



Winning projects 2008

To be announced by the Hon. Bob Debus,
Minister for Home Affairs
on Thursday 16 October 2008

Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology

Selection board

Mr Tony Marks (Chair)
Mr Paul Friedman
Ms Lil Hayes
Councillor Pat Morris
Commander Mick Plotecki
Sergeant Alexander (Sandy) Morey
Commander Ashley Dickinson
Ms Pippa Rudd
Ms Georgia Burbury

Australian Government
Queensland
Australian Capital Territory
Western Australia
New South Wales
South Australia
Victoria
Northern Territory
Tasmania

ACVPA national winners

Six projects received national awards

Domestic Violence—it's not our game (Queensland)

Award: \$15,000 and National Certificate

Normanton Building Safer Communities Action Team (BSCAT) and the Normanton Stingers Rugby League Club have jointly partnered the initiative 'Domestic Violence—it's not our game', with the aim of creating positive role models in the community, reducing the prevalence of domestic and family violence, and creating a safer community to live in.

Normanton BSCAT decided to address these problems by creating the campaign 'Domestic Violence—it's not our game' and sponsoring the local Stingers Rugby League Team. The team adopted the slogan 'Domestic Violence—it's not our game' and agreed to become role models in the community. The penalty for team members who participate in domestic violence is exclusion from games and ultimately from the team.

Commercial advertisements are run on Imparja Television during the football season, featuring the players and the 'Domestic Violence – it's not our game' message. Car stickers and a banner bearing the slogan are displayed at games and community events. The team's football jerseys and supporters' shirts and the Junior Stingers' jerseys permanently display the slogan.

The project is jointly sponsored by Carpentaria Shire Council, BSCAT, Queensland Police, the Department of Health and Ageing, Oxfam, North and West Queensland Primary Health Care, and the Queensland Government.

The aim of the project is to create a culture in which domestic violence is not the norm. The project has decreased the prevalence of domestic violence in Normanton, and it aims to expand throughout Queensland's northwest region. The project has created positive young male role models for the Normanton youth to look up to.

Contact: Ms Anne Pleash, Manager of Community Services, Carpentaria Shire Council

Phone: 07 4745 2228

Email: mcs@carpentaria.qld.gov.au

Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra Liquor Management Plan (Northern Territory)

Award: \$15,000 and National Certificate

The liquor-management project was originally started when an Indigenous elder, Mr Walter Amagula, approached the officer in charge of the local police station requesting support in reducing the levels of alcohol-related violence in Alyangula.

A liquor-management plan was introduced, bringing in alcohol restrictions on Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra to reduce alcohol-related violence in the local communities. This involved the issuing of liquor permits to residents and the establishment of a liquor permit committee, which makes recommendations to the Liquor Commission on the suitability of applicants or the levels of alcohol permitted by the applicant. The project also included the predominately European community of Alyangula.

The system is managed by a voluntary alcohol-permit committee made up of key stakeholders such as Indigenous elders, community councils, a local mine, and government departments.

An evaluation in 2007 found a significant reduction in alcohol-related crimes, such as a 52 percent decrease in property crimes and a 75 percent decrease in public drunkenness.

Contact: Superintendent Tony Fuller, Northern Territory Police

Phone: 08 8922 3495

Email: tony.fuller@nt.gov.au

Operation Flinders (South Australia)

Award: \$15,000 and National Certificate

Operation Flinders Foundation is a South Australian charitable organisation that runs a wilderness-based program for young people who have a history of offending or are at risk of offending. Operation Flinders takes participants aged from 14 to 18 years on an eight-day exercise in the far northern Flinders Ranges, principally to effect a positive life change for young people at risk and to reduce the recidivism rate of young offender participants in the Foundation's program.

Operation Flinders is funded by corporate and philanthropic support generated by the Foundation and the S.A. Government.

The program aims to help the participants develop their personal attitudes, self-esteem, motivation, teamwork, and responsibility through participation in wilderness-based activities. Participants come from a number of agencies and authorities; most, however, come via the education system.

In 2006–07, 13 percent of all participants were Aboriginal, and 23 percent were female. Since 1993, Operation Flinders has catered for an average of 300 young people each year.

Teams trek 100 km through the spectacular Flinders Ranges, led by an experienced team leader, who is often a serving or retired army or police officer skilled in navigation and bushcraft. The young participants live out and sleep on the ground, prepare their own food, navigate through the Ranges, and learn the values of teamwork and respect.

Evaluations concur that the program positively affects psychological and behavioral outcomes for youth at risk, lowering young people's risk of future criminal behavior, reducing the risk of marginalisation with the school system, and providing a medium by which to engage youth in a manner and style conducive to positive outcomes.

Contact: Mr John Shepherd, Executive Director, Operation Flinders Foundation

Phone: 08 8242 3244

Email: jshepherd@operationflinders.org

Safe at Home (Tasmania)

Award: National Certificate

Safe at Home is a whole-of-government strategy for responding to family violence in Tasmania. It is founded upon the principle of 'primacy of the safety of the victim'. This integrated criminal-justice response-and-intervention system is designed to bring about a reduction in the incidence of family violence in the medium to long term.

The program is overarched by the innovative *Family Violence Act 2004*. The paramount considerations in the administration of this Act are safety, psychological wellbeing, and the interests of adults and children affected by family violence. Key stakeholders collaboratively employ extensive law reform, significant changes in police practices, and wide-ranging supportive interventions focusing upon the risks, safety, and therapeutic needs of people affected by family violence. The tiered management and integration structure directs local program implementation.

