Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2014 - 2017
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Summary

Local Government is a key stakeholder in the development and implementation of crime prevention programs at a community level (Homel 2004). This is largely due to research that shows a great deal of crime is very local in nature. Local government therefore is well placed to assist law enforcement and other agencies in crime prevention responses across the community and to work with individuals, businesses and state and federal Government.

The Bankstown City Council Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan outlines Council's approach to promoting community safety and crime prevention. The plan endorses community partnerships and holistic approaches as an effective way for Council to promote community safety and crime prevention in our local government area (LGA). The plan focuses primarily on the planning and delivery of projects that promote a community in which residents and visitors feel safe to live, work, travel and socialise.

Regrettably, while Bankstown has comparatively low levels of crime according to NSW Police Force and NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) statistics, this is not reflected in the general community's perception and fear of crime. Therefore the Bankstown City Council Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will not only address local safety and crime priority, but also inaccurate perceptions.

The Bankstown City Council Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is complemented by the Bankstown Crime Prevention Strategy which addresses two local crime priorities which have been identified by Council, NSW Police Force - Bankstown Local Area Command (LAC) and BOCSAR. This strategy will be submitted to the NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice to be endorsed.
Introduction to Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is not just the responsibility of the police and other law enforcement agencies, moreover it is the obligation of all levels of government, private companies and individuals themselves to actively promote programs and strategies that will prevent the occurrence of crime.

The Australian Institute of Criminology estimates crime costs the Australian community up to $36 billion a year, which is more than four percent of the national gross domestic product (Rollings 2008). This figure includes expenditure on policing, the court system, prisons and the security industry. The figure also estimates the concealed costs of crime including medical costs for victims, lost productivity and intangible costs such as loss of quality of life. Crime and fear of crime can impact on what you do, where you live, how you travel, when you travel, who you are with, and where and when you relax. In short, the effect of crime in the community can significantly impact your quality of life.

Criminal Offences as a percentage of the total cost of crime

Since criminal behaviour is connected with a large number of risk factors it is helpful, when considering crime prevention, to look at a range of factors rather than just one. As Weatherburn (2001:8) observes, ‘crime is not the result of any single factor or combination of factors, it makes no sense to seek to control crime by any single strategy or set of strategies, a mix of strategies will always be appropriate’.
Models of Crime Prevention

Local government, being the closest level of government to the community, can play a key role in promoting community safety. However, while the Council has direct jurisdiction to deal with some of the environmental issues that can facilitate crime, it does not have the overall authority to directly influence issues such as improving education, protecting children from child abuse, increasing police resources and providing jobs for young people. In developing this plan, Bankstown City Council requires the further development of partnerships with State and Federal Government departments, community organisations and residents in order to address some of the social and environmental issues that underpin the causes of crime in Bankstown.

There are four key models of crime prevention, each of which takes a different approach. Some models bring about quick results, while others can take years to result in lower crime. Each model has strengths and weaknesses. Ideally, the best way to prevent crime is to use a combination of strategies from each model.

'Developmental' Crime Prevention

Developmental crime prevention directly focuses on the links between childhood development and experience and later delinquency. The parenting factors related to delinquency are associated with parental neglect, parental conflict and discipline, deviant parent behaviours and attitudes and those associated with family disruption (Weatherburn 2001:4). Early intervention strategies include parenting programs, school enrichment initiatives, pre-school regimes and improvements in transition to school arrangements (Clancy).

'Social' Crime Prevention

Social crime prevention theory focuses on the relationship between crime and disadvantage. Hogg and Brown (1998:191) recognise that within social theory both situational measures and the role of police remain crucial, however the theory shifts the emphasis from defending communities to strengthening and developing their social capital. Social crime prevention recognises that increased social and family support, employment, health, educational and recreational resources and opportunities reduces the likelihood of an individual committing crime.

Strengthening neighbourhoods helps prevent crime. Local communities that have strong bonds and where people know each other are less prone to experience crime. Enhancing ‘social capital’ or the relationships between people can be beneficial in protecting people from crime (Clancy).

