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SUMMARY REPORT

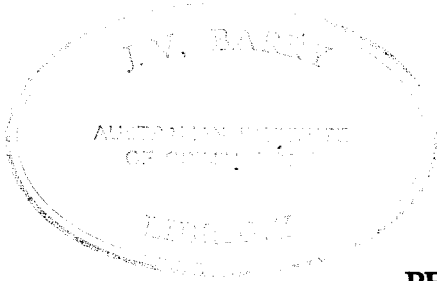
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL

January 1990 to February 1991

A One Year Pilot Project funded by:

**The Law Foundation of NSW
The Criminology Research Council
The Federal Office of Local Government**



PREAMBLE

This Summary Report provides an overview of the Safer Neighbourhood Project which operated at Fairfield City Council between January 1990 and March 1991.

This report is not intended as a detailed description of the project, but attempts to describe in general terms the evolution of the project from its formative stages as a somewhat theoretical project "model", to the major activities that were undertaken and which gave the project its final form.

The report contains some analysis and reflection on the issues that emerged during the project's development, and the reasons why the project deviated in several respects from the original concept.

The financial assistance of the Law Foundation of NSW, the Federal Office of Local Government, and the Criminology Research Council is gratefully acknowledged, as are the efforts and interest of the numerous individuals from the local community and Fairfield City Council who supported this pilot project.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Where the Project came from

Criminologists, and more recently the general population, have become increasingly aware that, in spite of the extra money that has been spent on our court and police systems and on the building of new gaols, and in spite of the fact that penalties for certain crimes have been increased, the crime rate has not gone down. It has become quite clear that dealing with criminals after the event is only one approach to crime.

What is needed is a way of preventing crimes from happening in the first place.

Of course this is an easy assertion to make, but the question is how do you go about it and who should be responsible for it?

In March 1988, the NSW Local Government and Shires Association (LG&SA) ran a Community Conduct Seminar which looked at the issue of crime prevention and control. The seminar made a number of resolutions, including the need to "broaden local strategies" to prevent crime. Participants requested that the LG&SA provide information on police/community consultative committees, develop a handbook on crime prevention strategies, seek resources for research into the impact of crime in local areas, and seek resources to enable Local Government involvement in community development strategies to prevent crime.

For some time, Michael Hogan, a Project Officer from the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, who attended the Community Conduct Seminar, and Russell Hogg, then a lecturer in Criminal Justice Studies at Charles Sturt University (Bathurst), had been discussing crime prevention strategies and had been closely watching developments in other countries, particularly the "Bonnemaison" project in France and the British initiatives under the auspices of NACRO (the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders).

Knowledge of successes of overseas programs and awareness that crime prevention programs were being set up in South Australia and Victoria led Russell and Michael to the conclusion that it was timely to undertake a crime prevention project in NSW. Given the lack of infrastructure for Crime Prevention Projects at a State Government level, they decided to approach Local Government.

Although they believed that crime prevention should ideally be a co-ordinated Federal, State and Local responsibility, it was agreed that, in view of the localised nature of much crime, the project would do well to start off at the local level. Waverly and Fairfield Councils were approached and both expressed interest in the project. The Councils were chosen primarily on the strength of their community services departments. The two Local Government Areas were also deemed to be sufficiently different from each other to provide an interesting comparison.

How the Project was Funded

In consultation with Michael Hogan, Russell Hogg, and a number of staff from the Community Services Sections of Waverley and Fairfield Councils, an initial submission was formulated and duly submitted to the Federal Office of Local Government under the "Local Government Development Program". The submission was for a "joint" project encompassing both Councils, and initially the Federal Office of Local Government was approached as the primary funding source for the project.

This initial approach for funding was, however, rejected and the project was modified somewhat when three separate submissions were subsequently prepared to facilitate a joint funding arrangement whereby the Federal Office of Local Government, the Law Foundation of NSW, the Criminology Research Council and Waverley and Fairfield Councils combined, would each contribute one quarter of the project costs.

The two Councils arranged a Community Crime Prevention lunch and seminar on 1st August 1989, at the Waverley Council Chambers at which the Pilot Project was launched. Mr Michael King, Senior Research Fellow from Brunel University in London, was the special guest speaker and spoke about the successful "Bonnemaison" project in France and general issues relating to community crime prevention. These issues were then discussed in an open forum.

The Minister for Local Government, Senator Margaret Reynolds, presented a cheque for \$35,000 and Mr Terence Purcell, Director of the Law Foundation, announced the Foundation's contribution of \$35,000. The Criminology Research Council had previously announced it would also contribute \$35,000.

The proposed Budget for the project is given in Appendix "A". (Page 32)

In Fairfield this budget was closely adhered to throughout the project except for a transfer of some \$4,000 from the money available for Project Consultants to assist in payment of speakers and consultants at the Crime Prevention Seminars, and to extend the project workers' employment by several weeks to ensure completion of the research survey.

Left to right:

Alderman Joe Morizzi
(Fairfield Council)
Dr. Michael King
(Brunel University
London)
Alderman Armitage
(Waverley Council)
Senator Margaret
Reynolds (Minister
Local Government)
Mr Terry Purcell
(Law Foundation)

At Cheque
Presentation



THE PURPOSE OF THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

The general purpose of the Safer Neighbourhood Project can be gleaned from the "Aims" and "Goals" of the project which are set out below. The "Aims" and "Goals" stated here are a reformulation of the numerous "what the project will do/attempt to do/aim to do/undertake" statements which were contained in the three separate submissions to the different funding bodies.

AIMS (diffuse and long term - the project is intended to contribute to social developments in this direction)

1. Popular understanding of the causes of crime, and public/official responses to the "crime problem" should become more sophisticated, through people being better informed.
2. The relevance of the "local community" in the whole complex of "crime": that is, as the locus of victimisation, prevention, control, detection and rehabilitation, etc. should be more widely appreciated and understood.
3. Greater resources and authority should be devolved to "local communities" to address the "crime problem" through preventative strategies.
4. Non-law enforcement/non-punative responses to the crime problems should be expanded and prioritised within the processes of Government planning and resource allocation.

GOALS (desired changes from current state of affairs which are not, however, directly within control of the project management)

The Goals of the project are to:

1. Develop a more co-ordinated, integrated and planned approach to crime prevention by authorities and agencies operating at the local community level, so they can act in concert to prevent crime in the local communities they serve.
2. Increase the leadership role taken by Local Government, via the elected representatives in initiating and overseeing this co-ordinated and integrated approach to crime prevention.
3. Increase the availability of comprehensive data on the trends and distribution of crime by Local Government Area, so this can be used as a basis for planning intervention strategies and public education.
4. Increase opportunities for ordinary citizens, as residents of local communities, to contribute to and become involved in the planning of crime prevention measures in their locality.

5. Increase the number of people from the local community (especially the most vulnerable and marginalised) who express their opinions about crime problems in their local community, suggest solutions, and seek to influence decisions of various authorities acting at the local level.
6. Increase knowledge amongst members of the local community and Local Government as to the causes, consequences and costs of crime, as well as knowledge of the alternative responses to crime that are being developed.
7. Increase understanding and use of "crime prevention" as a relevant assessment criteria in the processes of Local Government decision-making with regard to the licensing and operation of commercial activities, and within the broader area of physical development and social planning generally.
8. Increase interest and information about ways that Local Government and welfare services, business, and other agencies can act in co-operation with the traditional law enforcement agencies (courts, police, prisons, probation and parole) at the local level in order to prevent crime.