Features of the integrated program include: adult and child counselling; court support for adult and child witnesses; Legal Aid; specialist police units and prosecutors; offender rehabilitation; and child protection. Information-sharing among agencies utilising a specialised police system and comprehensive case coordination ensures accountability and outcome-focused responses.

The program is highly regarded and continues to operate. The multi-tiered management system has improved working relationships between the key agencies, and anecdotal evidence suggests that this is flowing on into service delivery in areas outside family violence.

Contact: Sergeant Debbie Williams, Co-ordinator, Safe at Home

Phone: 03 6211 8003

Email: debbie.williams@police.tas.gov.au

Violence No Way (Queensland)

Award: National Police Award & National Certificate

The Violence No Way campaign has three streams designed to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, family violence, and street violence and the impact it has on children, families, and communities:

- bringing together virtually all stakeholders involved in preventing and responding to domestic and family violence in the far north Queensland community into partnered steering groups to focus on localised solutions;
- educating the community and raising community awareness regarding the underlying causes and effects of and responses to domestic and family violence, thus empowering people affected by domestic and family violence and helping them realize that they are not alone, that violence in any form is unacceptable, and that they will be supported by their community if they are affected. The website www.violencenoway.org is particularly innovative;
- implementing systemic initiatives by the formal steering group, and resultant improved informal communication systems, to case-manage prevention activities and enhance early-intervention and response services to support people affected by violence.

The Violence No Way website disseminates information on the cycle of violence, referral agencies, and the campaign plan. The website had more than 8500 hits in 2007 and generated enquiries from around Australia and from the US and China. The Department of Communities sponsored the project through assistance to develop the website.

Contact: Mr Boris Pointing, Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer

Phone: 07 4040 4944

Email: pointing.boris@police.qld.gov.au

Active Partnerships Model (Western Australia)

Award: National Police Award & National Certificate

Working on the premise that preventing crime is everybody's business, the Office of Crime Prevention (OCP) uses active partnerships to engage the community at all levels in the effort to reduce and prevent crime.

The Active Partnerships model enables the OCP to assist communities and groups from around the State to prevent and reduce the incidence of crime and antisocial behaviour in their local area. This is achieved by enabling communities to identify local issues and to develop local strategies to address these issues through the setting up of networks, collaboration of local stakeholders, harm minimisation, targeted funding, identification and adoption of targeted strategic projects, and continual assessment of the situation.

As an active partner, the OCP provides leadership on crime prevention through the identification of significant state-wide issues and development of a series of targeted

and coordinated crime-prevention and crime-reduction programs that can be adapted by a community to suit their local needs.

This provides a far greater opportunity not only to reduce offending and make communities safer but also to prevent crime by minimising the opportunities for offending to occur. Some of the outcomes that have resulted from the program include:

- solid foundations and trust developed between OCP program coordinators and key stakeholders and communities
- operating partnerships with local communities and stakeholders to develop and implement targeted local crime-prevention and -reduction strategies
- the continual process of adapting and refining programs as a result of lessons learnt through evaluation, reflection, and information sharing
- flexible, responsive programs focusing on stakeholders and goals
- support, expertise, and resources to enable communities and stakeholders to address local issues.

Contact: Ms Celeste Lawson, Executive Manager Strategic Communication, Office of Crime Prevention

Phone: 08 9222 9675

Email: celeste.lawson@police.wa.gov.au

ACVPA state & territory winners

Seven projects received \$5,000 and Certificates of Merit

Goodna State School's Pathways to Peace® (Queensland)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

The PeaceBuilders program was initially introduced in 1997. This addressed the amount of violence and the poor social climate in the school. This program became Pathways to Peace® in 2002. Pathways to Peace® is a long-term violence-reduction and crime-prevention process. It is a philosophy with a common language and practical resources for changing attitudes and behaviours. It is about cultural change. It is designed to be community-based; to include staff, students, parents, and the wider community. Specifically, Pathways to Peace® establishes and develops a climate that will:

- change the dynamics between victims and perpetrators of violence
- create support mechanisms for both victims and perpetrators of violence
- provide resources, techniques, and strategies for teachers and parents
- promote respectful relationships throughout the school community.

Pathways to Peace® is built upon the following principles of crime prevention:

- Start early.
- Promote more-effective communication and cooperation.
- Teach children and adults ways to increase encouragement and to reduce insults.
- Enhance everyday parenting competence.
- Use practical tools to improve appropriate behavior.
- Generalise behaviours between school, home, and community.

Pathways to Peace® is designed to address the three levels of violence prevention:

Primary Prevention—to eliminate the root causes of violence;

Secondary Prevention—to assist the victims of violence and those “at risk” to be proactive and assertive;

Tertiary Prevention—to provide support and change for victims and perpetrators of violence.

Pathways to Peace® has been designed to supplement and reinforce existing programs (e.g. Anti-Bullying).

Contact: Mrs Margaret Gurney, Principal, Goodna State School

Phone: 07 3437 9333

Women’s Integrated Support Program (WISP) (Victoria)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

WISP is an initiative of Better Pathways: An Integrated Response to Women’s Offending and Re-offending, a four-year strategy consisting of 37 initiatives aimed at reducing women’s imprisonment and re-offending in Victoria.

WISP integrates and builds on three pre-existing programs, which focused on pre- and post-release support for prisoners with drug and/or alcohol issues; housing; and employment. The integration of these programs has streamlined access to transitional support and has rationalised service delivery to enable a case-managed holistic and intensive approach to the transitional needs of women exiting prison.

WISP intake workers located within the Women’s Prison Region work closely with prison providers to ensure the identification of women who have high transitional needs and who consequently are at risk of re-offending upon release. Women prisoners volunteer to participate in the program.