'Situational' Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention involves designing space to make crime harder to commit and to increase the likelihood of offenders being caught. It includes Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), as well as installation of security devices, enhanced lighting and increased surveillance to reduce opportunity. (Clarke 2001:2) cites research that has shown that opportunity is a cause of crime and that ‘changes in opportunity directly affect the number of crimes committed’. Situational crime prevention can be as simple as installing locks and alarms, increasing surveillance through lighting and making buildings harder to enter, damage or hide near (Clancy).
‘Criminal Justice’ Crime Prevention

In addition to Police, there are a range of criminal justice agencies and programs that aim to reduce and prevent crime. The goal of the criminal justice system is not only punishment and retribution, but to prevent someone from re-offending. Many "post release" programs recognise that targeted support can reduce the risk of an offender returning to custody.

Other examples include more police, improved arrest rates, harsher penalties and prison (Clancy).
Intervening with Crime

Bankstown City Council's strategic direction involves planning, developing and implementing programs and projects which represent three levels of intervention - primary, secondary and tertiary.

Primary prevention directly identifies social and physical conditions that provide opportunities for crime (Lab 2007:25). Prevention strategies include environmental design, security, Neighbourhood Watch, community education, and social prevention measures aimed at alleviating conditions such as unemployment and poverty.

Secondary prevention ‘engages in early identification of potential offenders and seeks to intervene prior to the commission of illegal activity’ (Lab 2007:26). This includes programs which work in schools, with delinquents and at-risk persons, community policing and social development to recognise and address factors which may lead to crime.

Tertiary prevention refers to programs which ‘deal with actual offenders and involves intervention to prevent future offending’ (Lab 2007:27). Therefore used after a crime has occurred in order to prevent successive incidents. These strategies are linked to the criminal justice model of crime prevention and include responding to known anti-social behaviour, diversion and rehabilitation programs to reduce the need to reoffend.

Underlying Council’s approach is the need for the combination of short, medium and long term interventions aimed at strengthening communities, creating partnerships and targeting high impact crimes.
Bankstown City Council and Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Bankstown City Council's Community Plan 2023 is Council's management plan. It is intended to guide our efforts strategically and operationally in the future, setting policy direction and highlighting key initiatives. From the Community Plan 2023 there is also the five year Delivery Program 2013-2017 which identifies 27 Term Achievements which Council has committed to. One of these Term Achievements directly refers to the Bankstown Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will directly contribute to the values, mission and vision for the City.

Each year, Council conducts surveys to monitor the community's satisfaction with its operations. These surveys assist Council in developing services and allocating resources on the basis of identified community priorities. Council also undertakes many other surveys and forms of consultation to assist in guiding its decisions. The community has consistently ranked 'Community Safety', in particular personal and property safety, as an important priority.

Council is committed to improving perceptions of safety and fear of crime in our community. Since 1998, when it implemented its first Community Safety Plan, Council has taken significant steps to address the issues of crime and safety in Bankstown, including:

- Employment of a full time Community Development Officer for Community Safety and Crime Prevention. In addition to this position, Youth Crime Prevention Officers have also been funded on numerous occasions to work on specific Youth Crime Prevention Projects;
- A Community Safety Committee has been established forging strong partnerships between the Council, NSW Police Force - Bankstown LAC and other local agencies. A number of working parties have also been created to address issues as they emerged;
- Safety Audits have been conducted at various locations across the LGA including Villawood, Yagoona, Sefton, Chester Hill, Punchbowl, Revesby, Panania, East Hills, Deepwater Park, the Civic Precinct in Bankstown and the UWS Campus at Milperra;
- A number of community events are run annually aimed at raising awareness of safety issues such as the Safety Expo and White Ribbon Day;
- Community Safety Information Brochures have been produced and translated into community languages;
- Participation in the local Liquor Licensing Accord; and
- Council staff are trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and a Safety and Security Development Control Plan has been developed.