What is important to note in these "aims" and "goals" is the direction and philosophy of the project. That is; a focus on information and education of the public, local politicians, planners and welfare service providers, etc., about crime and crime prevention; an emphasis on prevention strategies such as social programs, design and planning measures, management etc., that are not oriented to police or judicial measures of crime control; an increased devolution of resources and responsibility for crime prevention to Local Government and local communities; as well as increasing the opportunities for these communities to participate and be consulted in the development of crime prevention strategies.

**THE PROJECT "MODEL" - STRUCTURE, TIME-FRAME AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT**

The original submissions for the Safer Neighbourhood Project proposed what seemed to be a very logical and straight forward management structure and an 11 month time-frame in which a series of activities were to be undertaken.

The project "model", this is, the management structure, proposed activities, and time-frame might be summarised as follows:

Proposed Objectives & Activities

The Safer Neighbourhood Project would seek to:

- . educate the public, politicians, and service/planning agencies about the cost and social/environmental causes of crime
- . identify local crime problems considered appropriate and amenable to intervention
- . collectively (i.e., with a range of agency and citizen representatives) devise and implement plans for prevention and reduction of the crime problems identified; while
 - emphasising environmental (physical and social) planning measures in preference to traditional law-enforcement strategies
 - ensuring that marginalised and disadvantaged groups in the community are engaged in these processes
 - increasing the control of local communities over their local environment and local crime problem relative to "State control".

These outcomes would be achieved by:

- . documenting other international and Australian attempts at crime prevention in an "annotated bibliography"
- . the analysis of local crime patterns based on police statistics
- . consultations with and research into the experiences and opinions of residents of Fairfield LGA, with regard to crime
- . the establishment and/or resourcing of multi-agency and citizen participatory structures.

Proposed Management & Participation Structure

The Project would be managed by:

A Steering Committee consisting of:

One representative of the Office of Local Government;
One representative of the Law Foundation;
Chief Community Services Administrator;
Project Worker;
Two Project Consultants;
One Police representative;
Community representatives.

Public participation in the project, co-operation and co-ordination between government departments and other organisations, and the implementation of a crime prevention plan, would be facilitated through a:

Mayoral/Local Advisory Committee consisting of:

Mayor;
Representatives of major State and Federal Departments;
Non-Government Agencies;
Resident Group;
Police;
Interested Members of the Community.

In addition there should be input into this committee from local youth interagencies, precinct committees, police - community consultative committees, etc.

Proposed Time-Frame

The time-frame for conduct of the project was as follows:

Months 1 to 4:	Literature review and preparation of the annotated bibliography, planning, research, consultations and analysis of local crime problems/patterns
Month 5:	Identification of prevention resources.
Months 6 to 10:	Development of prevention strategies and their implementation.
Months 11 to 12:	Monitoring and Evaluation of strategies.

Achievements

Like many projects and especially innovative ones, not all went according to plan. In terms of "activities" the project did evolve within the general parameters outlined above, with the following concrete outcomes being achieved:-

- * **A FIVE YEAR CRIME PROFILE OF THE LGA**
(A Fear of Crime in Fairfield Local Government Area
July 1985 to June 1990)
- * **A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES BROCHURE**
(Womens Health & Welfare Guide)
- * **A CRIME PREVENTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SEMINAR**
(Crime Prevention & Local Government Seminar)
- * **A COMMUNITY STUDY OF FEAR OF CRIME OF VICTIMISATION**
(Fear of Crime, Perceptions of the Local Crime Problem, and Victimisation)
- * **LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK AROUND THE ISSUE OF
CRIME IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE**
- * **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL-BASED PROGRAM FOR REGULAR
USE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER WORKERS**
- * **PRODUCTION OF AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRIME
PREVENTION PROJECTS AND VARIOUS OTHER MATERIAL ON CRIME
PREVENTION.** (Crime Prevention & Local Government Seminar)

The project became a process of ongoing development and refinement, thus coming to terms with the constraints and limitations of resources, time, skills, information, interest and commitment rather than follow the theoretical and logical time frame suggested.

The Project also deviated substantially from the "model" with regard to both the management and participation structures.

Perhaps the major problem confronted by the project, resulted from the amount of educational and developmental work needed to mobilise people and resources requiring a much longer time commitment than the 11 months allocated.

The Commencement of the Project

The Safer Neighbourhood Project commenced on 8th January 1990, after the employment of Ric Norton as the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker (SNP Worker) within the Community Development Section of Fairfield City Council.

Ric's background was primarily in local community development work and neighbourhood centre work.

THE ORIENTATION PERIOD

The first 6 weeks of the project was planned as an "orientation period".

Orientation was needed in several areas:

Fairfield LGA: As the Project Worker had not previously worked in the area, there was a need to become familiar with the demographic characteristics and the service structure of the area. Fairfield LGA is a very large area, with a large population (182,000) and with a diverse ethnic and socio-economic mix. The area has a relatively well established network of welfare and other services, and is covered by 3 separate Police Patrols.

Local Government: The project, which was located in the Community Development Section, was intended to have an multi-disciplinary focus, involving consultation and input from other sections of Council.

Becoming familiar with the established bureaucratic structures and processes of the organisation, the division of responsibility between departments or sections, the various internal information and communication networks, and learning who are key people in the organisation and how to access them all takes time. This process is, however, an essential pre-requisite for identifying opportunities and obstacles for the development of crime prevention strategies.

Where different sectors in the organisation have priorities and plans seemingly unrelated to this new project and where staff and resources are already committed, it can be difficult to engage staff in an "innovative" project such as the Safer Neighbourhood Project unless short term, concrete results relevant to their focus of activity can be achieved.

Crime and Crime Prevention Theory and Research

Criminology, and the related theoretical areas of "sociology of deviance", "penal corrections and rehabilitation", and "crime prevention", are very diverse and expansive areas of enquiry, but all are poorly developed theoretically.

One task for the worker early on in the the project was to familiarise himself with some of the literature and research in these areas, and there is certainly enough literature to keep a reader busy for many many weeks.

What such reading does, however, is to make it clear that, as yet, there is no one right answer or solution for crime prevention or the treatment of offenders. There is considerable divergence in the explanatory theories of criminal activity which give rise to alternative crime prevention approaches.

Again the process of familiarising oneself with the literature and research on crime prevention is a slow, ongoing and at times contradictory process, since one's perspectives on issues often change as knowledge and experience accumulate.

This situation has several implications for how a project needs to be structured and what might be required of the Project Worker. For instance a project seeking to implement a particular and predetermined crime prevention approach (eg. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, situational crime prevention), may not require participating

management structure, but would require particular expertise and resources, that may be relatively uncontroversial.

A broader community development approach involving public resources, may involve considerable controversy and conflict of opinion in open public forums or management committees. It must also be recognised that community and organisational perception about crime may well not be compatible with "progressive" project aims. It needs to be determined whether the project should promote an alternate perspective or respond to prevailing sentiment.

General comments on the orientation period

A difficulty for the development of any funded project is the time lapse between the initial formulation of plans and discussion, and the eventual receipt of funds and resources to commence the project. In the case of the Safer Neighbourhood Project this period was some 14 months, during which a number of the circumstances:-

- * the time commitments of those involved with the project had changed and the research consultants were heavily committed in their regular employment through the whole project.
- * shortage of staff at Public Interest Advocacy Centre delayed completion of the annotated bibliography.
- * staff turnover meant that there was a lack of continuity of knowledge of the project in Council and the local community.
- * the local crime problem level of police resources and media profile of crime had changed.
- * changing political and economic climates at State and Federal levels perhaps lessened the likelihood of follow up resources and the feasibility of innovative projects.