WISP will typically work with women three months prior to release and, in an active outreach program, twelve months after release. Thus far, participating women have presented with a range of needs relating to housing, family reunification, parenting, renegotiation of care arrangements of children with other family members and the Department of Human Services, drug and alcohol issues, skill deficits, finances, employment, mental and physical health, disability, their own sexual assault, and social support.

WISP aims to equip women exiting prison with the skills, resources, and support necessary to address their transitional needs and thereby reduce their risk of re-offending and returning to custody.

Contact: Ms Jocelyn Bignold, Manager, Community Services, Melbourne City Mission

Phone: 03 9687 4997

Email: jbignold@mcm.org.au

Mingle Mob (Western Australia)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

The Mingle Mob program addresses criminal and antisocial behavior in the South Hedland Community and Central Business District. The program engages young people on the streets, in the shopping centre, and at other sites, building familiarity, engagement, trust, and friendship.

The target group is youth and their families. The program has a spin-off effect, as youth crime is reduced between 5 pm and 10 pm on operating nights, and thus benefits the whole community, a population of approximately 13,000 people.

The program reduces the opportunity for perpetrators to engage with youth. Mingle Mob is often called upon to patrol major town events, defusing antisocial behaviors, often between youth. In a typical month, the service will have made contact with 2765 young people. It works closely with the management of the South Headland Shopping Centre, discussing specific young people and their circumstances and working together to create a healthy environment for all members of the community. It also works collaboratively with the local police, the Department of Justice, the Department of Corrective Services, Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Medical Service, and Centrelink.

The Mingle Mob bus is used to patrol the 'hot spots', locating and relocating 'youth at risk' and building relationships with youth, families, and the community. The senior case worker picks up any case-management concerns with youth and offers family support. The senior outreach worker oversees staffing and the operation of the bus trips. The 'hands on', part-time outreach workers get out in the streets, demonstrating appropriate behaviors to young people and supporting them in adopting such behaviours.

Contact: Ms Sharon Todd, Manager, Youth Involvement Council Inc.

Phone: 08 9140 1272

Figtree Outreach Youth Program (New South Wales)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

Figtree has been mentoring juvenile offenders since 2000 and caters for 150 local youths at Friday night youth group. The program also targets detainees at the Keelong Juvenile Justice Centre, youth at risk of criminal behaviour, and youth at risk who attend large community events.

During 2007, crime in the parish area was reduced by running 30 holiday activities for the detainees at Keelong JJC and by training adult mentors to proactively engage youth at risk using trauma-sensitive crisis-intervention skills.

As a result of training volunteers in trauma-sensitive approaches to youth work, significant relationships have been established with youth in the local area. Enduring relationships with young people at risk have initiated a cultural shift within the organisation and the community at large. Police have stopped patrolling the youth-group gatherings and have not been called since September 2007, having previously been called fortnightly.

Trainers and mentors are local community volunteers. The scheme aims to decrease the likelihood of recidivism and to embed the trauma-sensitive approach within organisations' culture.

Contact: Mr Matthew Broadbridge, Figtree Anglican Church

Phone: 02 4272 1322

Walgett Mobile PCYC (New South Wales)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

The program has a purpose-built mobile van known as a Mobile PCYC operating every second Thursday and Friday at a variety of locations throughout Walgett. The van is staffed by two PCYC Police officers, rostered on a rotational basis, from numerous PCYC clubs.

The van's primary goal is to provide engaging activities for young people in an attempt to reduce the incidence of youth-related crime and antisocial behaviour during the van's operational times.

By day, the PCYC police officers visit Walgett's three schools and provide a range of educational crime-prevention sessions. After school hours and into the evening, the police set up the Mobile PCYC to attract large numbers of children and young people and engage them in pro-social activities.

Contact: Inspector Paul Macmillan, State Coordinator, Police Youth Clubs & Community Support Group

Phone: 02 8805 4713

Email: macm1pau@police.nsw.gov.au

Youth on the Go (New South Wales)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

The fundamental aims of the Youth on the Go program are to assist youth at risk and young offenders, through holistic training and employment programs, to progressively take responsibility for their own lives.

The Department of Juvenile Justice provides partial funding for the program but the majority is obtained via other means which are usually non-recurrent. This makes delivery of the Youth on the Go program a yearly proposition.

The long-term goals of the program are to reduce young persons' involvement in offending and to return them to education or training that will enable them to become valued members of the community.

Tangible outcomes have included young persons' taking full advantage of opportunities offered, such as accredited courses in Senior First Aid, Food Handling & Workplace Hygiene, Computer skills, OH&S, and Introductory Carpentry Skills. Nine accredited courses and workshops are also delivered, covering issues such as drug and alcohol use/misuse, crime prevention, health and hygiene, surf skills, and fitness training. Programs such as Our Journey to Respect, Red Dust Healing, and Rock & Water are delivered to identify and address issues such as prevention of Intergenerational violence.

Contact: Mr Michael Bettison, Youth Work Coordinator, Coffs Harbour PCYC

Phone: 02 6651 9961

Email: mbettison@pcycnsw.org.au

Men's Accommodation Support Service Program (Australian Capital Territory)

Award: \$5,000 and Certificate of Merit

The purpose of the MASS program is to provide supported accommodation for single men with high or complex needs who are unaccompanied by children, including those who are leaving custody or are involved in the criminal justice system. The forms of support include secure housing, life skills, anger-management training, and re-engagement with family.

The service identifies that secure housing in itself is a major contribution to reduced recidivism.

