Information for Graffiti Prevention Applicants
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information for Graffiti Prevention Applicants</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective strategies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information for Graffiti Prevention Applicants

Overview

This document is provided to assist potential applicants for the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Grants Program to develop comprehensive graffiti prevention programs based on good practice. This program contributes to the Government’s Safe Communities, Healthy Neighbourhoods Strategic Priority.

To develop an effective graffiti prevention program, organisations must first understand the graffiti problem in their area by accurately assessing the issue in the local context. Information, such as graffiti reporting and removal data or community consultation, can help to identify the extent and nature of the problem. Understanding the type of graffitist prevalent in your area is important. Graffitists often have different motivations and intentions when doing graffiti. For instance, taggers are generally quick and prolific and their intent is more aligned to property damage, whereas muralists may only complete one piece over a longer time period and have more pride in their work.

Interventions targeted at modifying their behaviour should therefore account for this.

The graffiti prevention strategies outlined below have been shown to work when implemented over the long-term in combination with other strategies. Providing interventions at different levels of the graffiti management spectrum, comprising both reactive and proactive strategies, will have the most benefit. An effective graffiti prevention program would ideally include:

- primary prevention strategies to prevent it from occurring at all (e.g. early intervention, making changes to the built environment);
- secondary prevention strategies aimed toward at risk groups or individuals (e.g. diversionary programs); and
- tertiary prevention strategies (e.g. auditing, reporting and response systems such as rapid removal strategies, and supporting law enforcement).

Local collaboration is also important. If police, other government agencies, private companies and the community work in partnership, it encourages local ownership of the problem and increases the likelihood of success.

1 Halsey, M. Graffiti Culture Research Project Summary Report (2001)
Effective strategies

Early intervention/prevention

Developmental crime prevention or early intervention seeks to reduce risk factors and build protective factors at significant periods of transition early in an individual’s pathway to crime, in an attempt to reduce the onset, frequency or severity of offending. These transition periods vary depending on the crime problem you are addressing, but may include pre-adolescence or the transition into high school or primary school. For graffiti prevention, an example might be applying the Department of Education and Child Development’s graffiti module of the Crime Prevention Education curriculum package to 9-10 year old local school students.

Deterrence and diversion

- **Caution and diversion of young people already involved in graffiti**: This can involve providing education about the effects of graffiti, intervention in their offending behaviour through opportunities for personal development, and/or introducing them to more legal and socially acceptable options that engage their time or talent (e.g. employment, art).

- **Legal art programs/provision of legal public spaces**: Such programs can provide formal, legal options for graffitists and install pride and ownership of a space by young people of a particular area. This is more likely to be effective if tackling muralists rather than taggers and engaging the right target group who have status in the local graffiti or youth culture. The Office of Crime Prevention Western Australia Toolkit can provide good practice Graffiti Urban Art Project Guidelines to assist in developing a project of this type.

- **Community based orders**: These may be used to get graffiti offenders to clean up graffiti, thereby educating them about the effects and costs of graffiti e.g. Detag SA (http://www.corrections.sa.gov.au/newsletters/2009/November%2009/)

Community engagement

Engaging the community in graffiti prevention is an important strategy. Such strategies can be aimed at:

- Increasing the presence, knowledge or skills of crime preventers by:
  - empowering the community to take action to prevent graffiti occurring on their own property (including preventing repeat occurrences) through awareness of relevant physical design strategies or providing support to council or other organisations (e.g. by reporting graffiti or participating in removal teams)
  - increasing their vigilance in problem areas and access to legitimate activities in those areas

- Decreasing the presence and activity of crime promoters perhaps through involvement of local youth (who may be likely to provide the negative peer environment in which such activity is promoted or recognised) in strategy development and implementation or alternative youth programs and facilities. This may even shift some of these individuals into becoming crime preventers.

- Publicity that heightens public awareness of the graffiti problem and local actions to address it can gain community support for the graffiti prevention program and raise offender awareness of community involvement. This in turn can reduce perceptions of disorder and increase perceptions of ownership over local areas for both offenders and the wider community.

---


Auditing, reporting and response systems
Accurate, efficient and uniform auditing, reporting and response systems across an area, such as hotlines and rapid removal processes, can build intelligence for identification and apprehension of offenders as well as reducing the rewards for offenders.

