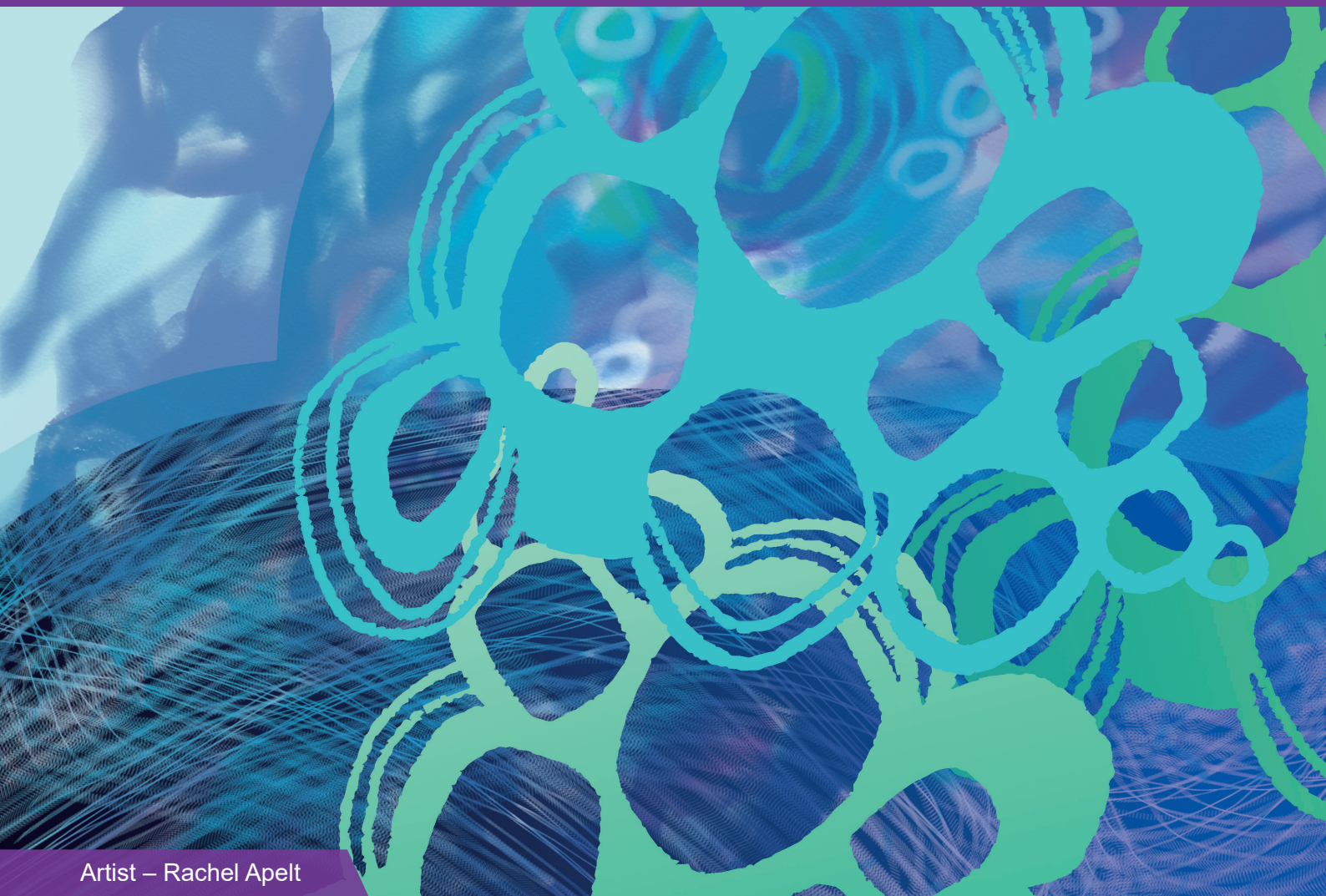


# 2021-2022 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy



Artist – Rachel Apelt



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fairfield City Council acknowledges the Cabrogal people as the traditional custodians of the Fairfield City Local Government Area and pays its respects to its Elders both past, present and emerging. The Cabrogal clan takes its name from the 'cobra grub' a staple food for the clan, which can be found in local creeks and estuaries in the area. Deerubbin and Gandangara are the names of the Local Aboriginal Lands Councils (LALCs) within the Fairfield City Council LGA.

Fairfield City Council would like to acknowledge the contributions of the many groups of individuals consulted to develop the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022. The acknowledgements include local residents, NSW Police Force, Fairfield Businesses, the Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group, the Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee, the Fairfield Youth Workers Network, Fairfield City's Aboriginal Advisory Committee, government and non-government agencies. All involved attended and contributed their wisdom and insights in the consultation process.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>BOCSAR</b>	NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
<b>CDAT</b>	Community Drug Action Team
<b>CSPC</b>	Community Safety Precinct Committees
<b>DFV</b>	Domestic and Family Violence
<b>FCC</b>	Fairfield City Council
<b>FDVC</b>	Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee
<b>KPA</b>	Key Priority Area
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>LHD</b>	Local Health District
<b>PCYC</b>	Police Citizens Youth Club
<b>SWS DFV Alliance</b>	South-West Sydney Domestic and Family Violence Alliance



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It is my pleasure to introduce Fairfield City Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022.

The plan is a result of extensive research and consultation with the community and other key stakeholders to develop crime prevention strategies that address the concerns of our residents.

Fairfield City recognises that the safest communities are educated communities. Through our partnerships with the police, local business and government and non-government agencies, we have delivered successful projects and programs that prevent and/or reduce the incidence of crime.

Our collaborative efforts over the years have achieved significant improvements to safety in Fairfield City, but our job does not stop there. Over the next two years, we will continue to work toward our goal of achieving a welcoming, safe and diverse community, where we are proud to belong, invest and prosper.

Frank Carbone  
Mayor of Fairfield City

## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Fairfield City Council has a long-standing commitment to community safety and crime prevention.

Safety is fundamental to the liveability of a city. The actual and perceived safety of our residents, businesses and visitors continues to be a priority for our City.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 outlines the strategic direction that Council and its partners will take to deliver targeted initiatives that build on previous successes and further advance a sense of safety within the community.

Council recognises that partnership based strategies are the key to improving community safety outcomes, and we thank all parties involved for their time, resources and input.

We look forward to continuing to support these partnerships to work toward a safe, connected and inclusive Fairfield City for everyone.

Alan Young  
City Manager of Fairfield City

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY






The Fairfield City Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 sets out the priority areas and strategies that will be implemented to address community safety and crime prevention. Historically, Fairfield City Council has a long-standing commitment to community safety and crime prevention having established the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Program in 1998. The Fairfield City Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 continues that commitment, responding to the community's identification of 'community safety' as a high priority for Fairfield City. This Strategy aims to continue delivering a diverse range of projects that are centred upon community safety and crime prevention, while also raising awareness, educating, informing and ultimately, empowering local residents.

The Strategy is identified as a key deliverable in Council's yearly Operational Plan. Moreover, it builds upon the strengths and partnerships between Council, Police, the Fairfield community, local businesses, government and non-government service providers. The diversity of Fairfield City is also reflected in this Strategy to ensure inclusivity and strengthen the social cohesion of the community.

Other factors that are significant for this Strategy revolve around specific community safety and crime-related issues. Data was collected and analysed from a number of sources such as the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and Fairfield City Police Area Command (PAC). The most commonly reported criminal offences in 2018 in the Fairfield LGA were fraud and malicious damage to property. In addition, theft and domestic violence related assaults remain a prominent concern to Council when considering the community perspectives of crime.

While the data provides a statistical analysis of crime trends, community responses offer an additional insight into community safety and crime prevention in Fairfield City.

