's intelligence-led approach to targeting recidivist property crime offenders has been a key contributor to the reduction of property crime in the ACT.

ACT Policing will continue to employ specialised and localised intelligence to inform proactive tactical approaches to reduce recidivism and target known property crime offenders.

It is important that the community recognises suspicious behaviour and realises the important role they can play in keeping crime down.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS	LEAD DIRECTORATE(S)
Objective 1 – Community and neighbourhood connections are strengthened	
1.1 Promote National Neighbour Day	JACS
1.2 Support existing events that promote neighbourhood connectedness	JACS
1.3 Promote a sense of shared responsibility to protect community facilities	EPD, ED, JACS
Objective 2 – The community is educated about personal responsibility for preventing property crime	
2.1 Promote personal responsibility for preventing property crime	ACTP, JACS
2.2 Provide practical workshops on how to secure property, including low cost and simple solutions	JACS
Objective 3 – Useful data and information about property crime are more accessible to the community	
3.1 Identify gaps in property crime data and its accessibility	ACTP, JACS
3.2 Develop mechanisms to improve information sharing around crime activity and data	ACTP, JACS
3.3 Consider the feasibility of evaluating how the <i>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) General Code</i> has been applied	EPD, JACS
Objective 4 – Collaborative responses are developed to address existing crime trends and changes in the crime environment	
4.1 Establish an interagency forum consisting of government, police, crime prevention and community organisations	JACS
4.2 Identify and respond to emerging property crime issues	All
4.3 Deliver initiatives to reduce bicycle theft	EPD, ACTP, JACS
4.4 Identify and respond to enablers for property crime in apartment buildings	EPD, JACS
Objective 5 – Those who are more vulnerable to property crime are supported to safeguard their property	
5.1 Enhance the Home Safety Program to include practical support	JACS
5.2 Implement findings on how to improve services and support provided to victims of property crime	CSD, JACS
5.3 Explore links and opportunities to enhance existing government initiatives to reduce property crime risks for vulnerable groups	CSD, JACS
Objective 6 – The quality of data and intelligence to inform police driven crime prevention activities are improved	
6.1 Continue to promote reporting of crime or suspicious behaviour	ACTP, JACS
6.2 Continue to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders	ACTP

JACS – Justice and Community Safety Directorate, **EPD** – Environment and Planning Directorate,
ED – Education Directorate, **ACTP** – ACT Policing, **CSD** – Community Services Directorate



TARGETS

THE OVERALL GOAL OF THE STRATEGY IS TO KEEP PROPERTY CRIME DOWN

To achieve the vision for the ACT to have safe places, secure property and crimewise people, the following targets have been set.

TARGET 1

Victim rates for unlawful entry with intent remain below the national rate

TARGET 3

Stop the year on year increase in the rate of other thefts reported by 2020

TARGET 5

Stop the year on year increase in the rate of property damage by 2020

TARGET 2

Number of motor vehicle thefts is at or below the national rate by 2020

TARGET 4


Stop the year on year increase in the rate of bicycle thefts reported by 2020



CURRENT CRIME RATES

2015 CRIME RATES FOR UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT¹

Unlawful entry with intent (UEWI) is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit an offence, where the entry is either forced or unforced.



2,480

There were 2,480 recorded victims of unlawful entry with intent in the ACT



**1,755
VICTIMS**

1,755 involved the taking of property



**635
VICTIMS**

That is a rate of 635 UEWI victims per 100,000 people in the ACT



**1,521
residential**

victims were residential

**Longer
Term Trend**



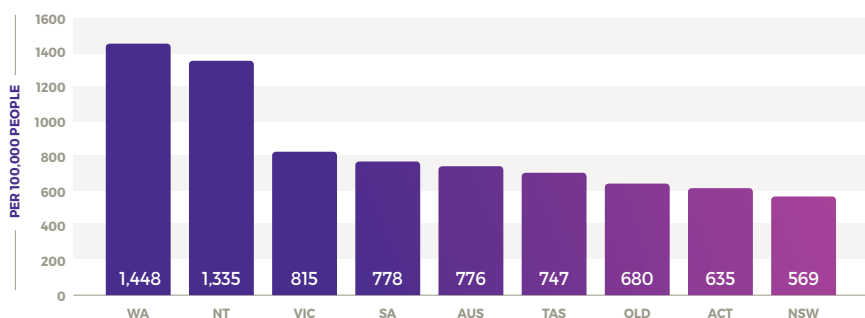
27.2% in UEWI
since 2010²



445

were retail

Victims per 100,000 people.