Supporting sanctions and law enforcement
Approaches that support sanctions and the enforcement of penalties for offenders can include, for instance, local councils photographing tags to assist with building civil cases against offenders, intelligence gathering and identification of repeat offenders for apprehension, and working with retailers to support appropriate responses to legislative requirements around graffiti implements such as spray cans.

Hotspot targeting
Areas repeatedly targeted by graffiti can be the focus of physical design programs, such as situational crime prevention (Appendix A) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED; Appendix B). Target hardening and target removal can help, for instance, in reducing graffiti through the use of graffiti resistant paints or covering access to a wall with plants (target hardening) and removal of unused signs subject to graffiti (target removal).

In addition, the following website provides a framework for situational crime prevention strategies:
Appendix A

Situational Crime Prevention

Definition
Situational crime prevention theory is based on the foundation that much of the crime committed is contextual and opportunistic. Situational crime prevention focuses on the following three elements:

1. the importance of the opportunity for the crime to occur.
2. the settings of the crime.
3. preventing the occurrence of crime.

Intention
The intention of the theory is to reduce the opportunities for specific categories of crime by increasing the associated risks and difficulties and reducing the rewards.

Situational crime prevention embodies opportunity reducing measures that:

- Are directed at highly specific forms of crime – intervention measures must be tailored to highly specific crime types within broader crime categories. This is because different offences are the result of different opportunity groups and may require specific interventions.
- Involve the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment in an organised and permanent way as possible – intervention measures reflect changes in the environment that are designed to affect the assessments made by ‘would be’ offenders about the risk and rewards associated with committing specific crimes.
- Make crime more difficult, risky, less rewarding and excusable for offenders – the judgements made by potential offenders include some evaluation of the moral costs of offending. Therefore making it harder for offenders to excuse their actions may sometimes act as an effective crime prevention tool.
- Make no reference to any particular crime category. It is assumed that situational crime prevention can be applied to any kind of crime not just those classed as ‘opportunistic’.

A classification of 25 situational crime prevention techniques arranged into five key categories has been developed to further explain the concept of Situational Crime Prevention.

Theorists
R. V. Clarke
J. Eck
M. Felson
R. Wortley
## Techniques of situational prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase the Effort</th>
<th>Increase the Risks</th>
<th>Decrease the Rewards</th>
<th>Reduce Provocations</th>
<th>Remove Excuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Harden</strong></td>
<td><strong>Extend guardianship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conceal targets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reduce frustrations and stress</strong></td>
<td><strong>Set Rules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient queues and polite service</td>
<td>Take routine precautions: go out in group at night, leave signs of occupancy, carry phone</td>
<td>Off-street parking</td>
<td>Expanded seating</td>
<td>Rental agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering column locks and immobiliser</td>
<td>“Cocoon” neighbourhood watch</td>
<td>Gender-neutral phone directories</td>
<td>Soothing music/ muted lights</td>
<td>Harassment codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-robbery screens</td>
<td>Tamper-proof packaging</td>
<td>Unmarked bullion trucks</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel registration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control access to facilities</th>
<th>Assist natural surveillance</th>
<th>Remove targets</th>
<th>Avoid disputes</th>
<th>Post instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entry phones</strong></td>
<td>Improved street lighting</td>
<td><strong>Removable car radio</strong></td>
<td>Separate enclosures for rival soccer fans</td>
<td>“No Parking”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic card access</td>
<td>Defensible space design</td>
<td><strong>Women’s refuges</strong></td>
<td>Reduce crowding in pubs</td>
<td>“Private Property”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baggage screening</td>
<td>Support whistleblowers</td>
<td><strong>Pre-paid cards for pay phones</strong></td>
<td>Fixed cab fares</td>
<td>“Extinguish camp fires”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screen exits</th>
<th>Reduce anonymity</th>
<th>Identify property</th>
<th>Reduce emotional arousal</th>
<th>Alert conscience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ticket needed for exit</td>
<td>Taxi driver ids</td>
<td>Vehicle licensing and parts marking</td>
<td>Controls on violent pornography</td>
<td>Roadside speed display boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export documents</td>
<td>School Uniforms</td>
<td>Cattle branding</td>
<td>Enforce good behaviour on soccer field</td>
<td>Signatures for customs declarations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic merchandise tags</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prohibit racial slurs</td>
<td>“Shoplifting is stealing”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deflect offenders</th>
<th>Utilise place managers</th>
<th>Disrupt markets</th>
<th>Neutralise peer pressure</th>
<th>Assist compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street closures</td>
<td>CCTV for double-deck buses</td>
<td><strong>Monitor pawn shops</strong></td>
<td>“idiots drink and drive”</td>
<td>Easy Library checkout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate bathrooms for women</td>
<td>Two clerks for convenience stores</td>
<td><strong>Controls on classified ads.</strong></td>
<td>“It’s Ok to say No”</td>
<td>Public lavatories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disperse pubs</td>
<td>Reward vigilance</td>
<td>License street vendors</td>
<td>Disperse troublemakers at school</td>
<td>Litter bins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control tools/ weapons</th>
<th>Strengthen formal surveillance</th>
<th>Deny benefits</th>
<th>Discourage imitation</th>
<th>Control drugs and alcohol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Smart” guns</td>
<td>Red light cameras</td>
<td><strong>Ink merchandise tags</strong></td>
<td>Rapid repair of vandalism</td>
<td>Breathalysers in pubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabling stolen cell phones</td>
<td>Burglar alarms</td>
<td>Graffiti cleaning</td>
<td>V-chips in TVs</td>
<td>Server intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrict spray paint sales to juveniles</td>
<td>Security guards</td>
<td>Speed humps</td>
<td>Censor details of modus operandi</td>
<td>Alcohol-free events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(from Cornish & Clarke 2004)
Appendix B