The program uses an innovative model to ensure that men gain enhanced safety and improved health outcomes; opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills, and confidence in managing future crises; a reduced level of criminal and violent behaviours; increased awareness of, and capacity to access, continuing education, community resources, and support networks; access to stable and sustainable accommodation; and enduring access to appropriate mainstream and specialist services.

The service utilises 20 Housing ACT properties to operate the service. Eligible applicants will be allocated a property and will receive intensive case management for approximately 12 months with the aim of developing an independent tenancy arrangement for them in that property.

Contact: Mr Gerald Franks, Canberra Men's Centre

Phone: 02 6230 6999

Email: geraldfr@menscentre.com.au

Seven projects received \$3,000 and Certificates of Merit

The Esther Foundation (Western Australia)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

The Esther Foundation operates a residential women's health and development program that provides a safe and structured environment for young women aged from 13 to 33 who face any of a range of life concerns. Some of these concerns include domestic violence, drug and alcohol dependency, self harm, eating disorders, and crime.

The foundation offers a unique, extensive, highly successful program addressing women's health issues and providing community-leadership training for young women. The program helps rehabilitate, educate, and empower these individuals to become leaders in the community. The participants are part of a residential recovery program that includes group therapy, one-to-one counselling, anger management, education, life-skills groups, cooking, budgeting, sports and healthy development, and a mothering program.

Program participants work toward a graduation certificate that also includes the completion of a mentoring project as a part of their community work.

This project relies heavily upon in-kind support and donations from businesses, churches, and individuals and upon many volunteers who give their time to allow the program to operate.

Contact: Mr Rodney Lavater, The Esther Foundation

Phone: 08 9368 8628

Email: rod@estherfoundation.org.au

From Exclusion to Inclusion - the Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities project (Tasmania)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

Through its diverse and broad membership, Women With Disabilities Australia identified an urgent need to undertake a national project that focused on the development and production of accessible information and education and training resources about violence against disabled women. The project's primary target group is women with any type of disability. Secondary target groups include: service providers from a range of sectors (including, for example, domestic/family violence; disability; medical, health, & welfare; legal & justice) as well as legislators, policymakers, students, researchers, and indeed the broader community.

The long-term goal of the project is to prevent and reduce violence against disabled women.

WDDA planned, implemented, and managed all aspects of the two-year project, which culminated in the WWDA *Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities*, published in December 2007.

The manual was developed to serve a wide range of users and comes in a range of alternative formats (Braille, Audio, MPG, talking book, large print, RTF, e-text, and Easy English). This unique and highly sought-after product is now being obtained by a myriad of organisations and individuals around the world.

The project was partly funded by the Commonwealth Office for Women, with a large amount of in-kind support provided by disabled women around Australia.

Contact: Ms Carolyn Frohmader, WWDA Executive Director & Project Manager

Phone: 03 6244 8288

Email: wwda@wwda.org.au

Women 4 Work (Victoria)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

Better Pathways: An Integrated Response to Women's Offending & Re-offending is a four-year \$25.5 million strategy, consisting of 37 initiatives aimed at reducing women's imprisonment and re-offending in Victoria. Women 4 Work is a Better Pathways initiative. It provides holistic support to women prisoners, women exiting prison and women offenders, using a case-management approach to assist them to find and maintain meaningful employment. Employees and employers are supported after placement.

Women 4 Work encourages and supports women to actively participate in the workforce. In addition to reducing the likelihood of re-offending, meaningful employment can also contribute to enhanced self-esteem and provide structure, dignity, recognition, and a sense of identity.

Since commencing in July 2006, Women 4 Work has placed 87 women in employment.

Contact: Ms Jocelyn Bignold, Manager, Community Services, Melbourne Citymission

Phone: 03 9687 4997

Email: jbignold@mcm.org.au

No Excuse for Family Violence (Victoria)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

The No Excuse for Family Violence project is operated by the Victorian Arabic Social Services, which hires staff members and involves students and volunteers in the organisation in the implementation of the project. The project's main aims are to educate the community about family violence, Australian law, services available to victims and to educate service providers about the prevalence of family violence and how to recognise and respond to it.

Outcomes have included media campaigns; accredited training for professionals and community leaders; a women's empowerment workshop for 50 to 60 refugee women; establishment of a steering committee that allowed 12 professionals in the areas of law, social work, media, and law enforcement to get involved in the project; network meetings about family violence; behaviour change; gambling help; and cross-cultural information.

The project is in the process of organising a behaviour-change men's group in order to help change men's beliefs about women and violence and equip them with skills to deal with their anger.

Contact: Ms Ninawa Younan, Victorian Arabic Social Services

Phone: 03 9309 0055

Email: ninawa@vass.org.au

Law of the Land (New South Wales)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

The Law of the Land project targets newly arrived African refugees and migrants and their families. It has an effect on a wide range of groups: victims or potential victims, and perpetrators or potential perpetrators, of violence or other types of crime.

The program is to be adapted to other groups, both newly arrived and Indigenous. All participants gave very positive responses to the program and have learnt about the laws in New South Wales. Fostering positive links between police and community groups and the young people and their families is of particular importance within the program.

Major outcomes of the project include respect for laws and morals and positive links between police and the group involved.

Contact: Senior Constable Sam Cagnetta, NSW PCYC, Fairfield

Phone: 02 9728 0305

Email: cogn1sam@police.nsw.gov.au

InSpIRE Mentor Program (New South Wales)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

The InSpIRE Mentor Program is an initiative of the Safer Town Program (Campbelltown City Crime Prevention Plan). InSpIRE has a range of local community organisations and government agencies working collaboratively on the pilot program to develop a coordinated approach to supporting young people in contact with the criminal justice system.