Through a consultation process engaging community members and stakeholders, five key crime and safety related concerns were raised. The five concerns were:

	Education and awareness of safety of public spaces		Community engagement in crime prevention
	Awareness of domestic and family violence		Drug-Misuse and Addiction
			Gambling

The community members and stakeholders commented that more work is needed to directly address each issue. In doing this, Fairfield City Council can effectively contribute to an increasing positive perception of safety and crime in the LGA. Community concerns, combined with the analysis of crime data, informed the four Key Priority Areas (KPAs) that will be the focus of this plan. The four KPAs are:

- Making Public Spaces Safer
- Engaging Diverse Groups in Crime Prevention
- Informing and Educating the Community about Domestic and Family Violence,
- Alcohol and other Drugs, and Gambling

Strategies and projects have been developed in direct response to the identified KPAs that emerged from the data analysis and community feedback about community safety and crime. Such strategies and projects will be implemented over the next two years. Fairfield City Council will collaborate with a range of organisations to ensure the aim and objectives are met. Continual monitoring and evaluation of this Strategy will be done to analyse the effectiveness of it and address any emerging concerns.

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THIS STRATEGY

The aim of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 is to establish a framework for addressing community priorities in line with the community's vision in the City Plan. The Strategy will assist in the identification of, and response to, community priorities that align with Fairfield City Council's broader vision of the City as a ***'Welcoming, Safe and Diverse Community, where we are proud to belong, invest and prosper.'***

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN

Improving community safety and reducing crime reflects an ongoing commitment to Council's Crime Prevention and Community Safety Program. As such, the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 has been developed in response to the demographic and crime trends in Fairfield City, while also setting priorities for the future.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 was developed in collaboration with the community, Police, business owners, government and non-government service providers. The Strategy builds on the extensive work that both Council and stakeholders have implemented from the previous plan. It aims to strategically incorporate the learnings from successful initiatives in crime prevention and the promotion of community safety through the delivery of training programs, information resources, awareness campaigns and events.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 recognises and aims to build on positive developments which provide a strong foundation for further work including reduction in crime rates, increased reporting, a better understanding of the law and an improvement in residents' perceptions of safety in the community.

#### DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community safety is a complex and multifaceted concept that can be difficult to define. It is often invoked as a generic, all-encompassing phrase for 'crime prevention' and 'crime reduction'.

However, its focus is much wider as it incorporates the introduction of physical and social changes in local environments as a way of preventing crime and disorder from taking place. As such, community safety means varying things to different people at different times. Its focus alters as and when, the nature of crime and anti-social behaviour shifts. Community safety should allow citizens to pursue and obtain the fullest benefits from their social and economic lives without fear or hindrance from crime and disorder.

#### DEFINITION OF CRIME PREVENTION

Crime prevention, on the other hand, involves a number of strategies that 'target the social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation' (AIC 2017). Crime prevention strategies are implemented at all levels ranging from local communities and councils, to non-government organisations, state and federal governments. It is a multi-faceted strategy where the focus can differ in accordance to the identified needs and risks of the community or an organisation.



## HOW THE STRATEGY ALIGNS WITH LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

The content of this Strategy is not isolated from other Fairfield City Council, federal and state government strategies, frameworks and action plans. The plan was devised in association with a number of relevant policies and strategies as displayed in Table 2 below.

**Table 1 – Policies and Strategies Informing the Strategy**

GOVERNMENT	POLICIES AND STRATEGIES
Fairfield City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairfield City Settlement Action Plan 2017-2019</li> <li>Graffiti Vandalism Prevention and Management Policy</li> <li>Fairfield City Council Drug Action Strategy 2021-2022</li> <li>Road Safety Action Plan</li> <li>Fairfield City Health Framework</li> <li>Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2021-2022</li> <li>Strategy on Ageing for Fairfield City 2021-2022</li> <li>Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017</li> <li>Reconciliation Action Strategy 2021-2022</li> <li>Community Engagement Strategy 2016</li> <li>Fairfield City Council Gambling Policy</li> </ul>
NSW Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Government's NSW 2021, and Premier's Priorities</li> <li>NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021</li> <li>NSW Police Domestic Violence Policy</li> <li>The Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018</li> </ul> <p>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2017) National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) 2016</p>
Australian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Crime Prevention Framework</li> <li>Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism 2017</li> <li>The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022</li> <li>National Drug Strategy</li> </ul>

### NSW CRIME PREVENTION

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 reflects a number of state-wide strategies that aim to decrease crime in NSW. One specific plan that was used as a reference in the developmental phase of this Strategy was 'NSW 2021'. 'NSW 2021' is the NSW Government's ten-year plan to drive the state's agenda for change to economic growth, service delivery, infrastructure, local planning, environmental processes and accountability, and transparency. However, the most relevant aspect of 'NSW 2021' to this Strategy, relates to the goals for the future of Police and Justice Services. 'NSW 2021' identified three goals that have helped guide the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022. These are:

1. Prevent and reduce the level of crime
2. Prevent and reduce the level of re-offending
3. Improve community confidence in the justice system

In addition to the 'NSW 2021' Government plan, a number of key frameworks and strategies about domestic and family violence informed the development of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Strategy 2021-2022 . The NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children, and the NSW Police Domestic Violence Policy are just a few examples of the strategies that were referred to. Briefly, the strategies aim to prevent domestic and family violence, as well as facilitate intervention programs with at risk individuals and communities, increase and improve the quality of victim support services, and ensure the accountability of perpetrators.

Recent legislative developments have also informed the social policy context for programs focusing on gambling and alcohol-related crime. The Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill, which was passed by the NSW Parliament in 2018, aims to improve the regulation of the liquor and gaming industries. The reform outlined the contribution gambling has on the perpetration of a number of criminal offences, such as theft and drug-related crime. This is a particular concern of Fairfield City and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 uses the reforms to guide the implementation of specific gambling and alcohol-related strategies and programs to decrease the risk factors of crime.

## **NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION**

This Strategy is also informed by federal frameworks, strategies and plans like the National Crime Prevention Framework and the Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism 2017. The National Crime Prevention Framework outlines the 'best practice principles' in crime prevention (AIC 2012) which include:

- Collaboration between multiple stakeholders to address the wide-ranging causes of crime and to draw upon the skills, expertise, resources and responsibilities necessary to address those causes
- The practical application of research and evaluation findings in the development and implementation of measures to reduce crime, targeted to areas of greatest need and adapted to suit local conditions
- Building and maintaining the capacity to implement effective crime prevention policies and interventions
- Promoting an active and engaged community, and being responsive to the diversity and changing nature of communities
- Long-term commitment to achieving sustainable reductions in crime and savings to the criminal justice system and the community

Similar to the utilisation of the NSW State Government policies and strategies, the principles outlined in the National Crime Prevention Framework were referred to and where appropriate, were incorporated and reflected in the KPAs. More specifically, the strong focus on collaboration, measurable results, sustainability and evidence-based planning are evident across all four KPAs.

In addition to the National Crime Prevention Framework, aspects from Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism 2017 informed the development of this Strategy. Briefly, the strategy aims to protect the lives of people working in, using, and visiting crowded places by making these places more resilient. It involves working in collaboration with various government agencies and businesses to ensure public sites that attract large crowds are safe and aware of potential terrorist attacks. As such, the strategy is applied to this Strategy in reference to the delivery of Council events and projects. Fairfield City Council will conduct ongoing research to understand how the strategy can best be utilised in the LGA and its implementation in regards to specific KPAs.