The responsibility for implementing the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan will primarily be that of Council's Community Development Officer- Community Safety and Crime Prevention. However implementation of this plan will significantly involve other departments of Council and partners in the local community, including the Community Safety Committee and Bankstown LAC.
In addition to community safety and crime prevention, Council remains committed to improving road safety in our local streets. Road safety initiatives are supported through Council's Road Safety Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018, and are implemented by Council's Road Safety Officer.

A number of activities listed in this plan are ongoing safety initiatives implemented by Council to improve safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime in our neighbourhood.
Community Safety Committee

The Bankstown Community Safety Committee supports holistic approaches to crime prevention in the Bankstown area. The committee’s motto encompasses this idea, ‘Safer Communities, Everybody's Business’.

The membership of the committee includes:
- The Mayor of Bankstown City;
- Councillors of Bankstown City;
- NSW Police Force – Bankstown LAC;
- Fire and Rescue NSW;
- Bankstown branch of the State Emergency Service;
- Representatives from local community organisations; and
- Bankstown residents.

The Bankstown Community Safety Committee is action-focused and aims to be proactive in addressing local community safety concerns to ensure residents and visitors feel safe and secure. The committee promotes community pride and supports social justice. Other roles of the committee include:

- Researching and consulting with our community - As well as investigating and monitoring the latest trends in crime in our LGA, it consults with the local community to most effectively target and reduce crime;
- Coordination - By liaising with key stakeholders such as residents, Councillors, Bankstown LAC, the NSW Attorney General's Department, local businesses and community groups, it works to reduce opportunities for crime and to improve safety;
- Advocacy - The committee lobbies various levels of government for the provision of resources needed to reduce the incidence of crime including sufficient police numbers and community services that focus on crime prevention;
- Information - Through various forms of media and brochures it raises awareness about community safety initiatives and tips on both safer community and business practices; and
- Education - Planning and implementation of resources and opportunities for awareness raising, to encourage an informed community.
Demographic Profile of Bankstown

Bankstown is a large and vibrant City covering 78 square kilometres and is located approximately 22 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD. The City is known for the diversity of its people, strong sense of local identity, strategic location between some of Sydney's primary transport corridors, and its easy accessibility by road and rail.

Bankstown is bounded by the local government areas of Liverpool, Auburn, Fairfield, Parramatta, Strathfield, Canterbury, Hurstville and Sutherland. The Georges River defines the City's southern boundary, with major arterial roads including Hume Highway, Canterbury Road, M5, Stacey Street, Woodville Road and Rookwood Road which traverse the LGA.

The City of Bankstown is a residential, commercial and industrial area which incorporates 25 suburbs including: Bankstown; Bankstown Aerodrome; Bass Hill; Birrong; Chester Hill; Chullora; Condell Park; East Hills; Georges Hall; Greenvale; Lansdowne; Milperra; Mount Lewis; Padstow; Padstow Heights; Panania; Picnic Point; Potts Hill; Punchbowl (part); Regents Park; Revesby; Revesby Heights; Sefton; Villawood (part); and Yagoona. Each of the suburbs has its own unique characteristics, natural features, built environment and community profile.

The City of Bankstown is one of the most multicultural LGAs in Australia. It is currently home to 196,974 (ABS ERP 2013) residents, speaking more than 120 different languages. The city is characterised by its affordable housing and commercial space, excellent transport and distribution links, large expanses of native bushland, and quality sporting facilities, recreational parkland and reserves.

Bankstown is a culturally diverse society. In 2011, 37.6% of the population were born overseas, and 34.5% were from a non English speaking background.

Birthplace of Bankstown Residents


In the above graph, ‘Other’ includes New Zealand, United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, India and Philippines.

In 2006, 18.1% of people were aged over 60 with that figure increasing to 18.6% by 2011. The proportion aged 85 and over also rose from 1.6% to 2.1%.

The number of young people aged 0-24 years remained high at 35.7% in 2011 but had slightly decreased from 2006 when it was at 36%. Overall the age structure of the population has not changed substantially suggesting a strong and sustainable
community. Analysis of the age structure in Bankstown shows it has a larger proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 24) as well as a larger proportion of people in the older age groups (60+) compared to the Sydney Statistical division*.