The aim of the project and of the mentor relationship is to promote positive lifestyles for young people through:

- 1) improving communication and interpersonal skills
- 2) increasing social networks within the mainstream community
- 3) increasing motivation to participate in sport and recreation activities
- 4) role-modelling pro-social behaviours
- 5) reducing the risk of offending
- 6) linking local community members who have been trained as mentors with young people referred to the program living in the Campbelltown Local Government Area.

Through inclusion and engagement with mentors in the local community, the program aims to build the young person's resiliency and also the local community's capacity to respond to issues of social cohesion and to reduce factors of social exclusion.

The young people who join the program have been positively influenced by their mentors. Many have engaged with services or activities in their local area that they have never experienced before. All activities sought for the program are locally based and relatively low-cost, ensuring that the young person has the ability to continue to engage within the community once he or she has exited from the program.

Many of the young people were not engaged in any formal education or employment when they joined the program. Some have re-engaged in education or found employment, which will have an enduring effect on their attitudes and on their ability to live positive crime-free lives.

Contact: Mr Dick Webb, Manager Technical Services, Campbelltown City Council

Phone: 02 4645 4633

Email: dick.webb@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

Wanga Idingii—Kokoda Dreaming 2007 (New South Wales)

Award: \$3,000 and Certificate of Merit

The Wanga Idingii project is led by the NSW Police Force and administered by a committee that has representatives of government and non-government agencies, as well as community members. Kokoda Dreaming 2007 was an extension of the Wanga Idingii project. The committee raised more than \$95,000 in sponsorship, goods, and services, through government, non-government, and community fundraising, which dramatically increased the exposure of the Wanga Idingii project.

The target group was identified to be potential future Indigenous leaders. Principals were asked to identify possible candidates from Years 10 to 12 within their schools. Initially, 18 students were nominated, from all of the public high schools on the far south coast. These students were taken through a structured twelve-month preparation program, and 13 students were finally chosen to participate in a trek to Kokoda.

These 13 students have acted as ambassadors for the local community and are already taking a leadership role within their respective schools. Some of the students have been used as supervisors for the main Wanga Idingii Project.

The long-term goals were to establish a sustainable biannual event encouraging potential future leaders within the Aboriginal community and to provide the Wanga Idingii project with a leadership component. Several of the participants, since returning, have taken on leadership roles within their schools, and one of them was awarded the Eurobodalla Youth of the Year Award for 2007.

The project was also awarded the Eurobodalla NAIDOC Award of Excellence in October 2007, for 'strengthening relationships between Police and Aboriginal Community'.

Contact: Sergeant Janeene Michelle, NSW Police Force—Far South Coast Local Area Command

Phone: 02 4478 9921

Email: mich1jan@police.nsw.gov.au

Three projects received Meritorious Police Certificates

Mental Health Intervention Program (MHIP) (Queensland)

Award: Meritorious Police Certificate

It is estimated that in 2003, police responded to 17,000 calls relating to people with a mental disorder in Queensland. This is an average of 326 per week, and represents an increase of 17 percent since 2001. Eleven percent of these calls resulted in a mental-health crisis situation. Such situations threaten the safety of police, emergency

personnel, people with a mental illness, and the general community.

The MHIP project relies on the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Health (QH), and the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) working together to build a mental-health intervention strategy to improve first-response services and reduce injuries and deaths of clients and practitioners.

The project's goals are to train sufficient mental-health response officers in the skills necessary to effectively communicate with people suffering a mental-health disorder, and to train and establish sufficient regional mental-health coordinators who can maintain cross-agency support capability between the QPS, QH, and the QAS.

Outcomes of the project include evidence of a lower risk of mental-health incidents, an increase in the number of mental-health incidents resolved safely, a reduction in time spent at mental-health incidents, a reduction in time at emergency departments, a reduction in the number of repeat calls to mental-health incidents, an increase in appropriate referrals and subsequent transports by QAS, and greater efficiency of inter-agency protocols.

Contact: Senior Sergeant Michael Mitchell, Queensland Police Service

Ph: 07 3234 2166

Email: mitchell.michaelg@police.qld.gov.au

Umpaya Ungathella & Unquoil meantha (No Grog on Safe Roads) (Queensland)

Award: Meritorious Police Certificate

Police from Lockhart River detected increasing transportation of alcohol into the Alcohol Management Plan of Lockhart River, as well as traffic-related offences, including drink-driving and life-endangering offences.

Upon further exploration of the problem, it was established that the Alcohol Management Plan rules had not been fully or clearly explained, either to the community of Lockhart River or to the outside public, including visitors and workers who attend to the community. It was also identified that the program was lacking in prevention, education, and enforcement in relation to the traffic management of Lockhart River.

Project 'Umpaya Ungathella & Unquoil meantha' is a local initiative that incorporates a number of steps introduced within the Lockhart River division, including:

Alcohol Management Plan strategies:

- enforcement operation
- prevention initiative
- education initiative
- induction programs
- local station databases

Traffic Management Plan strategies:

- consultation phase
- education phase
- implementation phase
- prevention phase.

The overall success of this project has made a significant change to the Lockhart River Police division. Importantly, although the project is officially completed, the Traffic Management Plan and the Alcohol Management Plan continue to operate. Projects such as 'Umpaya Ungathella & Unquoil meantha' have created a strong focus and emphasis on the community's needs and support the Alcohol Management Plan of Lockhart River. The success of this project is due to the strong relationships between the Queensland Police and all agencies party to it, in particular indigenous communities.