Finally, federal frameworks centred upon domestic and family violence were also referred to. For example, the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2010–2022 and Change the Story (a joint initiative from Our Watch, VicHealth and Australia's National Organisation for Women's Safety), were used to integrate local initiatives to national approaches. The framework aims to prevent and address all types of domestic and family violence.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN 2013 - 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Fairfield Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2013-2017, saw a number of achievements made by Council. The achievements were a result of the successful implementation of programs and the ongoing partnerships with community networks and agencies. These achievements include, but are not exclusive to:

- Implemented a range of programs in partnership with community organisations and local Police in relation to: law processes; an increased understanding of law enforcement in Australia; engagement with the local police (For example, Coffee with a Cop); and delivery of Domestic Violence awareness training (For example, Train the Trainer Program)
- Continued to raise awareness on home safety, car theft and safety auditing. This had led to an increase in lighting in public spaces, open space design, the implementation of the recommended changes to increase the perception and actual safety of Fairfield City
- Continued the T-Way partnership, which was established in 2009, and brought together stakeholders to discuss safety at T-Way stations and Wetherill Park Stockland Mall
- Expansion of the CCTV Camera Program across the LGA with a commitment from Council and Police to look at strategies that incorporate CCTV effectively
- Carried out respectful relationship training that included 50 male participants
- Council worked with partners to develop the Child Bride and Forced Marriage project which resulted in the development of a visual educational resource for students that built their capacity and knowledge in relation to child brides and forced marriages
- Continued to deliver a number of projects that address family and domestic violence such as '16 Days' and White Ribbon Day
- Contributed to the development of the NSW Domestic Violence Framework – NSW Domestic Violence Blueprint Framework
- Worked with community partners to address emerging concerns, notably women and children on a temporary visa experiencing family and domestic violence
- Continued to support the growth of the Fairfield Youth Community Centre
- Supported both the expansion of youth services at the youth centre as well as, the support given to youth organisation to assist in the delivery of these services
- Continued to deliver the graffiti removal program in partnership with corrective services and the Department of Juvenile Justice, and participated in the Annual graffiti removal day
- Continued to convene the Fairfield Community Drug Action Team and in partnership with members, delivered a range of projects aimed to reduce the harm of alcohol and other drugs. This has resulted in the delivery of an 'Ice Forum' for parents and carers of drug users, and the translation of informational brochures on methamphetamine use in four languages (Arabic, Vietnamese, Assyrian and Chinese)



2017 Operational Bounce Back

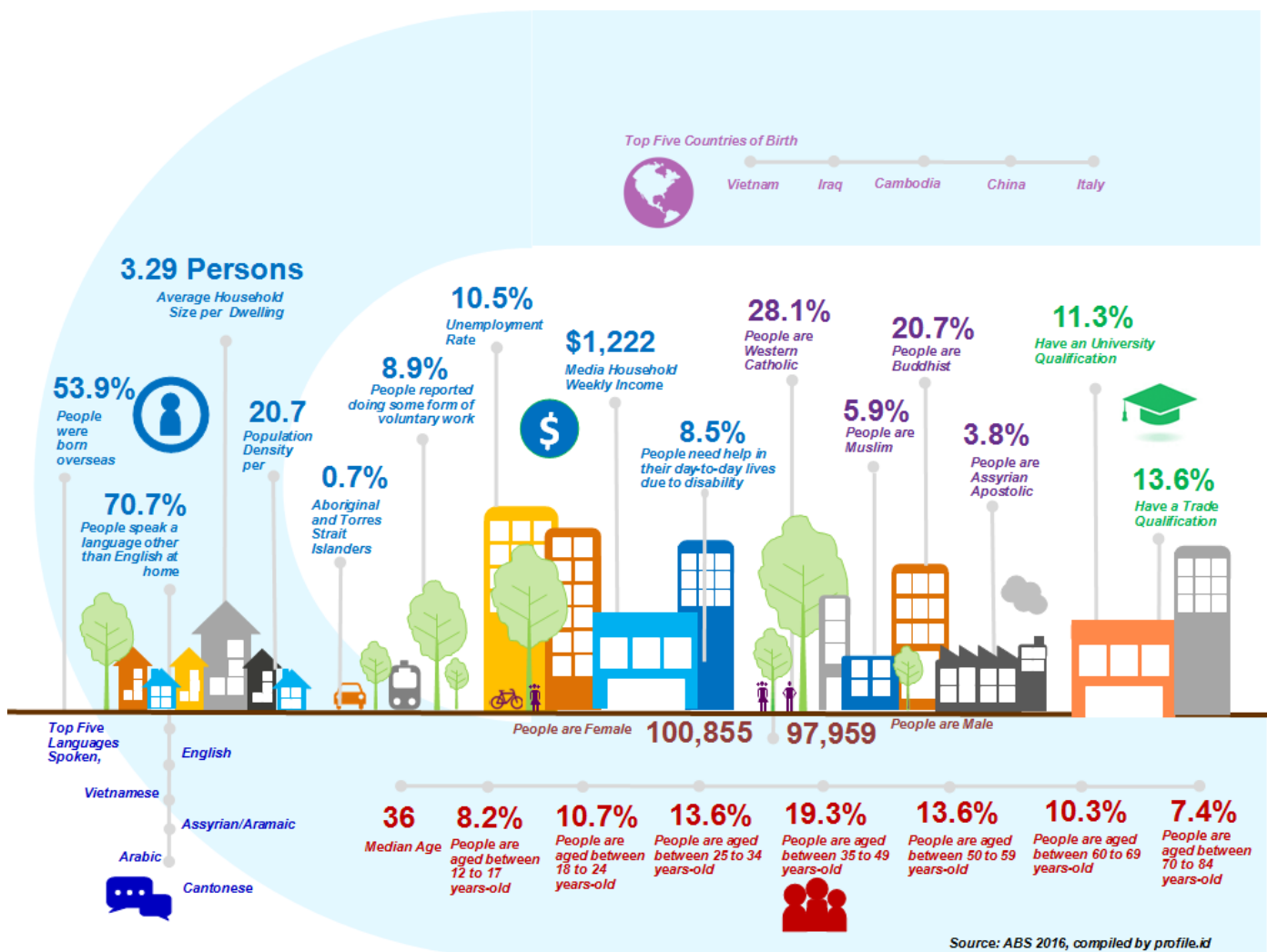


## PROFILE OF FAIRFIELD CITY – DEMOGRAPHICS

Fairfield City is located in South West Sydney, approximately 32 kilometres from the Sydney Central Business District, and covers an area of 102.5 square kilometres. Fairfield City incorporates 27 suburbs with a population of 210,612 in 2018. However, Figure Two that outlines the population overview is representative of the ABS 2016 data. Furthermore, Fairfield City Council acknowledges the Cabrogal clan of the Darug nation as the traditional custodians of the land.