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Definition

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is based on the premise that people’s behaviour within the urban environment, particularly in terms of the possibility of offending, is influenced by the design of that environment.

Intention

CPTED involves the application of a range of design initiatives and principles to an area or site to minimise the potential for that site to facilitate and support criminal behaviour.

The design initiatives and principles encompass, but are not limited to:

- the overall layout and visual appearance of an area
- the design, positioning and materials used for buildings and other physical structures
- lighting and landscaping
- the interaction and encouragement of legitimate activities of the particular space, and
- the ongoing maintenance of all aspects of the particular space.

CPTED principles are ideally incorporated at the design stage of a development, but can also be applied to existing developments and areas where crime and safety are a concern.

The theory of CPTED involves the design of the physical space in the context of the:

- needs of bona fide users of space (physical, social and psychological needs)
- normal and expected (or intended) use of space (the activity or absence of activity planned for the space), and
- predictable behaviour of both bona fide users and offenders.

The 3-D approach to space assessment (developed by Timothy Crowe, 2000) provides a simple guide to use to evaluate space and determine how appropriately a space is designed and used. The approach is known as the “3-D approach” since it encompasses 3 concepts relating to the use and design of space, commencing with the letter ‘D’: designation; definition; and design.

- Designation e.g. How is the space intended to be used? What is its purpose?
- Definition e.g. Is it clear who owns the space? Does the definition of the space support its intended use?
- Design e.g. Does the design conflict with or support the intended use?

The CPTED theory also refers to a number of common principles that can be applied to the physical environment to provide practical improvements for crime prevention purposes. Most common are the following nine CPTED principles of:

1. Lighting e.g. Is the lighting sufficient?
2. Sightlines e.g. Can you see clearly what is ahead?
3. Ownership of Space e.g. Is it clear as to whether the space is public or private?
4. Entrapment Spots e.g. Are there recessed areas that could be locked?
5. Signage e.g. Are there signs to show you where to seek emergency assistance?
6. Movement Predictors e.g. Is it easy to predict a pedestrian’s route?
7. Landscaping e.g. Does the landscaping signify the division between public or private?
8. Activities / Mixed Use e.g. Is there much activity in the area, during the day or night?
9. Maintenance & Management e.g. Is there evidence of graffiti or vandalism?

Theorists

- J. Jacobs
- O. Newman
- C. Jeffrey
- T. Crowe
Crime Prevention and Community Safety Grants

Phone: (08) 8204 9849
Email: AGDPolicy@sa.gov.au
Mail: Policy & Research
      Attorney-General's Department
      GPO Box 464
      Adelaide SA 5001