Age of Bankstown Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-11</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-84</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 &amp; over</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Bankstown is a large regional economy. In 2012 it contributed approximately $8.18 billion towards the national Gross Domestic Product. An estimated 15,500 businesses operate from Bankstown, employing 76,770 people. More than 90% of Bankstown businesses are small to medium enterprises with workforces of less than 20 staff. They are predominantly active in retailing, wholesaling, property and business services, construction and manufacturing.

The largest industry sectors for employment are in manufacturing (23.1% of total jobs), health care and social assistance (10.3%), retail (10.0%) and education and training (9.2%). The major differences between the jobs held by the population of Bankstown City and Greater Sydney are:

- A larger percentage of people employed in transport, postal and warehousing (8.3% compared to 5.3%);
- A larger percentage of people employed in manufacturing (11.4% compared to 8.5%)
- A smaller percentage of people employed in professional, scientific and technical services (5.7% compared to 9.6%)
- A smaller percentage of people employed in financial and insurance services (5.1% compared to 6.6%).


Bankstown is a relatively low income area, with 28.1% of households falling into the lowest household income quartile (earning $0 - $614/week) in 2011, compared to 28.9% in 2006. There were 19.5% of Bankstown households in the highest quartile.
(earning more than $2,273/week) in 2011 down from 20.4% in 2006. Individually, only 17.1% of the population earned a high income ($1,094 per week or more), and 58.3% of the population earned less than $560 per week. This is in comparison with 28.4% and 46.8% respectively for the Sydney Statistical Division*.


In 2011, 75,607 local residents aged over 15 were employed in Bankstown or elsewhere. Of these, 59.4% were employed full time and 30% part-time, with 7.6% unemployed compared to 7.4% in 2006. There is a larger proportion of unemployed in Bankstown compared to the Sydney Statistical Division*, which at the time of the census was 5.7%.

Employment Status of Bankstown Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Time</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Stated</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g. Indigenous and Separated/Divorced). A higher score on the index means a lower level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage.
The SEIFA index of disadvantage lists Bankstown as the 4th most disadvantaged Council in Sydney with a rating of 931.7

| 10 Most Disadvantaged Local Government Areas in the Sydney Statistical Division* |
|-----------------|---------|
| Fairfield       | 854.0   |
| Auburn          | 916.7   |
| Canterbury      | 922.0   |
| **Bankstown**   | 931.7   |
| Campbelltown    | 944.8   |
| Liverpool       | 951.0   |
| Wyong           | 951.7   |
| Blacktown       | 968.5   |
| Botany Bay      | 975.7   |
| Wollongong      | 979.6   |
| Parramatta      | 983.7   |


Within the Bankstown LGA, the SEIFA varies greatly. The North Ward has the highest rating of disadvantage, followed by East Ward, West Ward and then South Ward. The North, East & West Wards are below the state and national average however the South Ward is above the national average.

In Bankstown LGA, Villawood has the lowest rating of disadvantage while Padstow Heights, Milperra and Picnic Point are all rated less disadvantaged than the Sydney Statistical Division* average.


* The Sydney Statistical Division is made up of 13 Statistical Subdivisions comprising of:
  - Gosford – Wyong
  - Outer Western Sydney
  - Central Western Sydney
  - Northern Beaches
  - Eastern Suburbs
  - Lower Northern Sydney
  - Inner Sydney
  - Central Western Sydney
  - Blacktown
  - Canterbury – Bankstown
  - St George – Sutherland
  - Fairfield – Liverpool
  - Outer South Western Sydney
Crime Profile

The Bankstown Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan aims to address crime categories that are quantitatively and qualitatively identified as concerns in the Bankstown LGA.

The Bankstown LGA crime profile was developed with the assistance of information provided by the NSW Police Force – Bankstown LAC, Australian Bureau of Statistics, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Australian Institute of Criminology and local community consultations and research.