**Figure One – Map of Fairfield City LGA**





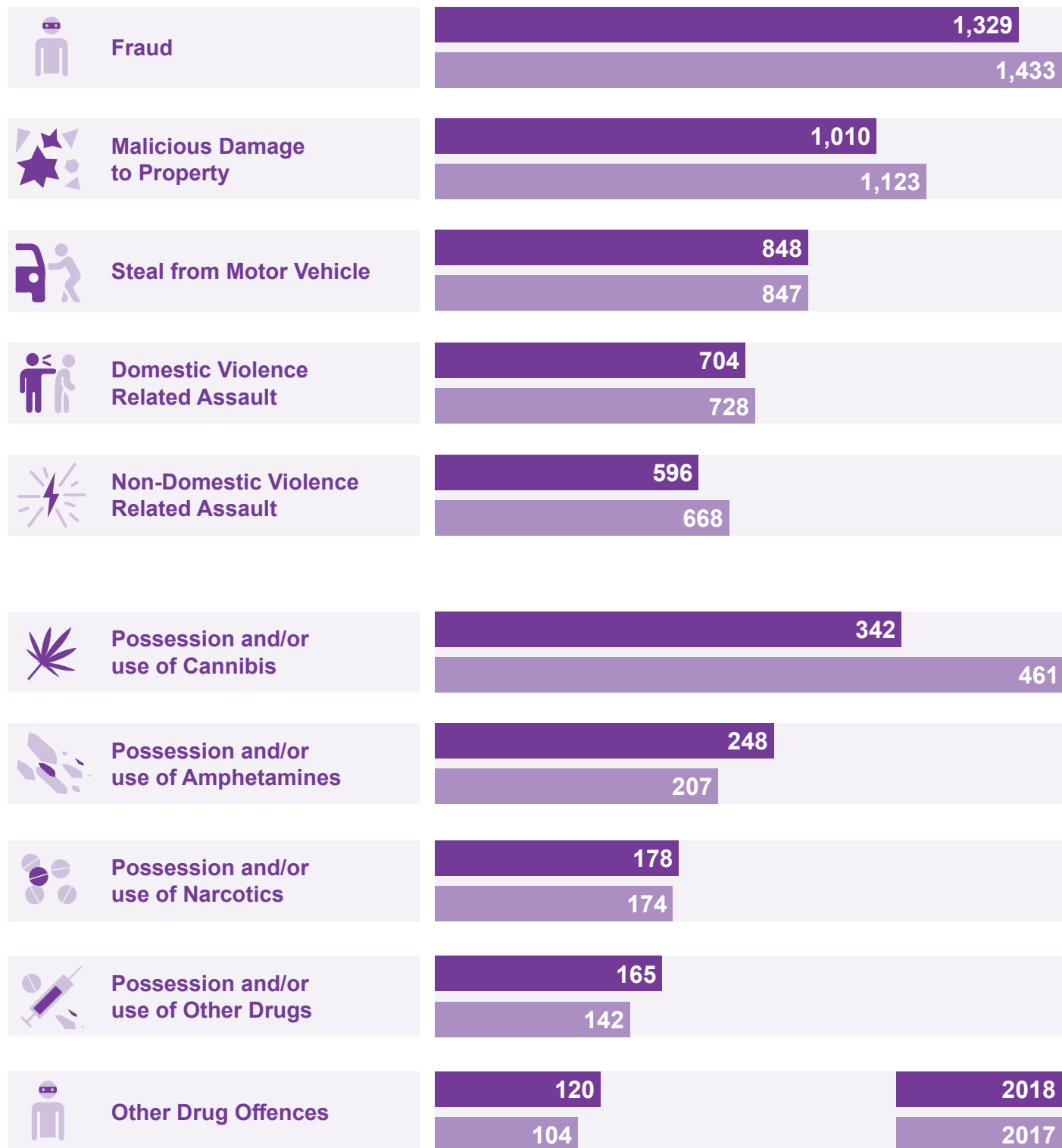
**Figure Three – Population Overview**

## CULTURAL, LANGUAGE AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Fairfield City is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia. According to the 2016 Census, 54% of residents were born overseas and about 70% speak a language other than English at home. Between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2019, Fairfield City accommodated over 10,000 people arriving under Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program (data.gov.au\*). Data from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) suggest that there is a significant number of humanitarian entrants moving into Fairfield City after initially settling elsewhere in Australia. Recently, the Fairfield City Settlement Action Plan 2017-2019 has responded to the influx of refugees, humanitarian entrants and migrants with complex needs settling in Fairfield City (ABS 2016). The Settlement Action Plan identifies eight key action areas to raise awareness, expand access to services and advocate for the needs of recently settled communities and shape government settlement policy.

## PROFILE OF FAIRFIELD CITY – CRIME STATISTICS

### CRIME TRENDS







## AREAS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN FAIRFIELD CITY

Utilising data from BOSCAR's hot spot maps, high crime density areas in Fairfield City were revealed. While domestic related assaults and motor vehicle theft were perpetrated across Fairfield LGA, most offences were committed in the suburbs of Fairfield and Cabramatta. This is not surprising considering Fairfield and Cabramatta are the two largest city centres in the LGA. The offences that were highly reported in Fairfield and Cabramatta include: domestic related assaults; theft from a motor vehicle; robbery; malicious damage to property; breaking and entering non-dwelling; and breaking and entering dwelling.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS IN FAIRFIELD CITY

A network of community and Council programs has, and continues to be implemented to promote safety and address crime in Fairfield City. Each of the community networks and programs are summarised below.

### THE MAYOR'S CRIME PREVENTION REFERENCE GROUP

The Fairfield City Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group is a formal Council committee. Membership includes Council, Fairfield City Police Area Command (PAC), government and non-government agencies, Neighbourhood Watch, Chambers of Commerce and residents. The Group meets quarterly and supports activities that raise awareness and understanding of community safety and ensure formal links between Council and the many forums and service providers that contribute to safety and crime prevention in Fairfield City.

### CCTV CAMERA PROGRAM

The Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) camera program, which was originally called the Townsafe Program, commenced operations in September 1996 with initial contributions from Council and the NSW State Government to establish a 14 camera CCTV system in the Cabramatta and Canley Vale town centres. Council's CCTV Camera program now coordinates the CCTV network in public places and Council facilities across Fairfield City. With expansion of the network in the last ten years, Council monitors rubbish dumping, graffiti and

vandalism and other activities that affect the safety of public spaces and facilities. Council works with Fairfield PAC to identify and target surveillance of crime hotspots in Fairfield City.

### COUNCIL'S GRAFFITI VANDALISM PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Consultations identified a link between the quality of public spaces and people's perceptions of safety. Recognising this, Council launched a Graffiti Vandalism Prevention and Management Policy in 2012. The aim is to reduce the social, environmental and economic impact of graffiti vandalism through prevention, community engagement, detection, reporting and prompt removal of graffiti. The Policy:

- Incorporates principles of crime prevention through environmental design
- Incorporates murals and community art
- Provides for coordinated graffiti removal from Council assets, rapid removal of offensive graffiti and offers fee-for-service removal from private assets
- Includes a partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice to support the 'Paint Out' program



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch groups aim to prevent crime through promoting awareness of crime risks, crime prevention strategies and early intervention initiatives. The Neighbourhood Watch groups collaborate with the Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group to support community safety initiatives in Fairfield City. Neighbourhood Watch groups are active in several communities across Fairfield City including: Cabramatta; Bonnyrigg Heights; Bossley Park; Abbotsbury; Edensor Park; Greenfield Park; Lansvale and Bonnyrigg.

## FAIRFIELD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE (FDVC)

The Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee (FDVC) aims to reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence through partnerships and coordinated service provision. The FDVC comprises of representatives from several key service providers. The Committee identifies issues related to domestic and family violence, increases awareness, provides a forum to promote coordination across services and increase resources. The Committee has drafted a Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee Work Plan 2018–2020, which identifies gaps in services and creates opportunities for partnerships and working parties.

The objectives of the work plan include:

- Identifying key access barriers to improve housing options for victims of family violence
- Increasing awareness among emerging, newly arrived and refugee communities
- Education and engagement of young people and youth services
- Training for family violence specific and generalist service providers
- Increased participation of men in prevention, awareness raising and early intervention activities

## THE SOUTH-WESTERN SYDNEY DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ALLIANCE (SWS DFV ALLIANCE)

Fairfield City Council and the FDVC are a part of the South West Sydney Domestic Violence Alliance (SWSDV), which has been formed around a partnership between the South Western Sydney Local Health District and Department of Communities and Justice, South Western Sydney District. The Alliance includes other Councils, interagency groups and local family violence committees in the district and works to reduce the incidence of family violence and enhance the integration of service response.