ACT has the 2nd lowest victim rate in Australia. The Australian rate is 776 victims per 100,000 people



In Australia there was a 1% increase in the number of victims of UEWI

From 2014 to 2015



From 2014-2015 the ACT rate increased by 9%

ACT is still below the Australian victim rate

¹ Based on ABS – 45100 Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2015

² Property Crime Reduction Strategy, 2012-15 Final Report

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN 2014/15 IN THE ACT³

890
THEFTS

There were 890 motor vehicle thefts in the ACT

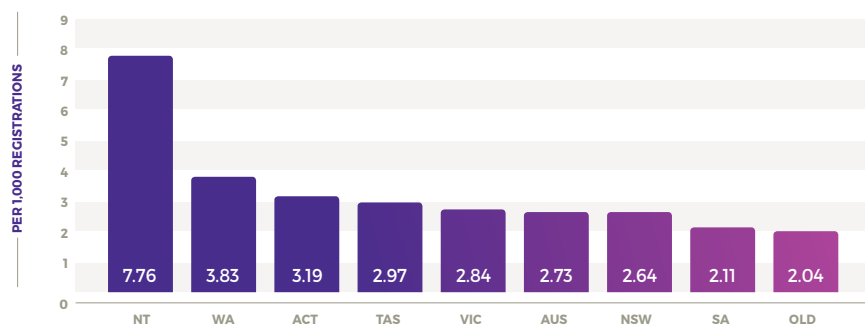
698
SHORT TERM

698 were short term motor vehicle thefts

\$192
PROFITED

192 were profit motivated thefts

The theft rate per 1,000 registrations in the ACT is 3.19 compared to the Australian rate of 2.73



In the ACT, the rate increased from 2.48 thefts per 1,000 registrations in 2013/14 to 3.19 in 2014/15

84%

84% of thefts in the ACT were passenger/light commercial vehicles

13.9%

13.9% were motorcycles

Longer Term Trend



27.2% decrease in motor vehicle thefts since 2010⁴

A QUICK LOOK AT MOTORCYCLES

Even though motorcycles make up only 4.7% of the total number of registrations in the ACT they account for 13.9% of all motor vehicle thefts



37% of the motorcycles stolen were off road bikes

The most popular motorcycle to steal was a sports bike

³ Based on National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council data retrieved from caresafe.com.au on 24 June 2016

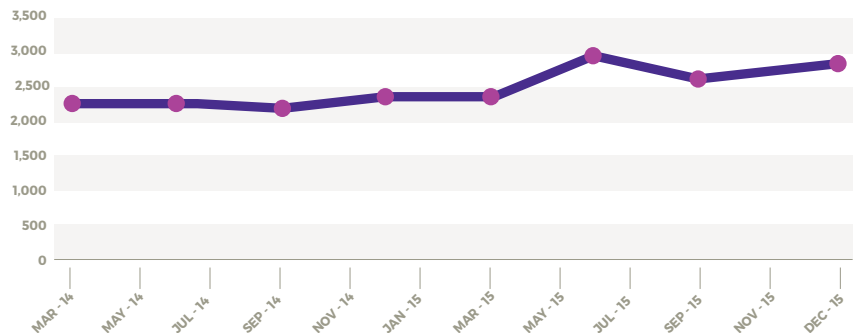
⁴ Property Crime Reduction Strategy, 2012-15 Final Report