Contact: Sergeant Michael Musumeci, Queensland Police Service

Phone: 07 4097 6200

Email: MusumeciMichaelD@police.qld.gov.au

The Princess Alexander Hospital Police Beat (PAHPB) (Queensland)

Award: Meritorious Police Certificate

The initiative for a police beat in the Dutton Park Police Division arose from analysis conducted during a Queensland Police Service (QPS) Operational Performance Review indicating that the Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) campus and surrounding area had the highest calls for service. Through a proactive collaboration between QPS and PAH over a three-year period, a dedicated trial police beat was set up at the PAH.

The project aims to assist staff, patients, visitors, contractors, businesses, and police. The PAHPB involves 5000 staff, patients, and residents in the PAHPB area. The groups this project affects are the police (improved police response times to calls for service) and victims of criminal or public-order offences.

The QPS funds the project, and PAH provides the accommodation and other services. The PAHPB has been operating since October 2005. In May 2008, the QPS and Queensland Health made the PAHPB permanent.

The beat's long-term goals are to improve the management of call for service originating from the dedicated beat area and to become the primary providers of policing services to the beat's community.

Perceptible outcomes include a decrease in time spent at hospital, improved perception of personal safety and security among hospital staff and retailers, and high satisfaction with PAHPB service delivery.

Contact: Detective Superintendent Gayle Hogan, Queensland Police Service

Phone: 07 3364 6315

Email: Hogan.GayleP@police.qld.gov.au

Thirteen projects received Certificates of Merit

Riverland Rekindling Indigenous Family Relationships project (RIFR) (South Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

The Riverland Rekindling Indigenous Family Relationships (RIFR) project's aim is to increase the capacity of Indigenous people to respond to or reduce and prevent family violence, by creating working partnerships with Aboriginal people or communities.

The project encompasses the Family Wellbeing (FWB) program and the Community Enhancement Program (CEP). FWB, developed in South Australia by and for Aboriginal people, is a program of education and counselling skills that provides participants with skills for effective communication and conflict resolution. The CEP aims to identify and develop a range of additional services for Aboriginal people in the Riverland to address family violence and to support the delivery of the FWB program.

The project targets male and female Aboriginal people aged 16 to 77. It is multifaceted and works with victims, perpetrators, family, community members, and Aboriginal Service providers who may have been exposed to family violence. Through the availability of the program, people can address their anger, violence, and self-esteem issues.

As a result of the program, people realise that they are responsible to prevent family violence; local people feel supported and empowered; and community members can confidently access appropriate services for support and report appropriate issues to the police.

Many of the participants have also gained confidence and vocational skills that have made them successful in obtaining employment. Some have gone on to employment and further education for the first time.

Contact: Emily Tinning, Manager Aboriginal Health, Country Health SA

Phone: Ph 08 85802500

Email: emily.tinning@health.sa.gov.au

Canterbury / Bankstown Interagency DV Response Team (New South Wales)

Award: Certificate of Merit

The Canterbury–Bankstown Domestic Violence Interagency Response Team (DV Team) commenced in August 2003 in response to Australian Government and state government commitments to address violence against women.

The DV Team services the Canterbury and Bankstown Local Government Areas. It is based at Bankstown Police Station and also works with Campsie Police. The Department of Community Services (DoCS) caseworkers provide the core service delivery, and the teams work together at Bankstown Police station in addressing domestic-violence issues.

The DV Team averages 1000 referrals a year and services a large geographical area that includes a large culturally diverse population. It provides an initial response to women, children, young people, families, and single women who are victims of domestic violence living in the Canterbury and Bankstown areas. The DV Team also works with perpetrators of violence and a large number of communities, including Arabic, Asian, and Pacific Islander. This is reflective of the area's cultural population.

Ensuring safety, enhancing wellbeing, and providing stability for children, women, and families are the overriding concerns of all interventions. Another key component is accountability for men and women who use violence.

Being located at the police station has allowed DoCS to assist police on an immediate response basis when it comes to victims of domestic violence. Together, both departments are able to provide a prompt and effective response and to take any necessary legal actions against the perpetrators of violence (e.g. charges, apprehended violence orders).

Being co-located at the police station has also enabled better working relationships between DoCS and police, giving each department a much better understanding on the way in which the other operates.

Contact: Ms Emily Lalor, DoCS Manager

Phone: 02 9796 7708

Operation Newstart (Victoria)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Operation Newstart Victoria (ONV) changes lives by creating transformative opportunities for youth aged 14 years and over who have experienced significant academic disruption and are at risk of becoming involved in crime or in antisocial lifestyles making them more susceptible to offending or becoming victims of crime or self harm. Youth, both male and female, selected for the program often have severe histories of abuse, trauma, and loss. The program has a strong emphasis on working with families to improve family relationships and family functioning and thus to improve mental health.

ONV was established in 2005 and currently consists of six programs around Melbourne and one in regional Victoria. Participants take part in challenging, outdoor, recreational, vocational, and therapeutic experiences, supported by a

passionate team of professionals from education, police, and mental-health services. Each program has a police officer and teacher as facilitators. Student-parent workshops are integral, with follow-ups during the two years after completion.

This unique combination of disciplines provide youth at risk with a new start and the life skills to set goals and to positively participate in family and community life.

Contact: Inspector John Thexton, Victoria Police

Phone: 03 9247 5313

Email: john.thexton@police.vic.gov.au

Correctional Therapeutic Communities (Victoria)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Marrngoneet Correctional Centre is a 300-bed medium-security correctional program centre. *Marrngoneet*, taken from the Wathaurong community language, means 'to make new' and reflects the prison's focus on rehabilitation.

Prisoners sent to Marrngoneet are assessed as at moderate to high risk of re-offending. They have a minimum of six months of their sentence left to serve. Most prisoners are there to address their violent or sexual offending or significant drug and alcohol issues that are related to their offending.