## NSW POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEES (CSPCS)

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs) provide another forum for Fairfield City Council and the communities to meet with Fairfield PAC and discuss local crime and safety issues. CSPCs:

- Support communication between the Commanders and local communities
- Encourage partnerships to prevent crime and fear of crime and promote public safety
- Develop collaborative responses to local crime concerns
- Enable community input on local policing practice

## FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAM

Since 1999, Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) have led thousands of community activities and campaigns to engage and educate at-risk youth, parents and the wider community to curb alcohol-fuelled violence and drug use. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) supports the CDATs through the Community Engagement and Action Program (CEAP) funded by NSW Health ([adf.org.au](http://adf.org.au)). The Fairfield CDAT was



established in 2000 following concerns expressed by the community regarding the drug issues in Cabramatta. The Fairfield CDAT has evolved over time into a group made up of local organisations committed to delivering programs and projects focused on educating, raising awareness and providing information.

## HOMELESSNESS INTERAGENCY

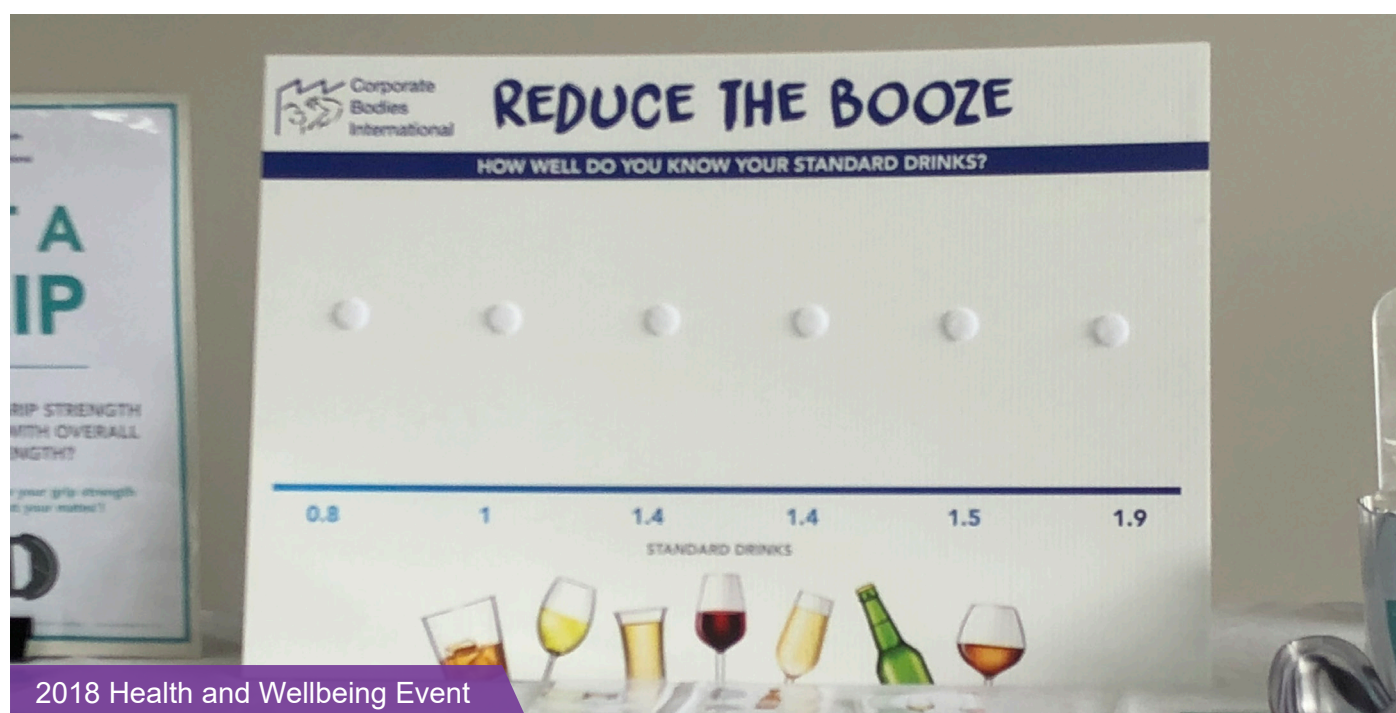
Over the past two years there has been an increase in the reporting of rough sleepers -people sleeping on the streets - in Fairfield City's streets and parks from residents, business owners and Council staff. Prior to this increase in rough sleepers, Council focused on addressing those 'at risk' of homelessness who would be referred to accommodation services.

Fairfield City Council has been a member of the Fairfield/Liverpool Nite Under the Stars Committee which holds fundraising events to support the homeless. The Committee is primarily made up of service providers across the two LGAs that deliver homelessness services including case management and accommodation. However, over time it has become evident that a more structured group addressing the gaps and service provision needed to be established. In response to this,

Council convened the inaugural Homelessness Interagency meeting on 21 February 2019. The purpose of establishing this Committee, across the Fairfield City and Liverpool LGAs, is to ensure a more coordinated approach to service delivery and a greater presence of outreach services to Fairfield City.

## GAMBLING

In the consultations for this Strategy, gambling was identified and acknowledged as a significant issue impacting the community of Fairfield City. In comparison to other LGAs, states and territories, Fairfield City has the highest rate of gambling in Australia. The effects of gambling can be detrimental to family relationships, employment, housing and financial security. Recent policy changes and the creation of advocacy groups have been created with the aim of minimising gambling harm in the community. Community advocacy groups, consisting of local service providers, have established in the LGA. Forums to discuss the issues of gambling harm and best practice to address them have been held. Council will continue to work with State Government Agencies and local community organisations to address the level of gambling and gambling harm experienced by the community.



2018 Health and Wellbeing Event

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 was developed using a number of sources. This was done to obtain a thorough understanding of community safety and crime issues in Fairfield City. The analysis of crime statistics, combined with the feedback and input from stakeholders informed the development of the Strategy and the specific strategies and programs that encompass it.

### COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Data was collected and analysed from a number of sources such as the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and Fairfield City Police Area Command. The analysed data formed the basis of the 'Profile of Fairfield City– Crime Statistics' which is discussed in greater detail on pages 16 and 17. The crime statistics assisted in the identification of key crime trends which, in turn, helped developed the KPAs for this plan.

### STAKEHOLDERS - POLICE ENGAGEMENT

Fairfield City Council works closely with the Fairfield PAC to collect valuable information. The Police help confirm broader safety and crime issues, as well as offer an insight into issues that are not found in the data analysis. This is mainly achieved through regular meetings between the Police and Council.

### STAKEHOLDERS - COMMUNITY SURVEYS AND NETWORKS

Three stakeholder consultation workshops and a survey were held from April to June 2018. Two of the three external consultation workshops were with representatives of key community services, Police, The Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group and other community stakeholders. The consultation workshops involved a discussion of key findings from the analysis of the crime statistics from the NSW BOCSAR, identification of key issues for stakeholders and creatively exploring visions for a safer Fairfield through an exercise with Lego.

Residents, organisations and other stakeholders were also invited to take part in an online survey to highlight their priorities for the Strategy. There were 101 respondents to the consultation survey. The findings of the workshops and survey identified priorities for community safety and crime prevention, which are reflected in this Strategy.

### STAKEHOLDERS - INTERNAL

The internal consultation involved staff from various Council departments including CCTV/ Information Technology, Assets, Strategic Planning, Community and Park Services and Social Planning and Community Development. This internal consultation offered a further insight into the key community safety and crime concerns in the Fairfield LGA. Moreover, the consultations highlighted how the current concerns and needs of the community impact on, and relate to the roles of different Council departments and partners.

### IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PRIORITY AREAS

The research and community engagement conducted by Fairfield City Council provides an insight into the community safety and crime issues that are the most prominent within the LGA. The analysed data, as well as the consultations with stakeholders, helped develop four Key Priority Areas (KPAs) to address community safety and crime prevention in Fairfield. Within each KPA, specific strategies and programs have been developed.

## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY AND CRIME

Workshops and a survey were carried out to understand community members', business' and organisation's perspectives on safety and crime in Fairfield City. The analysis of data from these consultations highlighted five key aspects where further work is needed for community perceptions of safety to improve. The five key aspects were:

- Education and awareness of safety of public spaces
- Community engagement in crime prevention
- Awareness of domestic and family violence (DFV)
- Gambling
- Drug-misuse and addiction

### EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF SAFETY OF PUBLIC SPACES

Stakeholders felt that Council can continue to play a key role in advocating for better infrastructure around transport hubs and maintenance of parks and public facilities. Survey respondents indicated that waste disposal/dumping rubbish (41%), lighting in public spaces (33%) and the maintenance of public spaces (27%) all affected their sense of safety in public spaces.

Council departments highlighted that resolving these issues requires partnerships with state and private partners to find resources for increasing family-friendly spaces and lighting in high-use areas such as walkways, parks and city centres.

The community members felt that Council could consider providing incentives in planning processes for better design and improved visibility, while maintaining public parks and facilities. Council's advocacy and coordination of community networks to support safer buses and train stations continues to be an important part of improving the safety of key infrastructure in Fairfield City.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CRIME PREVENTION

Another theme in consultations was the need to maintain and extend the engagement between law enforcement and the public. Stakeholders saw this engagement as crucial to improving awareness of the law and addressing the underreporting of many criminal offences. Many survey respondents echoed this wider community sentiment with 64% indicating that supporting 'police partnerships with the community' would be among the most helpful

activities that Council could do to promote safety and prevent crime.

Stakeholder consultations identified a lack of engagement with key vulnerable groups as a major barrier to crime prevention. Stakeholders also identified a need for more culturally responsive services that can reach different cultural groups and for information about these services to be accessible to all communities.

Many stakeholders highlighted that Council has done significant work in facilitating engagement with law enforcement through initiatives, such as 'Coffee with a Cop' - a regular session in which community members can meet with police to discuss issues in an informal setting. Council's Fairfield City Settlement Action Plan 2017 - 2019 recommended more frequent 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions.

### AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (DFV)

Domestic and family violence were among the most concerning issues reported by stakeholders in Fairfield City in the consultation workshops and survey. A majority (71%) of survey respondents regarded domestic and family violence as a major problem. Stakeholders also identified domestic and family violence as a major priority, highlighting that Council should continue its work in this area.

Many stakeholders felt that there needs to be more campaigns to inform and educate the public about these issues and the services that are available. More specifically, stakeholders expressed the view that there was a need to inform emerging and refugee communities about domestic and family



violence and the laws relating to this crime. They also suggested that there was little knowledge of elder abuse in these communities.

### **GAMBLING**

Concerns regarding gambling in the community were evident in consultation workshops and survey responses. Discussions at consultation workshops and survey comments highlighted a level of disquiet about gambling taking place in coffee shops. Stakeholders in consultations discussed the way in which gambling exacerbates the impact of other issues, for example, through connections between gambling and crime or violence. Stakeholders felt that communities lacked the information to access services, particularly culturally responsive services, which are available to tackle gambling harm.

### **DRUG-MISUSE AND ADDICTION**

Stakeholders identified opportunities for Council to help enhance service provision and community engagement to address drug-misuse and addiction. Drug-misuse was a key priority, particularly for workers from community services and organisations who attended consultations and for survey respondents. Most survey respondents

were concerned about overall drug use (97%). Respondents believed that amphetamine use (79%) is of greatest concern, followed by heroin (69%), cannabis (56%), alcohol consumption (55%) and smoking cigarettes (54%).

The consultations highlighted that although increased rates of reporting for drug-related offences may be related to the success of targeted initiatives implemented by Fairfield Police; there is still a need to address the wide range of social issues underlying drug-misuse and abuse in Fairfield City. Stakeholders discussed the ways in which the issues underlying drug-misuse included unemployment, gambling debts, mental health issues and alienation from family structures.

The consultation workshops highlighted that young people were the most important demographic to be adversely affected by drug-misuse and that there was a need for after-hours and outreach services to better cater to their needs. Some community organisations felt that there were also other emerging groups, such as international students, who were being targeted by criminal syndicates to facilitate the distribution of drugs. The stakeholders supported Council's continuing work in convening and supporting the Community Drug Action Team's (CDAT) work.





## KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2021-2022

Four key priority areas (KPA's) have been identified based on stakeholder consultations and crime statistics. These KPA's are informed by a holistic understanding of safety and crime prevention, which recognises the wide variety of factors that affect residents' perceptions of safety and those that contribute to crime. The action plans for each of the four KPA's are intended to build on the existing community safety promotion and crime prevention work by Council, service providers, state agencies and community groups. The aim for the KPA's, and of this Strategy in a broader context is to reduce criminal activity and directly seek to minimise the risk factors of crime to ensure that Fairfield City is a safe city.

### KPA's FOR 2021-2022

#### MAKING PUBLIC SPACES SAFER

Improving lighting, supporting CCTV maintenance, better infrastructure around transport hubs and promoting safety-centred development.

#### INFORMING AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, AND GAMBLING

Increasing community awareness of domestic and family violence, Alcohol and other Drugs and Gambling. Some of these issues overlap, however, this plan will address the above three issues as individual issues. This will be achieved through community education, events and information campaigns in print, radio and social media.

#### BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE, SERVICES AND AGENCIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

Strengthening community partnerships between Council, services, law enforcement, businesses and community members to address the multi-dimensional contributors to homelessness, crime, drug use and anti-social behaviour.

#### ENGAGING DIVERSE GROUPS IN CRIME PREVENTION

Promoting community understanding of laws and encouraging positive perceptions of law enforcement authorities among emerging and refugee communities, young people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.



2016 Bring It On! Festival

## KEY PRIORITY AREA ONE: MAKING PUBLIC SPACES SAFER

Council will be looking to build on its previous work to continue making public spaces safer for residents and visitors. Making people feel safer across the City requires both changing the structural elements of public spaces so they are easier for people to safely use and addressing factors such as the appearance of the City. Council has an important role in promoting safety-centred development, engaging stakeholders to address public safety concerns and maintaining the appearance of parks and facilities.

Regular maintenance of the City's facilities, as well as targeting illegal rubbish dumping and graffiti, are a part of Council's asset management program. These are important activities, and widely supported among residents, but require ongoing attention to meet community expectations and reinforce safety messages.

Promoting safety-centred planning and design is a key part of Council's work in compliance and planning. Council will continue to work within state and local planning policies to support design that promotes greater visibility. There are community concerns about the lighting of public parks and walkways and there is scope to partner with state government agencies and private partners to improve the provision and maintenance of lighting in these spaces. The CCTV program has installed a wide network of surveillance cameras across Fairfield City. Continuing to maintain this network will help to uphold community confidence in the monitoring and security of public spaces.

The success of initiatives to maintain the peaceful and cooperative use of shared spaces relies on engaging the community in conducting audits, problem-solving around concerns and mediating between different uses. Council continues to encourage dialogue and action between diverse stakeholders, including young people, to address concerns about loitering near shopping centres and parks and the safety of T-way stops and buses. Council will continue to support community engagement in safety audits through training for businesses and residents.

Changing the perceptions of Fairfield City can also make residents and visitors feel safer in public spaces. Following consultations with community members, it was evident that there are gaps between the reality of Fairfield City as an increasingly safe city and residents' and visitors' perceptions of public spaces within the city. The limited public knowledge of crime in Fairfield City combined with the media sensationalisation of crime in South West Sydney more broadly, has negatively impacted the residents' and visitors' perception of safety in public places.