It is clearly quite difficult to keep the community and relevant organisations informed about and interested in a project idea over such a long period of time. A series of pre-project meetings of relevant parties in order to increase awareness, clarify management arrangements, and expectations may have greatly facilitated the early stage of the project. This is a problem for all grant funded projects.

RECRUITMENT OF A PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

The initial project proposals had advocated a relatively elaborate management and advisory structure (see page 10). It was a model based on successful approaches adopted in overseas crime prevention programs. The basis of the model is that representatives from organisations and departments that are key players in the area of law and order, welfare services, etc., should be engaged in the project, via a committee structure and that these representatives in turn could ensure the commitment and co-ordination of their respective organisations and departments in relation to the crime prevention strategies that are developed.

Such a model, however, relies on several key assumptions that became clearer in the early months of the project:

1. that relevant organisations and departments are both interested and have the staff available to participate;
2. that the representatives who participate in the project have positions within their own organisations that allows them to influence resource allocation and policy;
3. that participating agencies and departments do in fact have the capacity to allocate or redirect resources in accordance with proposals that arise, and that their budgetary and planning time-frames coincide with that of the project;
4. that it is possible for a consensus to emerge between these diverse groups on objectives and strategies, or that they concur with the original value and philosophical orientation of the project.

While there would clearly have been merit in achieving a structure along the lines proposed in the model, it became evident very early in the project that such an elaborate structure could not be established within an 11 month project, and would itself constitute a fairly major project requiring considerable resources.

A recurrent theme throughout the project was in fact the inappropriateness of an 11 month time-frame, and the possibility of achieving consensus around a very contentious issue, crime.

The Project Worker sought to identify and recruit a cross section of people at a more local level, who might be generally sympathetic to the philosophical orientation of the project.

Several people involved in the original discussions about the project in 1988, were approached for suggestions as to potential members of a Steering Committee. These suggestions included:

- . Police Patrol Commander from Cabramatta;
- . Councils Youth Planner;
- . General Duties Youth Officer from Fairfield Police Patrol;
- . Worker from the Migrant Resource Centre;
- . Worker from an aged services organisation;

- . Youth Worker from the Cabramatta Community Centre;
- . Two Aldermen from Fairfield Council;
- . One of the Research Consultants;
- . Community Liaison Officer - from Fairfield Police Patrol.

The Committee who worked on the project comprised of:

- * Inspector Bill Epsie (Cabramatta Police Station)
- * Constable Patrick Wunsch (Fairfield Police Station)
- * Alderman Chris Hartley (Fairfield City Council)
- * Alderman Albert Ranse (Fairfield City Council)
- * Margot Rawsthorne (Youth Planner - Fairfield City Council)
- * David Burfoot & Mary Banfield (Youth Co-ordinators - Cabramatta Community Centre)
- * Michael Hogan (Public Interest Advocacy Centre)
- * Cristina Pebaque (Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre)

The project is indebted to the committee for their interest and time.

AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

"Productive Pursuits", "Dead End Streets" and "Pandora's Boxes":

The first few months of the project involved identifying appropriate issues and opportunities - some of which resulted in ongoing activities, some of which never got off the ground, and some of which were rejected when the obstacles and constraints became clearer.

1. Collecting & Analysing Data on Local Crime

Early in the project contact was made with the Police Statistics Unit. Arrangements had been made prior to the project through the Commissioner for Police for access to aggregated annual data for the relevant police patrols. Initially it was unclear exactly what data was available or what use it could be put to. After a series of meetings with the staff from the Police Statistics Unit, the Project began to receive printouts of annual crime figures for the three police patrols in the area, over the past five years. The information was recorded by police patrol, and indicated offence classification, recorded number of offences, offences cleared, and age/sex of persons charged. Extracting the original data from the central computer, re-entering and aggregating the figures for the three patrols, and for the Sydney Metropolitan Area was a slow process. This data was then re-entered in a Lotus Spreadsheet and various manipulations performed to organise it in a way useful for presentation.

The report was released in late January 1991. The 64 page report is titled "A Profile of Crime in Fairfield Local Government Area: July 1985 to June 1990". It contains an analysis of 16 categories of crime by number of offences, rate of offences, offences cleared, and age/sex of persons charged. It is accompanied by extensive notes on interpreting police statistics, and is generously illustrated with graphs to aid understanding of the data.

In the originally time frame the profile was intended to be completed very early in the project so as to assist in directing the project. No-one had foreseen how difficult it would be to extract and compile this data.

The data that was available has proved very suitable for general public education and information purposes, examining overall trends, and generating discussion, however, it was not of sufficient detail for use in identifying specific local problems or developing preventative strategies. Specific local data is collected by local police but in the instances attempted, access to this data could not be negotiated. The manner in which this data is kept would also pose significant logistical problems for accessing and using it, and would have required a very large commitment of time. Ultimately, however, it is this very specific local data that will be needed if effective crime prevention strategies are to be developed, and it can only be hoped that the police will begin to collate and make this data available in an appropriate form. Some of this data does get assembled for members of neighbourhood watch groups, but unless you regularly attend meetings of individual neighbourhood watch groups you cannot obtain this information, nor do neighbourhood watch groups operate in all areas and thus a comprehensive picture could not be built up this way.

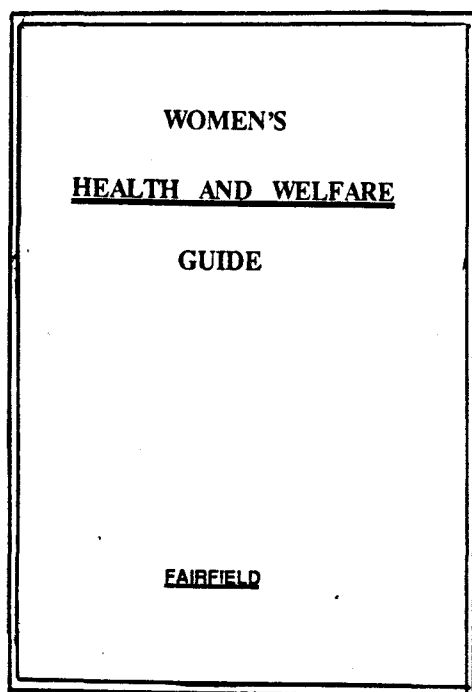
2. Resourcing the Local Domestic Violence Committee

Early in the project, the worker began attending the local Domestic Violence Committee. This committee is essentially an interagency meeting for people working with women affected by domestic violence, though a few private individuals also attend.

The Project Worker adopted a minor resourcing role for this committee which had neither its own staff or resources. This resource and support role involved two major functions which were: the production of a domestic violence services guide titled "Women's Health and Welfare Guide"; (see Appendix B) (Page 33) and, the negotiating for Fairfield Council to resource the committee through organising the mail-out of meeting minutes and notices.

The "Women's Health and Welfare Guide" was an initiative of local police who wanted a compact information guide they could carry in their record books which they could either quickly refer to themselves, or leave with victims of domestic violence. Originally the brochure was to be produced by the Women's Advisory Unit, but when nothing was forthcoming after several months the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker undertook the production of some 4,000 copies.

Although Council continues to resource the Committee through mailing out minutes, etc., direct Council representation at the Committee meetings is unlikely to continue as permanent staff are already committed, and 'Domestic Violence' does not clearly fall within any particular worker's brief.