The Centre has been purposefully planned to achieve the objectives of the Corrections Victoria Service Delivery Model. It provides intensive treatment and offender-management activity, including sex-offender, drug-and-alcohol-offender, and violent-offender treatment programs; vocational training; and support services, to prepare prisoners for a successful community reintegration.

Prisoners are accommodated in one of three 100-bed neighbourhoods that encourage an emphasis on community living and individual responsibilities. The prison is a secure facility relying on a range of technologically advanced perimeter-security measures within a physical design that maximises normal living conditions and minimises institutionalisation.

The Marrngoneet Clinical Service provides best-practice treatment programs to address offending behaviours, risks, and needs, and Vocational Services prepares the prisoner for the expectations of a workplace and the education system. Individual management plans tailor prisoners' access to these programs and services.

Contact: Ms Emma Cassar, General Manager, Marrngoneet Correctional Centre

Phone: 03 5282 0720

Email: emma.cassar@justice.vic.gov.au

Cottesloe Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Program (Western Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

The Cottesloe Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Program targets the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour within the Town of Cottesloe, mainly the beachfront areas. The offenders are generally patrons of the two hotels located in Cottesloe (up to 2000 patrons in each) in the 18- to 25-year age group. It also actively targets any perpetrators, including gangs and hoon drivers.

The primary victims of antisocial behaviours are the residents of the Town of Cottesloe, who suffer from property damage, violence, and excessive disturbance.

Antisocial behaviours also affect all users of the beachfront areas, including beachgoers and other hotel patrons. Additionally, the Town of Cottesloe is severely affected through a significant amount of criminal damage to signage and other town property.

The program involves monitoring, reporting, and prosecuting offenders who conduct antisocial behaviours, and it incorporates initiatives to reduce such behaviours. It encompasses a community-inclusive approach involving rangers, residents, local police, liquor licensing, two major hotels, and government agencies.

Initiatives presently implemented include car-park closures; implementation of new local laws; restricted parking times; placement of surveillance cameras at residences to observe hotspots; hotel lock-outs; introduction of CCTV; increased ranger shifts; joint patrols by rangers and police; improved hotel security; increased signage and lighting; and significant media coverage.

Contact: Mr Neil Ferridge

Phone: 08 9285 3233

Email: neil@cottesloe.wa.gov.au

Be Crime Alert (Western Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

BeCrimeAlert is an Internet-based portal through which police and crime-prevention officers can send messages to the community using either SMS (Mobile Telephone Short Message Service), e-mail, or other means (telephone or letter).

BeCrimeAlert profiles all members as they register. The profiles are categorised as follows:

- male or female
- senior citizens (over 60 years)
- minors (under 18 years)
- parents
- the vulnerable

- students
- local businesses (comprehensive risk profile created, e.g. chemist—drugs, cash registers, etc.).

One member may belong to many categories, for example a parent may be a student or under the age of 18 years.

The modes of communication are threefold:

- SMS (Short Message Service) transmitted to people at risk or relative to a suspect. This group is generally very specific, and the message is usually short;
- e-mail. This message gives greater detail and is sent also to the SMS group;
- other modes, to cater for those groups that do not have Internet access, do not have mobile telephones, or have difficulty reading.

The program is funded by the City of Belmont, and its long-term goals are to provide a cost-effective way of communicating with and engaging our community.

Contact: Shaun Nancarrow, Coordinator Crime Prevention, City of Belmont

Phone: 08 9477 7264

Email: shaun.nancarrow@belmont.wa.gov.au

Parkside Estate Neighbourhood Renewal Program (Victoria)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Neighbourhood Renewal is a continuing approach to bringing together the resources and ideas of residents, government, local communities, police, businesses, and community groups to tackle disadvantage in areas with a high concentration of public housing.

Parkside Estate Neighbourhood Renewal, located in the north-west of Shepparton, has a range of long-term goals, including:

- 1) increasing residents' pride and participation in their community
- 2) enhancing local housing and the environment
- 3) increasing opportunities for employment, education, and training, and expanding local economies
- 4) improving personal safety
- 5) promoting health and wellbeing
- 6) increasing access to services and ensuring that they respond quickly to local needs.

Since the establishment of the project, the relationship between residents and the police has improved, and residents have become more involved in safety and security issues.

Contact: Ms Amanda Tingay, Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator

Phone: 03 5832 9497

Email: amanda.tingay@shepparton.vic.gov.au

HIA Name & Shame Campaign (Western Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Theft and vandalism on building sites cost the WA public more than \$12,000,000 every year. These financial costs have been passed on to consumers through an increase in construction prices.

The HIA Name and Shame Campaign began in 2003, with a mission to reduce theft and vandalism on building sites. Partnering with the Western Australian Police Services and Meridian Investigators, the campaign aims to identify offenders and, with the assistance of the police, to ensure that they be prosecuted.

As the name suggests, upon conviction all adult offenders are publicly named as a further deterrent to committing offences on building sites. Funded by the building industry through voluntary levies, the campaign aims to increase public awareness of the problems and costs associated with building-site incidents and offers substantial rewards to members of the public for any information leading to the arrest of offenders.

Since the campaign's inception in 2003, more than \$85,000 in rewards has been handed out to members of the public, with 147 adult offenders charged with 557 incidents relating to building-site crime.

Contact: Ms Nikki Tucker, Campaign Coordinator

Phone: 08 9492 9200

Gambling Support Service (South Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

The Gambling Support Services (GSS) is unique in South Australia: the only program that exists to specifically target people who offend, or are at risk of offending, due to problem gambling. The GSS philosophy is that 'Individuals and families affected by problem gambling have the opportunity to access support services to assist them to rebuild their lives by minimising harm to themselves and the community'.