2017 Operation Bounce Back

## ACTION STRATEGY FOR KPA ONE: MAKING PUBLIC SPACES SAFER

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Improve safety at train and bus stations and transport hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness in public spaces regarding personal safety</li> </ul>	Improved levels of safety at train stations, T-Way station and on buses	Within existing resources
Ensure best practice standards in the design, management and maintenance of public space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles within the LGA in developing public spaces</li> </ul>	Improved design with the LGA	Within existing resources
Monitor and maintain the appearance and usability of Council venues and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the continued monitoring of illegal dumping and graffiti for Council facilities</li> </ul>	Continued awareness of the levels of illegal dumping and graffiti to enable targeted clean-up operations	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to engage residents who live alongside cycle ways to minimise the opportunity for graffiti vandalism and support the removal of graffiti</li> </ul>	Community engagement in addressing graffiti vandalism	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the Graffiti Paint Out and Removal Programs in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Community Corrections</li> </ul>	A reduction in graffiti vandalism across the City	Within existing resources
Bring together stakeholders to improve the shared use of public space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with youth and community networks, law enforcement, community organisations and businesses to identify and address issues with the use of space around parks and shopping centres</li> </ul>	Increased dialogue and networking around the shared use of public spaces	Within existing resources
Maintain and support the CCTV public network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with CCTV program on identification of areas in need of CCTV</li> </ul>	CCTV networks are maintained, repaired and upgraded	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the CCTV program to deliver its project aims and objectives</li> </ul>	Improved communication of CCTV programs and stakeholders	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure CCTV program representation and reporting in the Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group held quarterly</li> </ul>	Report produced regarding CCTV network	Within existing resources



STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Promote Community Safety Audits across the City as a mechanism that assists in identifying concerns raised by the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Audits conducted in problem locations.</li> <li>Work in partnership with key organisations responsible for the carrying out of Safety Audits</li> </ul>	Resident and stakeholders concerns are addressed and strategies developed	Within existing resources
Support better infrastructure in public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve lighting in public parks and space</li> </ul>	Improved lighting around major parks and facilities	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development that encourages visibility and well-lit walkways, open lots and parks</li> </ul>	More safety-centred development around the City	Within existing resources
Promote safety messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate realistic information regarding declining crime rates and a safe community in Fairfield City in local media releases, Mayoral Message, newsletters and on the website from Council or services about safety concerns in Fairfield City</li> </ul>	Improved understanding of the reality of declining crime rates in Fairfield City in the wider community	Within existing resources
Improve perceptions of safety in community housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote partnerships that encourage participation from Community Housing providers and tenants</li> </ul>	Improved sense of safety through the delivery of projects and programs	Within existing resources
Support the delivery of community festivals and events in Fairfield City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver activities and events, including the Bring it On, Living Cultures, Sydney International Food, Moon Festival and Lunar New Year to engage more sectors of the community</li> </ul>	Community festivals that reach more sectors of the community	Within existing resources



## KEY PRIORITY AREA TWO: ENGAGING DIVERSE GROUPS IN CRIME PREVENTION

There is an identified need to engage diverse groups in crime prevention in Fairfield City. In order to increase reporting rates within the LGA, and the community's understanding of Australian law, it is necessary to sustain meaningful partnerships with the Police and the community. To help engage diverse groups in crime prevention, an increase in positive perceptions of law enforcement agencies is pivotal, particularly with residents from refugee communities and young people. As such, Fairfield City Council will continue to work with Police to foster this change in perception. The implementation of successful initiatives, such as 'Coffee with a Cop', will drive this change.

Continual engagement with young people in Fairfield City will help support the expansion of youth activities that will aim to deter young people from participating in anti-social behaviour. While it is important to implement preventative measures to reduce the rates of first time offenders, it is equally important to work alongside the Police to address the risk factors associated with young people and re-offending. Prevention on both levels is important and ensures that all young people are offered support and guidance.

Moreover, there are concerns that emerging and refugee communities do not have access to, or an understanding of, information in regards to specific offences, such as domestic and family violence. It is thought that residents from emerging and refugee communities may misunderstand Australian law and may not be knowledgeable about what is, and is not, a criminal offence. As such, Council's commitment to addressing the needs of these communities will include an expansion of existing engagement measures to community spaces for emerging and refugee groups around the City.

The vulnerability of the elderly members of the community was also identified as a concern. It was found that the elderly members of the community are at an increased risk of falling victim to theft and fraud. Subsequently, Fairfield City Council will work with community networks to continue to reach out to elderly members of the community and other vulnerable groups with information about preventing fraud by locking cars and houses, securing their belongings and reporting mail theft.



## ACTION STRATEGY FOR KPA TWO: ENGAGING DIVERSE GROUPS IN CRIME PREVENTION

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Create opportunities for the community to engage with law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the delivery of 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions</li> </ul>	Increased engagement and understanding between law enforcement and the wider community	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support Police Community Expo Open days</li> </ul>	Increased engagement and understanding between law enforcement and the wider community	Within existing resources
Improve awareness of rights and responsibilities under the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to ensure that information on the law is accessible in community languages</li> </ul>	Improved awareness of rights and responsibilities	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to hold safety forums for different communities on issues of concern, including fraud and motor vehicle theft</li> </ul>	An increase in levels of awareness on issues of concern	Within existing resources
Support Police with crime prevention and educational initiatives to emerging and refugee communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Police and emerging and refugee communities to identify and create opportunities for police visits and information sessions on domestic violence and other areas of the law</li> </ul>	Increased understanding of the law among emerging and refugee communities	Within additional resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with community leaders and youth leaders in emerging and refugee communities to promote education on Australian laws and challenge norms around illegal activity</li> </ul>	Improved understanding of Australian law among emerging and refugee communities	Within additional resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with Police and legal service providers to raise awareness of the law</li> </ul>	Increased understanding of the law in the community	Within existing resources
Increase awareness about the process to report crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Police and Neighbourhood Watch to continue to provide support for the expansion of the 'We are You', 'Eye Watch' and similar programs</li> </ul>	Increased rates of reporting in areas of concern to the community	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the delivery of information regarding the reporting processes for mail theft and other kinds of fraud to older members of the community</li> </ul>	Increased rates of reporting crime from older members of the community	Additional funding required

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Help promote a positive view of Police among young people in Fairfield City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support schools in providing peer-educational initiatives that inform young people of their rights when dealing with law enforcement</li> </ul>	Young people are aware of their rights	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the delivery of information sessions in schools on the work of Police and other agencies on cyber-bullying, sexting, drug-use, violence and youth crime</li> </ul>	Young people understand the work that law enforcement agencies do on the issues of most concern to them	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the Fairfield-Cabramatta PCYC facility and range of programs</li> </ul>	Facilities and programs for young people are maintained	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage continued engagement of Police as active partners in Youth Networks</li> </ul>	A positive relationship between police and young people in Fairfield City	Within existing resources
Increase access to diversionary programs for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote existing recreational programs for young people in schools, youth clubs and services</li> </ul>	Increased awareness about how to access programs among young people	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Police and services to identify opportunities for new recreational and diversionary programs in the Fairfield town centre for emerging and refugee communities and other groups</li> </ul>	More recreation and diversionary programs for young people in Fairfield City	Additional resources required



2017-2018 White Ribbon Day Walks

### **KEY PRIORITY AREA THREE: INFORMING AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, AND GAMBLING**

The research conducted by Fairfield City Council, combined with the stakeholder consultations, revealed that domestic and family violence is a key concern for the community. Domestic and family violence is perpetrated across the LGA and typically occurs in residential housing. As such, it is imperative for Council to implement initiatives and programs that address all forms of domestic and family violence, as well as work in partnership with victim support service providers. Moreover, it is important for Council to address the associated factors that exacerbate family and domestic violence such as alcohol, gambling and drug-use.