It should be recognised that reported crime data does not always reflect the full extent of crime, as it only reflects offences reported to or detected by police and those Police accept as genuine (Matka 1997).

The plan also encompasses community feedback on safety concerns presented to Bankstown City Council during its annual social planning workshops and local safety surveys at community events.

It is evident to see perceptions of crime in the area and actual crimes are not reflective of each other. In 2013, surveyed residents advised:

- 62% feel safe in their own neighbourhood;
- 78% feel safe at home alone during the day;
- 70% feel safe at home alone after dark;
- 79% feel safe shopping in the Bankstown CBD during the day; and
- 48% feel safe shopping in the Bankstown CBD after dark.

Council sees these results as positive however doesn’t overlook the fact there are still members of the community that, at times, whether during the day or night, do not feel safe.

Surveyed residents advised Council they felt the biggest concerns for the Bankstown LGA were gang-related violence such as drug dealing, shootings as well as break & enter and theft. However, in contrast, their individual personal safety concerns were for road safety and child safety.

Of the residents surveyed, 70% haven’t been a victim of crime within the last five years and of those who had, the majority were incidents of break and enter or assaults.

Fear of crime and perceptions of crime clearly outweigh the actual crime rates in Bankstown. There are many factors that can contribute to this however, one of the main reasons for this is due to metropolitan media coverage of crimes across the South Western Sydney region.
Crime Trends in Bankstown

Presented in the table below are the numbers of recorded incidents in the major crime categories across Bankstown in 2013 with comparison figures for 2009. The table also presents the percentage of the crime trend, either upwards or downwards per year between the five years.

Also presented below is the Bankstown LGA’s ranking in comparison to the 156 LGAs in NSW. Of the major crime categories listed below, there are only four categories in which Bankstown is ranked in the top 20 of all LGAs in NSW.

Bankstown LGA has seen a significant downward trend in the following crime categories:

- Assault (non domestic violence related);
- Arson;
- Break and enter (dwelling);
- Malicious damage to property;
- Motor vehicle theft;
- Robbery; and
- Steal from person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Crime Category Recorded Incidents in Bankstown Local Government Area 2009 compared to 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abduction and kidnapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault (domestic violence related)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault (non domestic violence related)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackmail and extortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break &amp; enter (dwelling)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break &amp; enter (non dwelling)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious damage to property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual offences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from motor vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steal from person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, accessed May 2014

The crime trends presented below were identified (by BOCSAR 2012 & 2013) as a crime category in Bankstown which has either:
- Had a significant upward trend over the past five years; or
- Was ranked in 2013 in the top half of all LGAs in NSW for the rate of incidents per 100,000 people.

The following tables represent trends in recorded crime, across five years from 2009 to 2013, in the Bankstown LGA.

**Assault: Domestic Violence Related**

![Graph showing number of domestic violence-related assaults in Bankstown from 2009 to 2013.]

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of domestic violence-related assault increased throughout NSW, including in Bankstown. Bankstown is currently above the NSW average and in 2013 was ranked 48th in the NSW.

**Drug Offences**

![Graph showing number of drug offences in Bankstown from 2009 to 2013.]

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of drug offences in NSW experienced an upward trend, including Bankstown. However, Bankstown is currently below the NSW average and in 2013 was ranked 70th in NSW.

**Fraud**

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Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of fraud in NSW increased. Bankstown is significantly higher than the NSW average, having the third highest ranking in NSW in 2013.

**Harassment / Threatening Behaviour / Private Nuisance**

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of harassment/threatening behaviour/private nuisance in NSW remained stable. However, Bankstown experienced an upward trend and is currently higher than the NSW average with a ranking of 52 in NSW in 2013.
**Motor Vehicle Theft**

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of motor vehicle theft in NSW fell, including in Bankstown. However, Bankstown remains significantly higher than the NSW average and in 2013 had a ranking of 10th in NSW.