3. Local Community Development/Service Development Activities

Soon after commencing at Fairfield Council, the Project Worker was informed of two known trouble spots for crime and social problems generally. Both were large public housing estates. Since community development and resident participation was featured in the project proposals, it initially seemed that these areas might offer very tangible opportunities for developing local crime prevention strategies.

The worker made contact with the community worker based on the Villawood Estate, and talked with the Tenants Association and a dozen or so other residents about the crime problems in their neighbourhood.

This appeared to be a community that greatly needed a crime prevention program, but it also appeared to be a very demoralized and poorly resourced community. The Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker quickly became involved in some very tangible activities such as supporting both the part-time community worker (who was about to resign from exhaustion and despair) and the part-time youth worker, assisting and encouraging Tenants Association members, and assisting with their Annual General Meeting. The Safer Neighbourhood Worker also became involved in a small interagency meeting that was organised by the local school to discuss their problem students.

The level of demoralisation amongst residents and workers on the Estate (reflected in statements such as, "we've already done that, there's no point...", etc.) and a degree of cynicism about why Council was suddenly interested, quickly brought home the awareness that such direct grassroots community development was not practical within the time-frame of the project, nor was it perhaps fair to start on an issue and raise the expectations of residents if some follow through could not be guaranteed.

This realisation brought a shift in strategy to look more generally at service provision in the area and the role of various agencies.

The Estate, which had a very large child and youth population, was poorly serviced as the community worker's position was part-time and under funded. The major positive and successful inroads on the Estate related to the ongoing community arts activities - particularly with women - organised by the community arts worker based at Fairfield Community Resource Centre. But these had developed only after several years of involvement and the particular talent and perseverance of the worker concerned. Local residents clearly identified the lack of services for children and youth as being one of the causes of crime in their community.

In conjunction with the estate's community worker, a series of interagency meetings were called in consultation with the Tenants Association, and all possibilities for service provision were examined, with several specific proposals arising:

- an Occasional Child Care service in a disused Council building with FACS funding.
- a WSAAS submission for upgrading the Community Worker position to full-time.
- a WSAAS submission for expanding the Fairfield Parent Support Service so it could better service the area.
- submissions/letters of interest to two new federal programs - Family Resource Centres and After School Activities for 11-16 year olds.

- a WSAAS submission for a mobile preschool service that could visit the area several days per week.

Most of these issues were followed through in May/June 1990, but as with all such programs there is a long period between submission deadlines and funding allocations and there is no guarantee of funding.

As at the time of writing this report, however:

- funding for an After School Activities Service for 11-16 year olds which would service the area at least 1 or 2 days a week appears fairly certain, though funding is not officially approved.
- negotiations for the Occasional Child Care Service are in progress between Department FACS, Fairfield Community Resource Centre and Council's Child Care Unit.
- the Villawood Estate community worker position was upgraded to full time in December 1990.
- a submission has been sent to the Minister for Aged, Family and Health Service and tentative discussions held with officers of the Department of Family and Community Services regarding a Family Resource Centre for the area. A local Family Resource Centre Planning Group has been established and continues to meet regularly.
- the mobile preschool was not funded by WSAAS as the cost of \$100,000 was considered to be too great despite the fact that it would service a very large area of the Local Government Area.
- the Fairfield Parent Support Service also failed to attract any additional funding.

These initiatives may eventually have a long-term crime prevention impact in the Villawood community if, and when, such services are fully established.

This area of work illustrates the difficulties imposed by the short time-frame of the Project, and reliance on external organisations for the allocation of resources to actually implement programs. A general issue which it also raises is the link between crime prevention and social planning or community development work and whether it is desirable or appropriate to consider crime prevention as a special area of activity and resourcing or whether it should be integrated in all social assessment and planning processes. **Better planning and service provision initially may have meant that special crime prevention efforts would never have become necessary.**

4. Council-Based use of Community Services Orders Workers

Although the Safer Neighbourhood Project was not originally intended to look at rehabilitative programmes or alternative sentencing options for offenders, it became evident early in the project that this was one area where Council could develop some quite concrete proposals. It was also an issue which already had the interest of several Aldermen on Council.

Over a period of time a number of Aldermen had raised the issue of Council use of Community Service Order Workers to assist with things such as clearance of storm debris, etc. The task of following up these issues was delegated to the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker.

After some initial information gathering and preparatory work the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker organised a meeting between senior Council staff within various outdoor works areas and the local Probation and Parole Office. After some discussions, an mutually agreeable arrangement was reached between Council's Parks Engineers and Probation and Parole for a group of 6-10 Community Services Orders workers to be provided for Council supervised work every Saturday morning. The program quickly became established and has been running successfully for several months. After this initial period, negotiations were handled directly between Parks Engineers of Probation and Parole and the involvement of the Safer Neighbourhood Project worker ceased.

More recently, the Parks Engineers were approached to provide work tasks for a group of inmates from Parramatta Gaol, fully supervised by Corrective Services staff. This program is also proceeding.

It is important to note that the capacity of the Parks Engineers to take on this project was related to their particular form of budget allocation which allowed for provision of overtime staff on weekends, without any additional or unexpected outlays. It was a matter of getting the free labour of 6-10 extra people to supplement the labour of the one person already provided for. For the other sections of Council, the provision of a weekend supervisor would have involved extra and unbudgeted expenditure and they were therefore not able to take up the option, at least in the short term.

Again this project raises some important issues. Firstly, and at a general level, the willingness of other organisations or sections of Council to participate in such projects is related to whether participation is in their own interests. If it isn't, there is a major motivational task ahead. For the Parks Section, there was a clear cost saving benefit in participation. The second issue is once again the time-frame of the project. Other sections of Council expressed a willingness to become involved in the use of Community Services Orders workers, but the timing of the proposal was too late in relation to Council's budgetary processes, and attempts to negotiate revision of budgetary estimates so as to provide for additional overtime for supervisors seemed unwarranted.

Negotiations were also held with the local Young Offenders Support Team of the Department of Family and Community Services about the possibility of providing supervised work programmes for juvenile offenders. However, after several months of contact, these negotiations did not result in any outcomes. The inability of FACS or Council to provide a group supervisor, and ensure that the young people had basic work clothing e.g. good footwear, proved the major obstacles.

5. Education about Different Approaches to Crime Prevention

Much 'crime prevention' literature discusses the contributions of design, planning, and management of space, to crime prevention either through the specific 'situational crime prevention' approach, or the more general 'crime prevention through environmental design' approach.

This area of crime prevention was initially seen as a logical area for Local Government to become involved with because of its planning functions, development and building approval process, design and maintenance of parks and public facilities, etc.

Preliminary discussions with staff from various departments at Council in the early stages of the project, however proved rather discouraging. In general terms people saw some merit in the ideas of 'situational' and 'environmental design' approaches to crime prevention.

The whole concept of a 'crime prevention' role for planners, engineers, maintenance staff, etc., was new. Provisions had not been made within these sections or departments to allocate staff time to developing skills and knowledge in this areas, and the effectiveness and benefits that might arise from such efforts was by no means clear. Under such circumstances a lack of enthusiasm is understandable.

Clearly little could be achieved in this area unless some interest could be generated in the ideas, and the planners, and other professionals themselves took these ideas on board and began to see it as important to incorporate crime prevention theory into their own areas of technical and professional competence. It was neither appropriate nor possible to push the issue across the boundaries of professional competence and work responsibility. The Project Worker at Waverley encountered similar difficulties.

It was decided to attempt to develop some opportunities for further information and education about these crime prevention approaches to hopefully generate some further interest in the ideas.