Gambling emerged as a prominent area of concern in the consultations with community members and stakeholders. Gambling in clubs, online and in coffee shops in Fairfield City were all identified as problem areas that need attention. As previously discussed, research has highlighted the link between gambling and crime and the importance of adopting a holistic approach, rather than addressing gambling in isolation. Moreover, the community members and stakeholders felt that communities lacked the information to access services, particularly culturally responsive services, which are available to tackle the problem of gambling. In response to this, Council will advocate to all levels of government on the issues of gambling and will collaborate with organisations to raise awareness of the services available and seek to reduce the level of gambling harms.

Moreover, Council will continually collaborate with community members, services and agencies to address drug misuse and addiction among residents in the LGA. Working together to facilitate more targeted service provisions is imperative to address drug usage, addiction and issues concerning both adults and young people. Specifically, Fairfield City Council does this through the work of the Drug Action Strategy. Council will work alongside NSW State Government agencies to enhance programs, such as the needle exchange and pick-up programs. Moreover, there is an identified need for additional after-hours counselling and outreach services for people who are alienated or affected by drugs.

In response to the concerns of domestic and family violence, drug-misuse and gambling, Fairfield City Council will continue to support the Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee (FDVC) Workplan and the work undertaken by the South West Sydney Domestic and Family Violence Alliance. Council is committed to supporting the FDVC, as well as continuing to promote gender equality within the LGA. Moreover, Council will continue its efforts in addressing drug-misuse through the work of the Community Drug Action Team. Finally, to address the implications of gambling, Council will continue to support the Community groups and agencies and advocate to all levels of government for policy and legislation reform.

Fairfield City Council is committed to addressing domestic and family violence, drug-misuse and gambling, and will collaborate with a range of community stakeholders to challenge the norms around violence, gender equality, gambling and drug use.



**ACTION STRATEGY FOR KPA THREE: INFORMING AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, AND GAMBLING**

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Support existing local plans and strategies that address domestic and family violence	• Work with FDVC to ensure the implementation of their work plan	A more integrated response to community education on family violence and gambling.	Within existing resources
	• Contribute to the SWS DFV Alliance implementation plan	A more integrated response to community education on family violence and gambling	Within existing resources
	• Actively engage in the implementation of the NSW DFV Blueprint and Our Watch National Framework	Meeting the goals of the NSW DFV Blueprint and Our Watch National Framework	Within existing resources
Extend the reach of messaging on domestic and family violence	• Work with agencies and services to increase messaging on domestic and family violence and gender equality on social media	Increased information on social media on family violence and gender equality	Within existing resources
	• Maintain advocacy for crisis accommodation options for women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence, including options for women on temporary visas	Increased accommodation options for women and children who have experienced family violence	Within existing resources
	• Partner with relevant stakeholders to hold seminars to increase awareness of forms of elder abuse	A higher level of awareness of forms of elder abuse and the support that is available among the community	Within existing resources
	• Continue to provide translations of information resources, including to emerging communities	Appropriate information resources for all communities	Within existing resources
Promote respectful relationships education	• Work with schools and youth centres to support workshops on respectful relationships	Respectful relationships education delivered in all schools in Fairfield City	Within existing resources

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Hold community events to raise awareness of family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and deliver the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Grant program</li> </ul>	Increased community awareness on preventing violence against women	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to partner with different communities and networks to hold events that challenge norms around violence in the community</li> </ul>	Cultural change to the norms around violence in the community	Within existing resources
Promote an integrated response to drug use and addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Fairfield City Council Drug Action Strategy 2021-2022</li> </ul>	Delivery of projects and services that meet the needs of the community	Within existing resources and additional funding required
Advocate to all levels of government and with service providers on issues regarding gambling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue advocacy on all gambling related issues, including the implementation of restrictions on Electronic Gaming Machines</li> <li>Support the work of the Fairfield Health Alliance in relation to gambling</li> </ul>	Legislative changes on gambling Reduce gambling harm	Within existing resources



Core Conference



## KEY PRIORITY AREA FOUR: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE, SERVICES AND AGENCIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

The next two years provide an opportunity for Council to consolidate existing networks and build new partnerships between services, agencies and the community. Building bridges is central to the sustainability of integrated community responses to pressing social issues, including family violence, gambling, drug addiction, fraud, assault and homelessness. Council will continue to collaborate with services to build capacity and awareness in the community.

Further work is also needed to fill the gaps in the cultural understandings and access of mainstream services and sectors of culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Council will continue to advocate for more culturally responsive services and an increase in cultural immersion training for staff in mainstream services. Considering the growing number of refugees in Fairfield city, as well as the cultural differences and needs of the residents, it is imperative to work with community services and agencies to implement outreach initiatives that will improve accessibility and increase awareness.

Another concern that illustrates the need for council to build bridges between people, services and agencies is homelessness. Fairfield City has seen an increase of rough sleepers in streets and parks. However, the true extent of homelessness in Fairfield City is unknown because some people may be in transitional housing, frequently move between shelters, or living in accommodation that falls below the minimum community standard (Homelessness Australia). As such, Council will aim to work with community agencies to address the needs of community members who are at-risk of falling into homelessness. Furthermore, Fairfield City Council will work with Liverpool City Council to ensure a more coordinated approach to service delivery and a greater presence of outreach services in Fairfield City.

Ultimately, Fairfield City Council aims to give a voice to all residents, irrespective of cultural and social differences. Fairfield City Council will continue to advocate for further funding to implement more thorough services to meet the City's needs and growing population.



Nite Under the Stars – Homelessness event 2018

## ACTION STRATEGY FOR KPA FOUR: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE, SERVICES AND AGENCIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Promote cross-cultural understanding between services, police, and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain strategic partnerships between police, local service providers, faith based groups, community networks and leaders</li> </ul>	Increased cross-cultural understanding between all agencies and community members	Within existing resources
Increase awareness of referral pathways and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek support to conduct training on how to refer clients to victims' support services</li> </ul>	Increased understanding by service providers of the referral pathways	Within existing resources
Increase support and service provision to Homeless people in the Fairfield LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the establishment and coordination of the Homelessness Interagency for Fairfield and Liverpool. Work in partnership to ensure the continual delivery of programs that will strengthen opportunities for homeless people in Fairfield and Liverpool LGA</li> </ul>	A more coordinated approach to service delivery and a greater presence of outreach services to homeless people living in Fairfield City	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the successful implementation of a community hub in Fairfield outreaching to the homeless population in a non-threatening manner</li> </ul>	Increased support and service access for homeless people	Within existing resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for mental health support for the homeless population and working with NSW Health to be engaged in the process</li> </ul>	Improved access to mental health services for homeless people	Within existing resources
Strengthen networks and services that support the safety and wellbeing of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the work of the Community Drug Action Team delivering projects and programs that educate, inform and minimise harm of alcohol and other drugs</li> </ul>	Increased knowledge of Alcohol and other drugs and their impact	Within existing resources
Promote an integrated response to drug usage and addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene the meetings of the Community Drug Action Team</li> </ul>	A strong Community Drug Action Team	Within existing resources
Strengthen and facilitate youth outreach services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support young people to engage and access youth outreach services</li> </ul>	<p>Decreased antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Increased engagement of young people in outreach services</p> <p>Increased use of FCC youth centres</p>	Within existing resources



## MONITORING PROCESS

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 will be implemented over the next two years and Fairfield City Council will collaborate with a range of organisations to ensure the goals and objectives are met. The Strategy will be monitored through Council processes and within the relevant frameworks, specifically the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPR). Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2022 also links with the Fairfield City Council's Delivery and Operational Plans.

Council will regularly report the achievements associated with specific KPAs of the plan in the outlined reports and plans. Council will also seek feedback on the implementation of this Strategy from community stakeholders. Actions in this Strategy will be reviewed and if necessary changed in response to feedback from stakeholders and will address new issues as they emerge.



Artist – Rachel Apelt

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