LOCAL INCREASES

In the ACT there were 9,051 reported victims of other theft in 2014 and 10,940 in 2015⁵

OTHER THEFT

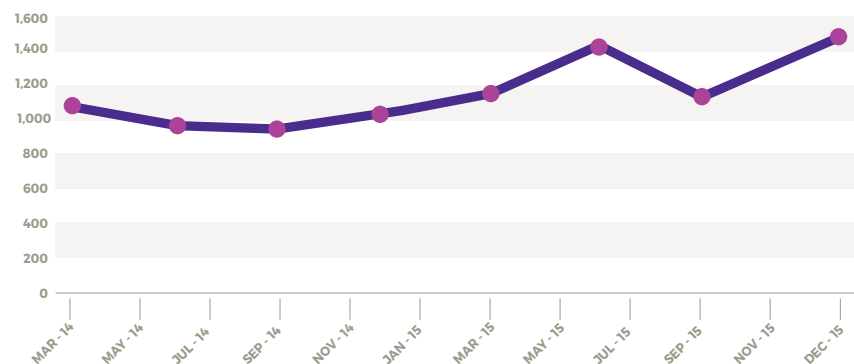
Other theft is the highest volume crime in the ACT.



Other theft is the unlawful taking of money or goods with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the money or goods, without the use, or threat, of force or violence, coercion or deception, excluding motor vehicle theft and burglary.

In 2014 there were 4,031 reported victims of property damage and 5148 in 2015⁵

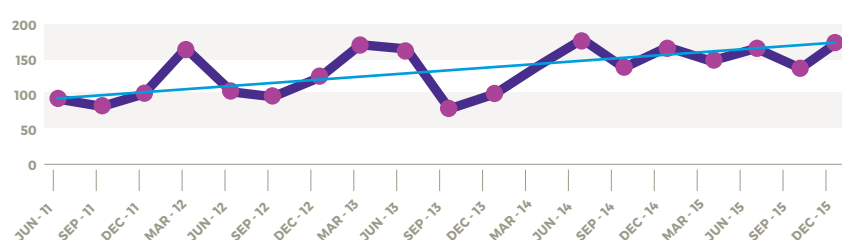
PROPERTY DAMAGE



There were 611 reported bicycle thefts in 2014 and 619 in 2015⁵

BICYCLE THEFT

The 5 year trend for bicycle thefts is upwards



⁵ ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile March 2016

IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REPORTING

The property crime prevention interagency forum that will be established under objective 4 will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy.

DATA SOURCES

A combination of data sources will be used to build a comprehensive picture of crime. Each data set has strengths and limitations and it is important to acknowledge that not all offences are reported to police or become known to police.

The targets are based on rates as opposed to a percentage or a number. This will reduce the impact of an increase in the population and changes to already small raw data that can result in larger changes to percentages.

The target for victims of unlawful entry with intent will be measured using the annual ABS report: *4510.0 – Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia*. The report on data for each calendar year is released in June the following year.

The target for motor vehicle theft will be measured using quarterly reports from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council that are based on data from police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries,

Glass's Information Services and Insurance Australia Group.

The target for property damage, other theft and bicycle theft will be measured using data provided by ACT Policing for the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile.

Evaluation and data sources for current and emerging issues will be determined as part of the planning process for addressing each issue.

Reporting on the ACT Policing performance measures and indicators of effectiveness in the annual policing Purchase Agreement will be monitored to identify changes that may be influenced by activities under this strategy. The specific targets that will be monitored are:

- Number of offences against property reported or becoming known
- Percentage of persons who are concerned about becoming a victim of housebreaking in the next 12 months

- Percentage of persons who are concerned about becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft in the next 12 months¹

The annual *ABS 4530.0 - Crime Victimization, Australia* report will be monitored for increases in the number of victims of crime that report the incident to police. This data is treated with caution because some of the data has a 25-50% margin of error due to the small sample size used in this survey for the ACT.