In conjunction with the Waverley Council project, a 1 day "Crime Prevention and Environmental Design Seminar" was held at Waverley in August 1990, with Ron Clark, a Professor of Criminology and author/researcher in the area of crime prevention as guest speaker. Only two Fairfield Council staff could attend this seminar and it appeared to promote little interest internally at Council, although the individual staff members found it informative.

Consequently a second seminar was organised at Fairfield City Council in December 1990 with two interstate guest speakers; Wendy Bell from Adelaide who addressed planning and design aspects of crime prevention, and Sue Millbank who talked about the South Australian Crime Prevention Strategy. This seminar addressed a somewhat broader range of crime prevention strategies and attracted some 65 people from a range of organisations, departments and Councils.

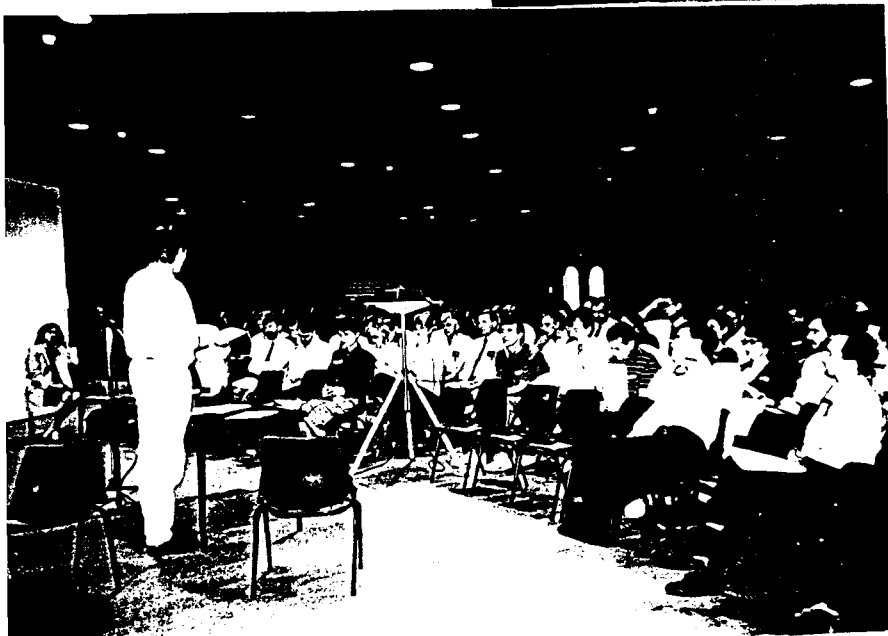
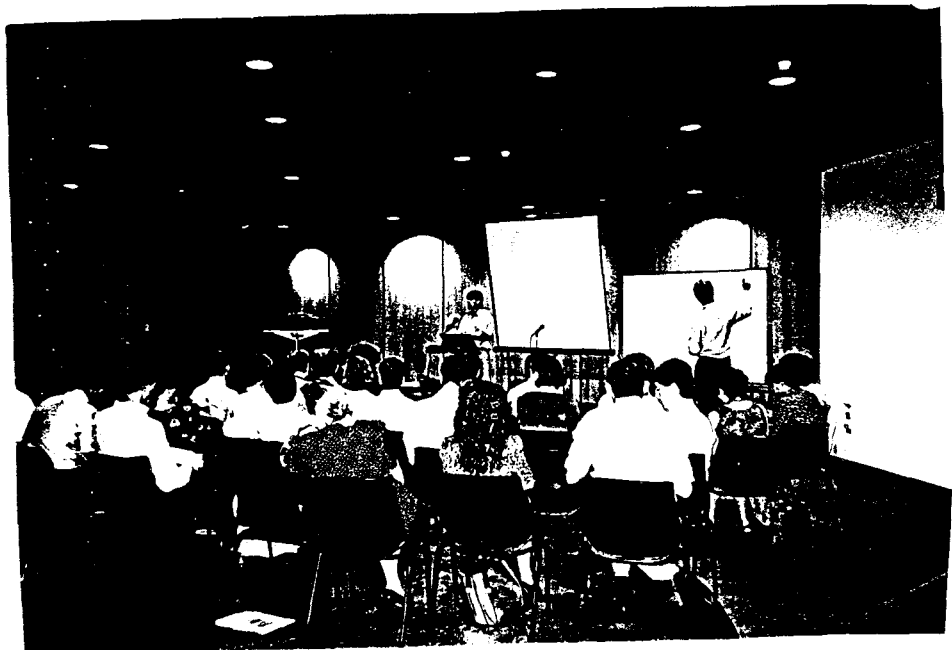
Both seminars have been successful in generating some general interest in crime prevention and enquiries have been received from other Councils who are considering organising their own crime prevention seminars. Hopefully, the publishing and distribution of the conference papers and resources material will contribute to and facilitate the education process.

At Waverley Council, the Town Planning Department has taken on responsibility for developing a Development Control Plan incorporating crime prevention principles. The Town Planners at Fairfield Council are monitoring developments at Waverley.

This part of the Safer Neighbourhood Project illustrated a number of important issues for the development of crime prevention strategies. Again there is the issue of resources. Even where other sections of Council expressed an interest in the area of crime prevention through design, planning, and management measures, this ultimately requires the commitment of staff time and resources for training and skill development and for involvement in committees or working-groups and the taking on of additional work, e.g. drawing up and administering a development control plan. Such decisions cannot be made lightly or rapidly.

Secondly, the process of organising the seminars made it very clear how few people there are in Australia with the relevant expertise, and how little information was available in a readily accessible form.

CRIME PREVENTION
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SEMINAR HELD
3RD DECEMBER, 1990



6. Research on the 'fear of crime' and 'victimisation'

The Criminology Research Council's component of the funding for the Safer Neighbourhood Project was for the conducting of survey research into 'fear of crime' and 'victimisation' to help provide a better understanding of how crime might be impacting on the daily lives of residents.

It was not however, at all clear until near the end of the project as to how this research component could be most effectively used.

A major concern for all involved was that the research should be of practical use and not just for academic purposes. It was also clear that in such a large and diverse population as Fairfield LGA the research funds would not allow for large scale sampling and that a smaller target population would need to be chosen. It should be noted that this idea of targetting an area or group raised some debate and concern about the risks of stigmatising certain sectors within the community.

Eventually a decision was made to undertake a survey around the Villawood Housing Estate. It was felt that documenting the problems of this area could be an important stage in enabling Council, the Tenants Association and other parties to jointly negotiate for resources and services for the area.

The Villawood area also raised important planning, design and service delivery issues that might be illuminated in the research. As indicated earlier, the area was known to be a 'trouble spot' and if any benefit was to come from this research there were many justifications on equity grounds why this community should be chosen.

Undertaking the research posed several difficulties. Little research of this nature has been conducted in Australia and examples of survey design, etc., are not easy to obtain. Some potential resources only came to light after commencement of the survey.

The report from the research suggests that it was a very worthwhile exercise, and indicates some interesting and rather concerning conditions prevailing in the area. Since the research has only recently been finalised, it is not yet clear how it will be used by Council or the Tenants Association, etc., or if it will prove to be an effective tool in achieving any extra allocation of resources or design improvements which would address this community's crime perceptions. The report does, however, suggest some directions that might be taken.

7. Police Community Consultative Committees and Neighbourhood Watch

For several months of the Project, the worker attended the three local Police Community Consultative Committees as well as an occasional Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

Although these meetings were often informative in a general sense, such as understanding police attitudes to certain problems, the concerns of those members of the public who attended, the concerns of various welfare workers etc, it was very unclear how the Safer Neighbourhood Worker could contribute to these groups.

