

Celebrating a Safer Vincent

The 'Celebrating a Safer Vincent' column is designed to give you, as a resident, business proprietor or visitor to the Town, helpful information and practical advice on safety and crime prevention. These articles aim to provide an accurate picture of, and current information on, issues and safety activities within Vincent. It is encouraging to know that Vincent is indeed a safer place to live with the Town recording decreases in most crime offences since 2003 (Office of Crime Prevention). To assist in getting an accurate picture of issues in your suburb you can access current Police statistics from www.police.wa.gov.au and follow links to 'About us/facts and figures'.

Nyoongar Patrol, WA Police, Department of Community Protection and Town of Vincent Officers working in partnership in the parks

On 18 October the Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Service, WA Police, Department of Community Protection and Town of Vincent Ranger and Community Safety Service Officers met in Hyde Park. As part of the Town's overall partnership approach to safety and crime prevention agency stakeholders regularly meet to maintain a close working relationship. Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Service Chief Executive Officer Maria McAtackney said, 'agencies such as the Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Service, WA Police, Department of Community Protection and Town of Vincent have a close working relationship. This working relationship has developed over a number of years and has a strong foundation and experience working with complex issues. By all agencies working together we can assist in reducing anti-social and criminal behaviour and improving safety for all people in parks and public spaces, tackled through a variety of different agency roles and angles'. Combined partnership actions working in the Town will continue throughout the busy summer season.



Nyoongar Patrol, Department for Community Protection and Town of Vincent Officers pictured in Hyde Park 18 October 2007.

Street prostitution

You may be encouraged to learn that the WA Police have advised of recent reductions in the presence of street workers. Working in close partnership with WA Police, the Town proactively discourages street prostitution and "kerb crawling". However, the Town does not widely promote its specific actions in this area due to the nature of street prostitution and the problems associated with "kerb crawlers".

It is very important that you contact the WA Police on 131 444 if you have any issues as they have dedicated officers working in this area along with the appropriate powers and jurisdiction, under the *Police Act*, to deal with this behaviour.

The Town has a strong collaborative partnership with WA Police and attends monthly meetings to monitor and raise any local concerns regarding street workers. We have also recently developed a Safety and Crime Prevention Plan which identifies current strategies to reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour.

WA Police are keen to hear all and any concerns from the Town's residents so that future Police operations can effectively target the problems and appropriately deal with street prostitution complaints.

Current Safety and Crime Issues

PEDESTRIANS CALL FOR HELP FROM CAR OWNERS WHO PARK THEIR VEHICLES ACROSS FOOTPATHS

Our Ranger and Community Safety Services receive ongoing complaints of cars parking illegally on footpaths and vehicles obstructing the access of pedestrians. When a Ranger on patrol in the Town observes a car parking on the footpath the owner will receive an infringement notice. This is done to uphold free and safe passage for pedestrians on footpaths. The safety of pedestrians is put at risk when cars are parked across footpaths and pedestrians are forced to detour around obstructing cars and are forced onto roads. These safety concerns are even more critical for pedestrians pushing prams, or a person walking with a mobility aid or using a wheelchair. It is very important that the accessibility of footpaths as a safe refuge for all pedestrians be maintained at all times. Under parking facilities local laws parking across footpaths carries a fine of \$125.



DO YOU PARK ACROSS FOOTPATHS?

HELPFUL SAFER VINCENT CONTACT NUMBERS

- For your Local Police Station (i.e. Wembley or Perth Police Stations) contact 131 444
- Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
- Life Threatening Emergencies 000
- Town of Vincent Safer Vincent Co-ordinator 9273 6032



Should you have any enquiries about the issues above

- or need assistance on the use of engraver to mark valuables
- need any general community safety and crime prevention advice
- if you are an individual or agency wanting to join the Safer Vincent overall partnership/ network or
- if you have any suggestions for topics for future Safer Vincent articles

please contact the Safer Vincent Co-ordinator on 9273 6032, TTY 9273 6078.



Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership News

The Safer Vincent Crime Prevention Partnership is currently working on a number of exciting projects to further safety issues in the Town. Recent Partnership meetings have considered 'Eyes on the Street', CCTV cameras and signage to raise the illegality of graffiti and vandalism. The Partnership is also revamping the Town's award-winning 'Back Pack Safe' programme. In addition, the Town is also working proactively with multicultural communities with its 'Safety in Harmony' programme which is being run throughout the 2007/2008 financial year. For more information regarding any of the Town's actions in community safety being progressed with WA Police and key safety stakeholders, see the Safety and Crime Prevention Plan available from www.vincent.wa.gov.au. Should you require hard copies of this plan please contact the Safer Vincent Co-ordinator on 9273 6032 or TTY 9273 6078.

4 steps to making your home safer

Recently appointed Officer-in-Charge of Wembley Police Station Snr Sgt Mike Green has advised of the following four precautions all Town residents can heed to prevent the possibility of becoming a potential victim of crime:

1. Be mindful of your surroundings and do not make it easy for would-be criminals. Laptops, cameras and televisions seem fairly popular items so making sure they out of view, secured, engraved/marked and serial numbers recorded is a good start to improving your home security.
2. Ensure doors to your house are always locked at night and during the day if you are out the front or back (some offenders enter homes through the rear or front depending on where the occupants are).
3. Keep in mind usual strategies if you are away from home on holidays... stopping the paper delivery, getting someone to put out the rubbish, collect mail and secure car keys if you are going away and leaving the car in view.
4. Always report things that don't appear right or people in areas doing things that appear strange or out of place to the WA Police. This is a good strategy to play your part in making your community safer.