The service offers casework, individual, family and court support, group programs, and community-education initiatives. The approach is restorative in nature and aims to deliver a service to encourage lifestyle changes by people who are affected by problem gambling and have entered or are at risk of entering into the criminal justice system.

Outcomes include raising awareness of gambling and crime in the community, a reduction in criminal activity amongst the client group, harm minimisation, the achievement of long-term personal goals by the client group, and, most importantly, increasing self-control.

Contact: Ms Liz O'Keefe, Offenders Aid & Rehabilitation Service Inc.

Phone: 08 8210 0851

Email: lokeefe@oars.org.au

Big Ken (Victoria)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Project Big Ken was instigated to combat heavy-vehicle collisions and associated drug use. The result was an immediate drop in collision frequency and a large increase in the detection of drug offences. Intelligence collected by the nominees from the industry has been invaluable and is passed on to other states as well as locally.

This project has now become an integral part of traffic policing in the Stawell area.

The groups targeted by the project are drivers employed in the heavy-vehicle industry who contravene driving-hours requirements; those who commit drug offences associated with long hours of driving; and those making unlawful modifications to the associated vehicles. Drug use in the industry is reasonably common. Drivers use amphetamines to stay awake and then use cannabis as an aid to sleep. Offences typically associated with this behaviour include log-book and driving-time breaches.

The aim of the project was, by detecting drug use and enforcing driving hours, to improve these two factors, thus reducing road trauma. The consequent reduction in collisions is the greatest experienced in the state, and the nominees have the greatest drug-detection rate in the area, excluding a drug task unit. The operation is continuing and remains the driving force behind the reduction in collisions in the area.

Contact: Sergeant Kathy Zierk, Northern Grampians Traffic Management Unit—
Stawell, Victoria Police

Phone : 03 5358 8209

Email: kathleen.zierk@police.vic.gov.au

Frankston City's Ambassador Program (Victoria)

Award: Certificate of Merit

Frankston City Council has developed an exciting new initiative in collaboration with key stakeholders and the local communities, to address illegal, antisocial, and at-risk behaviours in the Central Activities District and throughout the municipality. The negative impacts and perceptions of these behaviours were affecting residents, traders, and visitors to Frankston. The program sought to redress these behaviours in a fashion that would not stigmatise individuals but would bring an enduring cultural change to our streets and throughout the municipality.

Initially two Ambassador Program officers were appointed to cover the Central Activities District and Frankston Foreshore areas, but in recognition of the program's effectiveness, this was expanded to four officers covering the whole of the Municipality. The officers, operating from a relational model, engage persons expressing unacceptable behaviours for the purpose of effecting behavioural change. The model includes components of education, assistance, referrals and on occasion calls upon police and Council Authorized Officers.

Benefits include partnerships between many local stakeholders, to ensure that the Ambassador Program is operating effectively. The benefits acknowledged by the police have been significant, and the response from traders has been recognition of a positive change in the street culture and that the officers have been supportive and responsive to their concerns. The street culture has become friendlier and safer. Furthermore, a number of individuals have obtained accommodation; others have secured jobs; individuals self esteem has escalated; and service provision has improved.

Contact: Ms Melissa King, Community Safety Coordinator, Frankston City Council

Phone: 03 9784 1783

Email: melissa.king@frankston.vic.gov.au

Drive Thru Art Gallery (DTAG), City of Cockburn (Western Australia)

Award: Certificate of Merit

The DTAG project relies on participation, cooperation, and collaboration with the Cockburn community to design, develop, select, and implement a variety of artworks at freely accessible public sites throughout the City. Long-term goals are:

- 1) reduction and prevention of graffiti and vandalism
- 2) promotion of a safer, more confident community
- 3) more training and employment for local artists and young people
- 4) creation of highly visible artworks to improve aesthetics

Outcomes include success in all the long-term goals and objectives; a noticeable reduction in graffiti, particularly on and around the artworks themselves; and stimulated economic growth with increased work opportunities for artists, all the Work for the Dole participants gaining employment and/or training and some of the youth participants gaining employment and apprentice opportunities.

Unanticipated outcomes included a greater appreciation of graffiti-style art, as an asset rather than a liability; a sense of place, inclusion, identity, and acceptance in the community by minority and marginalised groups and individuals; positive change in racial stereotyping through the participation of culturally and linguistically diverse groups; and a sense of recognition and acknowledgement of youth as positive contributors to the community.

*Contact: Ms Cassandra Cooper, Cultural Development Coordinator, City of Cockburn
Phone: 08 9411 3433
Email: cassandra@cockburn.wa.gov.au*

Toowoomba Says No to Domestic Violence (Queensland)

Award: Certificate of Merit

This project commenced with a campaign during May 2007 to engage the business community and particularly men in stopping family violence. Activities included:

- 1) an advertisement on each day of May in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* (daily circulation 23,000) with a photo of a local businessperson and the caption 'Toowoomba Says No to Domestic Violence'. One advertisement featured Wayne Bennett; and
- 2) a lunch, attended by 250 business and community members, with Wayne Bennett as the guest speaker followed by an address to 1560 school students.

Long-term project goals include the introduction of workplace domestic-violence policies and business support for family-violence services. Perceptible outcomes include the willingness of the business community to expand the project in 2008 and the development of a working group for 'Toowoomba Says No to Violence'.

*Contact: Senior Sergeant Jason Hopgood, Queensland Police Service
Phone: 07 4631 6756
Email: hopgood.jason@police.qld.gov.au*