These groups were already established in terms of membership, meeting procedure, etc.. These groups were very much directed by the police. To a large degree, these groups confronted the same problems at the Safer Neighbourhood Project itself, that of the lack of resources with which to implement their ideas. There appeared to be general inability to achieve consensus due to tension between police and youth and community workers.

It also became clear at these various meetings that people generally did not perceive Council to have any competence in the crime prevention area. The specific linking of environmental design characteristics such as lighting, carpark designs with crime and crime prevention may eventually allow Local Government to gain legitimacy in discussing the crime problem but it may also lead to greater criticism of Council where appropriate measures are not taken.

The project worker ceased to attend these meetings about midway through the Project as it was unclear that it was a productive use of time in terms of the Project's objectives. However, there does appear to be a role for a specially appointed Council officer to attend such meetings to address general queries about Council's function and responsibilities, and to feed back information and complaints to various sections of Council e.g. waste collection, parks, the traffic committee, etc., as these were often aired at these meetings.

8. Involvement With Youth Justice Issues

There are few agencies or networks which have a specific focus on legal or criminal justice issues. One such network, however is the Youth Justice Coalition and the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker attended the bi-monthly meetings regularly throughout the project.

The worker's involvement in this forum had two aspects. Firstly, this forum provided an important counterbalance to many of the attitudes and viewpoints about young people and crime that were picked up through contacts with local residents. The balance between preventative or corrective measures and the legal rights and just treatment of individuals is a precarious one, and one which needs to be kept in mind in the development of crime prevention strategies. Involvement in this group helped the worker become more informed about these issues.

Secondly, the Youth Justice Coalition is actively involved in promoting and researching the development, at a state-wide level, of alternative and more appropriate responses to juvenile offenders such as those outlined in the recent 'Kids in Justice' report. The Youth Justice Coalition has also formally responded to the Police Department initiatives for the establishment of Community Aid Panels and to the NSW Senate Social Issues Committee. The Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker had some input into the formulation of these documents.

A GUIDE FOR FUTURE CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS

This section of the report is intended to illuminate a few issues that need to be considered by Councils, organisations or individuals who may be thinking about commencing a crime prevention project.

Overall Project Planning

1. The detail of a crime prevention strategy or project should not be too elaborately developed, until an assessment has been made of the degrees of interest and understanding that the individual groups and organisations being targetted have of "crime prevention". It may be that they are uninformed, uninterested apathetic, hostile, highly motivated, or even actively pursuing counterproductive approaches.

The stage of understanding and interest of the groups or organisations targetted will be primary determinants of how the project should initially be focussed, and what activities are possible within a given time period. It will also indicate what skills and resources might be needed. The following questions suggest at least four different phases in developing a crime prevention project.

- * Should the primary concern be to introduce the basic ideas of crime prevention to individuals, community groups, professionals and organisations, in order to develop their awareness and endorsement of crime prevention as an alternative to traditional law enforcement?
- * Is it a matter of mobilising and motivating individuals, community groups, professionals, organisations to a stage where they are prepared to act on their knowledge of crime prevention alternatives by identifying crime problems and searching for ways to prevent them?
- * Is it a matter of working with motivated and organised groups to lobby for the necessary resources and policy changes?
- * Or is it a matter of working out the details and technical aspects of specific strategies designed to address particular crime problems?

2. It is important that the crime prevention strategy or project be formulated in such a way that it is based on a sound estimation of the resources that are under the projects control or which might realistically be accessed or utilised within the time frame of the project.

After having decided in general terms who should be involved in the project and having assessed their general level of awareness of 'crime prevention' approaches, it is crucial to examine the types of activities that are likely to evolve or be required given this combination.

It is important to consider three different time-frames:

- A. the length of time resources of particular types might be required to successfully develop each stage of the project;
- B. the life expectancy of the enthusiasm of the project group under different resource conditions such as when resources are not quickly forthcoming - is it thus a realistic strategy?
- C. and the durability of the problem or need itself (perhaps it is only a temporary problem or need which will either pass or be met in other ways) and is it thus a necessary strategy at this time?

The need for individual projects to collect data on crime may shortly become redundant if there are more developments centrally, or maybe a particular type of crime is a fad which may pass before the project is equipped to respond.

3. It is important to consider who should be involved in the project or strategy so it can be kept manageable.

Crime is a highly differentiated phenomena, both in terms of type, distribution, consequences and solutions. It is important therefore to consider how broadly to canvas the project and who to involve, so that too many issues or too much diversity in the types of issue does not result.

If people from a large area are motivated to act on the crime problems which concern them it is likely to require a multiplicity of independent strategies. It must be considered in advance whether the resources are available to take on several strategies at once, since there are obvious costs in terms of support for the project if some group concerns are taken up but not those of other groups.

Similarly, there is little point in drawing a cross-section of people into a committee or working-group in advance, if the subsequent definition of the problems that emerge makes the participation of some members redundant, e.g., if a design issue in a particular area is focussed on, what then is the role of the youth worker or a resident from the other side of the LGA?

4. The auspicing and physical location of the project, where possible, should reflect the focus and nature of the activities being undertaken by the crime prevention strategy or project.

It is very important to consider how and where a crime prevention project should be physically located and organised in relation to the groups of people who are, or who it is hoped will be involved. For example, if the project is likely to involve local residents, it is perhaps best located in their immediate neighbourhood; if it primarily involves social and welfare services it should be in the appropriate organisational setting, and this is likely to be a different setting and to a project focusing on a design/planning issue.

The idea of basing a project under the auspices of a central 'umbrella' or co-ordinating committee seems appropriate only if the committee has sufficient resources not only to keep itself going, but also to resource and monitor the range of projects it may give rise to; and if it has effective mechanisms for dealing with the diversity of viewpoints that may emerge in such a broad-based committee. Otherwise, it would seem more appropriate for project committees be made up of persons directly concerned about the issue being dealt with or who have been recruited to the committee for particular technical expertise or strategic political reasons.

Developing Crime Prevention Strategies

Information has been compiled to assist in the actual development of specific strategies for crime prevention. As such, it would apply fairly late in the whole process of establishing a crime prevention project since it assumes that there already exists a group of active and motivated people wanting to do something about an identified problem but are not sure where to start, and that these people are responsive to trying alternative, i.e., non-police or court, solutions to the problem.

Material has been produced in the seminar papers prepared by the Safer Neighbourhood Project Worker for the Crime Prevention and Local Government Seminar.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FLOWING FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

Outlined below are a series of recommendations that seem appropriate in view of the various activities and experiences of the Safer Neighbourhood Project throughout the past year, and which suggests some practical steps Council may take to further its commitment to crime prevention.

Unfortunately, until such time that the NSW State Government establishes a funding program which can resource local crime prevention initiatives, it is uncertain how any substantial or ongoing project might be funded.

In the absence of special funding, however, there are opportunities to develop Council's crime prevention role further, using both existing resources and trying to attract funds from mainstream programs. This approach seems appropriate in two areas in particular. However, to exploit these opportunities requires both a philosophical and practical commitment to the task, by all sections of Council.

Firstly, there is the area of staff development and training amongst community services staff, town planners and designers, engineers, health and building, to familiarise them with both the basic concepts of crime prevention and the social and economic costs of crime, but also for further specialist skill development where this is appropriate. Such training would of necessity require a willingness amongst the professional staff to communicate across traditional professional boundaries and acquire a range of interdisciplinary skills and knowledge. This area of activity could presumably be funded through the "training levy". This staff development/training would be an important precondition for the second area of opportunity.