A combination of data sources will be used to build a comprehensive picture of crime



MONITORING AND REPORTING

AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT AGAINST THE ACTIONS EVERY 12 MONTHS

A report on the progress against the actions and targets will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the final quarter of each calendar year, commencing in 2017.

The final report on achievements against the action plan and against the targets will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the final quarter of 2020 based on the data in the table below.

Target 1: Victim rates for unlawful entry with intent remain below the national rate

4510.0 – Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia 2019, released in June 2020

Target 2: Number of motor vehicle thefts is at or below the national rate

National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council - Motor Vehicle Theft Summary 2019/20, extracted in September 2020

Target 3: Stop the year on year increase in the rate of other thefts reported by 2020

March 2020 ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile, published in June 2020

Target 4: Stop the year on year increase in the rate of bicycle thefts reported by 2020

March 2020 ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile, published in June 2020

Target 5: Stop the year on year increase in the rate of property damage reported by 2020

March 2020 ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile, published in June 2020

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Crime prevention is an effective approach to reducing crime. Evidence shows that crime prevention programs can contribute significantly to achieving a safe and secure community by reducing the level of crime. Well-planned interventions can prevent crime and victimisation, promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of vibrant communities.ⁿ

Crime prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.^o

This strategy recognises that primary, secondary and tertiary prevention approaches need to be in place to effectively reduce crime.

Primary prevention has a universal focus, directed at stopping the problem before it occurs. This could be through addressing the determinants of criminal behaviour or reducing opportunities for crime in the physical environment.

Secondary prevention seeks to change people, particularly those at risk of engaging in criminal activity or becoming victims of crime.

Tertiary prevention focuses on the operation of the criminal justice system and intervening in the lives of known offenders to prevent recidivism.^p

There are a number of ACT Government initiatives focused on early intervention, reducing recidivism and improving access to justice services. In recognising this, the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20 concentrates on situational crime prevention measures that aim to prevent crime from occurring and victimisation.

Like other primary prevention measures, situational crime prevention focuses on reducing crime opportunities rather than on the characteristics of criminals or potential criminals. It is underpinned by environmental criminology, the routine activity model and rational choice theory.^q

Environmental criminology focuses on criminal patterns within particular built environments and analyses the impacts of these external variables on behaviour. Environmental approaches seek to change the specific characteristics of the environment that may cause criminal events to occur. The aim is to reduce crime by designing and/or modifying the physical environment to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur.^r

**The Property
Crime Prevention
Strategy 2016-2020
concentrates on
situational crime
prevention measures.**



Routine activity theory maintains that crime occurs when there is a motivated offender and suitable target (person, place or object) in the absence of capable guardians (a person or thing that discourages crime from taking place). By removing one of these elements, property crime cannot take place. Capable guardians include police patrols, security guards, neighbours, fences, alarm systems, and monitored close circuit television (CCTV).

The basis of rational choice theory is that an offender or potential offender will make a rational choice after weighing up the benefits of committing a crime against the risks or cost. Therefore making it more difficult to commit a property crime or increasing the likelihood an offender will get caught, will deter potential offenders.

This Strategy is guided by the *National Crime Prevention Framework*⁴ which identifies key features of effective strategies:

- Problem solving
- Community engagement
- Partnerships and good governance
- Monitoring and evaluation

The *National Crime Prevention Framework* also outlines the need to develop appropriate mechanisms to:

- identify and prioritise local issues of concern based on evidence of need, develop practical responses to these issues and evaluate and measure the effectiveness of each response;

- consult and engage with the local community to help understand crime priorities, exchange information and to identify opportunities to engage the community in local problem solving; and
- improve the quality and availability of information for local stakeholders required to appropriately target interventions to address local crime problems.

In addition to the evidence base, consultation has taken place with government and community stakeholders providing input into identifying local issues and possible solutions.

ACT Government agencies must act and make decisions consistently with the *Human Rights ACT 2004*. This Strategy has been developed with this in mind and the implementation of the actions will remain consistent with human rights.

ENDNOTES

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- h. ACT Planning and Land Authority, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design General Code
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