This paper provides an outline of the background to, and results of, a study prepared for the Crime Prevention and Criminology Unit of the South Australian Attorney General’s Department to investigate the role of urban design and crime prevention in the Adelaide inner-city. The study was an initiative of the Inner City Cooperative Action Group (ICCAG). ICCAG is a committee representative of traders, police, youth workers, victims of crime, residents and other members of the public and was formed in late 1989 in response to concerns about public safety in the centre of Adelaide.

The focus of the study has been the impact of specific design issues on crime and perceptions of crime in the study area with an emphasis on formulating achievable amelioration measures for the existing circumstances. The study provides guidelines to ensure that future building and streetscape designs address preventative strategies for reducing the incidence of crime and community fears about the safety of public areas.

Objectives
The study objectives included the following:

- identify the elements of urban design which impact upon crime and community perception of crime in inner city areas;
- evaluate urban design characteristics of Hindley Street, Rundle Mall and Rundle Street which contribute to the incidence of crime and fear of crime;
- develop amelioration measures which can be quickly and cheaply implemented to address current problem areas;
- formulate design guidelines for future building and streetscape development which focus on reducing the incidence of crime and improving community perception of safety; and
• liaise with ICCAG, the Crime Prevention Policy Unit, Adelaide City Council, the police and other agencies to explore the existing situation and develop workable design solutions.

Methodology
The methodology for the study combined qualitative and quantitative research with site assessments and included the following:
• a review of relevant literature;
• collection and collation of crime data for the study area;
• assessment of perceptions of crime within the study area and identification of problem areas; and
• formulation of urban design guidelines and other cooperative approaches to increased safety.

Analysis
An analysis of the crime data indicated that the areas which experienced the highest incidence of crime were Hindley Street (an area likened to Kings Cross in Sydney), the Railway Station and a poorly lit area along the River Torrens. It is therefore clear that different types of inner-city environments encourage different types of antisocial and criminal behaviour.

The relationship between the urban environment and human behaviour is complex, dynamic and constantly changing. While it is false to assume that a certain environment will cause certain behaviours, the environment nevertheless has the capacity to foster or facilitate certain types of behaviour and hinder or impede others. In environmental crime prevention it is important to understand the relationship between design and management in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. Urban design alone cannot be the total answer.

The key problem areas defined within the central part of Adelaide ranged from those which created magnets of human activity to those areas with inadequate lighting and pathways that do not pass through well-lit focal points of legitimate activity. As a general comment, in both types of cases both design and management interventions are advisable with the appropriate emphasis depending on the particular characteristics of individual problem areas.

Qualitative research in the form of individual consultations and workshops found that there was a considerable overlap between those areas perceived as being unsafe and those where crimes actually occurred. Problem areas were defined from the data analysis and the consultations, and each was surveyed to cover aspects of use and activity, lighting, street furniture, vegetation, urban form and social aspects. An analysis was also undertaken of the degree to which the current Adelaide City Council planning policies cover relevant aspects of urban design and crime prevention. It was concluded that
few of the policies and guidelines address the issues of safety which emerged during the study.

The study included draft guidelines to provide the conceptual framework for the development of a manual of planning, design and management for the inner city. The key urban design guidelines were grouped under the following headings:

- legibility;
- surveillance;
- ambiguous or non-assigned spaces;
- territorial zones;
- vandalism;
- avoiding vulnerable materials;
- use of attractive materials;
- landscaping;
- safe paths, footpaths, security and lighting;
- direct access;
- lighting for safety; and
- site maps and signs.

The study concluded that, in certain parts of the inner-city area of Adelaide crime is certainly a problem and, in order to reduce it, a concerted, collaborative effort will be required by all key players. If recent success in The Netherlands is an example of successful inner-city crime prevention, the key is not to concentrate exclusively on urban design but to use supporting social approaches to achieve amelioration measures in the physical environment.

**Recommendations**

Of the recommendations in the study the following were given high priority:

- A strengthened role for the ICCAG in which there is a need to develop and strengthen a sense of collective responsibility among all players including the employment of a Project Officer and the securing of a central location in the City of Adelaide offices to ensure full participation of the Council in ICCAG’s work.
- Full participation by the City of Adelaide Council by ensuring that one key person in the Council is responsible on a regular basis for
work in crime prevention and that the Council’s urban design guidelines be expanded to address issues of safety.

- Data collection and dissemination is essential to facilitate a balanced approach to crime prevention. A full assessment of available statistics and their suitability for decision making for crime prevention needs is required.