This second area concerns community development and service development in local areas. This was the area of activity which seemed the most practical and productive aspect of the Safer Neighbourhood Project. It is also an area where Council already has some commitment and experience, and perceived legitimacy. A crime prevention focus could be brought into these areas of activity by the following means:-

1. Council could examine options to secure additional community development staff who could either;
 - a. directly work with resident groups and/or community - based community workers, who have identified specific crime problems they wish to address; (ie. strategy development role)
 - b. work with and resource community based youth-workers and community workers who are prepared to take up crime prevention issues generally with the groups they work with. (i.e. educative role)
2. Community services staff could, in the course of their regular involvement with the community, provide information on alternative crime prevention approaches, whenever crime is raised as an issue of concern.
3. Town Planners, through their involvement in Town Centre Liaison Committees, Yennora Residents' Group and other such forums could actively promote crime prevention as one objective of better planning, design, service provision and area management as well as facilitating constructive discussion about the crime problems

faced in these areas and of measures and actions that might be taken to prevent them.

4. Crime and Crime Prevention could be included as a specific area to be considered in the development of any community, social, or local environment plan by Council and could form a specific area of examination in any 'social impact assessment' process in which Council participates. Town Planning and Social Planning students could provide an important resource for researching and developing guidelines for such assessment processes.
5. Aldermen could similarly play a general community development role through their involvement in resident action groups, business associations, clubs, etc. or possibly through ward or precinct committees. Alternatively they could join together with their constituents eg, Villawood Tenants Association, in the process of lobbying for resources, achieving policy changes and establishing programs to address localised crime problems.

As indicated above there are a range of opportunities for community crime prevention to be promoted without reliance on specialist projects.

Regardless of whether special project funds are available or not, it is important to carefully consider how a crime prevention project should be managed and auspiced. A standing "Community Crime Prevention Committee", would seem appropriate only where:

- a) a resource fund exists which can be used to sponsor and monitor a variety of individual projects;
- b) secretarial services are available to the committee;
- c) the commitment of relevant agencies and departments to participate can be secured at a senior level, and that this commitment is reflected both in the authority of the delegates involved in the committee and a policy commitment by the organisation to supporting crime prevention initiatives.

Where these conditions are not met it would seem that activities are most appropriately auspiced or managed through:

- a) existing structures relevant to the project under consideration, e.g., co-ordination of training for Council staff could be organised by Council's Training Officer.
- b) A joint Council-Community Crime Prevention Committee or other working groups specifically created to respond to particular issues or problems e.g. Yennora/East Fairfield group.

In addition to these long-term developments it should be possible for Council to implement in the short-term, the recommendations below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council seek to maintain a commitment to crime prevention, remain informed about developments in the field, and should, whenever possible, encourage elected representatives and Council officers to attend training programs or conferences on crime prevention.
2. That Council write to the Federal Office of Local Government in support of the submission by the Local Government and Shires Association for funding of a Crime Prevention Project Officer through the Local Government Development Program to further promote knowledge of and interest in Crime Prevention within Local Government.
3. That Council negotiate with the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in order to ensure continued provision of LGA based police crime statistics to Fairfield City Council together with a descriptive analysis and explanation of trends and implications, so as to build on the work already undertaken in the Safer Neighbourhood Project
4.
 - a) That Council give full consideration to the research findings about 'fear of crime' and 'victimisation' in the Villawood area and bring these to the attention of the relevant instrumentalities and departments with the view to having the crime problems in this area addressed.
 - b) Council endeavour to secure funding from the Criminology Research Council for either a follow-up study, or other means, by which it can monitor improvement or deterioration in the 'crime problem' in the Villawood area over the next three years.
5. That Council's Town Planning Department monitor the progress of Waverley Council's Development Control Plan incorporating crime prevention strategies, and examine whether such a strategy or other approaches might be appropriate for adoption by Council.
6. That all departments and sections involved in outdoor works examine the feasibility of providing work opportunities for Community Service Order workers, and develop estimates of additional costs and potential benefits involved, so that these options may be considered by Council prior to finalisation of budget estimates.
7. That Council examine the options for Council's representation on Police Community Consultative Committees, Neighbourhood Watch groups, etc., how to fulfill a general liaison and information role between these groups, and how to co-ordinate regular meetings between area Police Patrol Commanders and senior Council staff and Aldermen.
8. That Council examine present systems of recording criminal incidents against or involving Council staff and property, so that the costs and circumstances as well as information about reporting of incidents to police, can readily be determined and particular problem areas readily identified.

9. That Council's training officer give consideration to investigating a policy which provides for:
- a. training of all Council staff dealing directly with the public in conflict management/resolution.
 - b. counselling/debriefing of Council staff who may have been victims or witnesses to crimes of a serious nature either during their work time or privately.
10. That Council write to the Attorney General and the Premier seeking the establishment of a Crime Prevention Unit with the mandate and resources to promote and fund local and regional crime prevention initiatives and ongoing programs focussing on non-police and non-judicial prevention strategies.

PROJECT BUDGET

APPENDIX "A"

INCOME

Federal Office of Local Government

Project Consultants (7.5 hours X 48 weeks)	8,860.00	
Project worker	8,249.14	
Travel costs	250.00	
Ancillary Costs	140.86	
		17,500.00

Criminology Research Council

Project Worker	8,249.14	
Research Assistants	8,500.00	
Travel costs	500.00	
Ancillary costs	250.86	
		17,500.00

Law Foundation

Project Worker	16,500.00	
Travel Costs	1,000.00	
		17,500.00

Fairfield City Council (on-costs, management, publications) 17,500.00

TOTAL INCOME 69,700.00

EXPENDITURE

Wages

Project Worker 32,998.28

Consultancies

Project Consultants 8,860.00
Research Assistants 8,500.00
17,360.00

Travel Costs 1,750.00

Ancillary costs (meetings, materials etc) 391.72

Administration 2,500.00
Management 1,500.00
Publications 13,200.00
On costs (at 40% salaries) 17,200.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 69,700.00

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**ASSAULT IN THE HOME IS A CRIME
LIKE ANY OTHER ASSAULT.**

**CONTACT POLICE: 000 (EMERGENCY CASES)
221-1111 TELEPHONE INTERPRETER
SERVICES**

POLICE STATIONS
Fairfield Police Station 728-0399
40 Smart Street
Fairfield

Cabramatta Police Station 727-4100
Cnr Bartley & Phelps Streets
Cabramatta

Wetherill Park Police Station 725-5177
Prarievale Road
Wetherill Park

HOSPITALS
Fairfield District Hospital 609-8111
Cnr Polding Street & Prarievale Road
Prariewood

Liverpool District Hospital 600-0555
Elizabeth Drive
Liverpool

This brochure is a project of the Fairfield Domestic Violence Committee with the support of Fairfield City Council's Safer Neighbourhood Project. It has been printed as a community service by Fairfield City Council.

24 HOUR CRISIS SERVICES

24 hour Child Protection and Family Crisis 818-5555

24 hour Rape Crisis Centre 891-6765

After Hours Family Crisis 822-8522
Intervention/assessment
Referral to Refuges (for people in crisis)

Mon - Fri 6.00pm-12.00 midnight
Sat - Sun 10.00pm-12.00 midnight
This service covers the areas of Blackdown, Auburn, Parramatta, Holroyd and Bankmum Hills.

Salvo Crisis Line 331-2000

Homeless Persons Information 265-9087 or 265-9081
Provides referral to other accommodation services and refuges.

Mon - Fri 9.00am-7.00pm

Marjoribank Crisis Centre 603-1614
Accommodation for parents with children only, ie. Single mother with children, single father with children, nuclear family with children
Short term stay only - approx. 12 weeks
Also help looking for permanent accommodation

24 Hour Women's Refuge and Crisis Contact 799-8949

Ronnie Refuge 609-3930

Youth Refuges 728-7654 (24 hours - 7 days a week)
Crisis accommodation for 12-18 years of age.
Please note the refuge will not take a female over five months pregnant. Clients who are drug addicts or have criminal records may be accepted depending on assessment. Cannot take people with psychiatric or heavy drug use problems.

WELFARE SERVICES

Family and Community Services (FACS)
Fairfield 728-1911, 17-21 The Crescent, Fairfield
Cabramatta 725-8100, Cnr John & Hill Streets, Cabramatta
Advice and Referral, Attend to children at risk
Provide transport for victims to the refuges.
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri

Salvation Army 727-3380
Counselling, referrals, welfare services
35 Barbara Street, Fairfield
Salvo Youth Line 360-3000 Salvo Care Line 331-6000
People to people 360-2000 Salvo Crisis Line 331-2000

Fairfield Neighbourhood Centre 727-4333
Information and Advice on Law, Housing, Social Security, Refuges;
Referral to Police, Area Health Centres and Self Help Groups;
Welfare Officers, Multicultural Play Groups
9am - 5pm Mon-Fri
25 Barbara Street, Fairfield

Fairfield Community Aid and Information Service 726-7133
Welfare Counsellors, Information, emergency financial assistance.
9am - 5pm Mon-Fri
11 Kanyon Street, Fairfield

Youth Accommodation Association 267-5918
Recorded information on Youth Refuge vacancies.
24 hours 7 days.

Aboriginal Medical Services 698-1639
Derak, 29 Mt Druitt Rd, Old Mt Druitt, 832-1356
Theraval, 2 Riverside Drive, Alderley 646 284837
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri.

Aboriginal Health Worker - Liverpool 601-3555
Women's Health Centre
26 Bathurst Street, Liverpool
9am - 6pm Mon - Fri.

WOMEN'S

HEALTH AND WELFARE

GUIDE

FAIRFIELD

Army Community Services 600-2176
Advice on legal matters, Emergency Accommodation
Counselling for both parties, Emotional support
7 Arillery Crescent, Holsworthy

Department of Social Security
Financial assistance - application for benefit or pension.
Special benefit can be applied for, if the person is likely
to suffer hardship during the waiting period
Social Workers/Crisis Counselling, Advice/Referral.
Mon - Fri (closes at 1.30pm Wednesdays)
Fairfield Social Security 728-0533
3 Hamilton Road, Fairfield
Cabramatta Social Security 728-8333
123 Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta

Centacare 610-8955
Marriage, Family and Individual Counselling Service
Group Programs Including Parenting Courses
Information and Referral Service
9am - 5pm Mon-Fri
625 Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta

Fairfield Parent Support 727-4017
Support to families under stress or in need of parenting
assistance.
9am - 5pm Mon, Tues, Thur and 9am - 4pm Wed
56 Carley Vale Road, Carley Vale

Cabramatta Community Centre 727-0477
Information, advice and referral. Multi-lingual staff and case
workers available.
9am - 5 pm Monday to Friday
Cnr McBurney Rd and Railway Pde, Cabramatta

Immigration Advice and Rights Centre 281-8355
Confidential advice on immigration matters and referral to other
services by multi-lingual staff.
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri.

Immigrant Women's Health Information Service 728-4080
Information, education and support for women through group
discussions about health, sexuality, relationships, etc. Advice
and referral for individuals.
9am 5pm Mon-Fri.
25 Barbara Street, Fairfield

Immigrant Women's Resource Centre 646-1779
Advice, information and referral. Crisis counselling and support
for victims of domestic violence. Follow up and support for
women who have been in refuges. Filipino, Spanish,
Cantonese and English speaking staff available.
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri.
36C John Street, Lidcombe

HEALTH

Fairfield Community Health Centre 727-4244
Social Workers, Drug & Alcohol Workers, Psychologists,
Ergic Health Workers & Therapy group.
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri
12 Spencer Street, Fairfield

Cabramatta Community Health Centre 728-7233
Counsellors, Social Workers, Psychologists
and Ergic Health Workers General Counselling Referrals
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri. After Hours by appointment
7 Levuka Street, Cabramatta

Fairviewood Community Health Centre 609-8189
Social Workers, Counsellors, Health Workers, etc.
9am-5pm Mon - Fri, Cnr Polding St Prarievale Rd Prarieviewood

Family Planning 633-2177
Contraceptive advice, sexual and pregnancy counselling,
breast checks, pap smears. Telephone for appointment
Fairfield Tuesday 10am - 12.30pm Thurs 8.30pm - 8.00pm
Liverpool Monday 8.30pm - 8.00pm

HOUSING

Department of Housing
Rental/bond assistance, Emergency crisis housing, Tenancy/
welfare officers, Long term public housing.
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri
Parramatta Office - 891-8111 Liverpool Office - 821-6111
106 Church Street Parramatta 23 Moore Street, Liverpool
Local Offices
Bonnyrigg, Shop 35 Bonnyrigg Shopping Plaza - 610-2127
Villawood, Shop 9 The Mall - 727-8211

NB: If you need emergency housing because of domestic
violence ask for a "Priority Housing Applications" and ask them
to give you a copy of the completed form. If you are already a
Dept of Housing tenant ask to speak to your Tenancy Manager

LEGAL SERVICES

Chamber Macquarie Fairfield Court 727-4333
Cnr Spencer St & Court Rd Fairfield
Liverpool Court 621-7999
150 George Street, Liverpool

Provide legal advice including domestic violence/family law etc
Can assist in the preparation of documents associated with
obtaining and enforcing domestic violence orders.
Advice and assistance in family law matters such as custody
maintenance, property and injunctions.

10am - 12.30pm, 3pm - 3.30pm Tues, Wed, Thurs. Afternoons
only on Monday & Friday. Recommended that persons seeking
advice telephone the court office re: appointment procedures.

Legal Aid 727-3177
Family Law, Domestic violence cases
9am - 5pm Mon - Fri
Fairfield Chase, Smart Street, Fairfield

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service 837-3171
Can represent victims of Domestic Violence in applications
for an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order.
Can arrange for a sympathetic solicitor to apply for legal
aid and act on behalf of the victim if necessary.
Community education, Telephone advice and information

9.30am - 4.30pm Mon - Fri
P.O. Box 1154, Harris Park

Fairfield/Liverpool Sexual Assault Services
600-0555 24 hours - Liverpool Hospital
601-3333 Office hours - Liverpool Community Health Centre

Long term, short term and Crisis counselling for:
Rape victims, People who experienced sexual assault as children,
Group therapy, and Support and preparation for Court
24 hour crisis Medical and Counselling Assessment Service
(The Service is Confidential)

9.30am - 5pm Mon - Fri
203 - 208 Northumberland Street, Liverpool

**Men Who Are Being Violent With Their Partners
Marriage Guidance Council 635-8311**
Group approach to helping men accept responsibility for domestic
violence and examine their roles in their relationships with women.

This contact is suitable only after the necessary legal and other
actions have been taken to protect the women and children from
further violence.

9am-5pm Mon - Fri.