![Motor Vehicle Theft Graph]

**Receiving and handling stolen goods**

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of receiving and handling stolen goods in NSW increased, including in Bankstown. However, Bankstown is currently below the NSW average and in 2013 had a ranking of 43rd in NSW.

![Receiving and Handling Stolen Goods Graph]
**Robbery**  
*(Including incidents of robbery without a weapon, robbery with a firearm and robbery with a weapon not a firearm)*

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of robbery decreased in NSW, including in Bankstown. However, Bankstown is currently higher than the NSW average and in 2013 had a ranking of 20th in NSW.

**Sexual Offences**  
*(Including incidents of sexual assault, indecent assault and other sexual offences)*

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of sexual offences remained stable in NSW. Bankstown experienced an upward trend in the rate of recorded incidents of indecent assault however sexual assault remained stable. Overall, Bankstown is currently lower than the NSW average and in 2013 was ranked 106th for sexual offences.
Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of steal from motor vehicle in NSW decreased. Bankstown experienced an upward trend, is currently higher than the NSW average, with a ranking of 46th in NSW in 2013.

**Steal from Person**

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of steal from person in NSW fell, including in Bankstown which has a significantly lower level than the NSW average and in 2013 had a ranking of 63rd in NSW.

The following crime categories and community concerns have been selected as the priorities for the Bankstown City Council Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2014 – 2017. In-depth profiles of these categories are provided as well as projects and action plans to be implemented over the course of the Plan.

- Domestic violence;
- Sexual offences;
- Harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance;
- Fraud;
- Motor vehicle theft;
- Steal from motor vehicle;
- Youth Crime Prevention and Safety Programs; and
- Addressing perceptions.

It should be noted if crime categories are not listed, it does not mean they will not be considered over the course of the plan, nor that they are of little importance to Council.
Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a significant concern within the Bankstown LGA. While in 2013 the LGA was not ranked in the top 30 in NSW in the BOCSAR data for the category of 'Assault- DV Related', anecdotal evidence from local services suggests there are low rates of reporting of domestic violence in our community. Some of the reasons for this include lack of awareness of domestic violence services as well as language, cultural & socio-economic barriers.

The issue has been discussed at Council's annual social planning workshops and at monthly Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee meetings. Local services and residents have consistently raised concerns about the rate of domestic violence in the community. Given the high cultural diversity of residents in the Bankstown LGA, there is significant need for language-specific and culturally appropriate domestic violence initiatives. Of particular concern is the need for such programs to:

- Raise awareness that domestic violence is a crime in Australia;
- Increase understanding on what is defined as domestic violence and how to report it; and
- Address the inadequate level of support services available for victims to access.

The following table is based on BOCSAR statistics from 2013 for incidents of domestic violence per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>521.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>460.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>449.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown</td>
<td>470.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Average</td>
<td>391.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>411.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathfield</td>
<td>322.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland</td>
<td>168.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

Below is a table indicating a year-by-year breakdown of the number of domestic violence-related assaults in Bankstown between 2009 and 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of DV Related Assaults in Bankstown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BOCSAR (2013)
January 2008 to December 2012
Assault - domestic violence related, Bankstown Local Government Area
Statistically significant increase over the 60 month period.
The average annual percentage change was 7.6%

It is evident to see there has been an increase in reported incidents of domestic violence in Bankstown over the past few years. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research states there has been an annual average percentage increase of 7.6% of recorded incidents of domestic violence related assault in Bankstown. As domestic violence remains a highly under reported issue, this rise in reported incidents is not entirely seen as a negative crime trend.

The increase in reported incidents may be partially due to the community awareness and education programs run through the It’s Time To Talk Campaign over the past few years. These programs included helping General Practitioners, child care workers and community workers to better identify victims and families experiencing domestic violence.

Events such as White Ribbon Day are primarily targeted at men and encourage them to not commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. White Ribbon Day in Bankstown has a strong presence, with events including men’s workout sessions, male youth performance showcases, white ribbon making workshops in local high schools with male students and, more recently, the successful White Ribbon Tug O’ War Cup.

It is evident in the graph above, during the Oct-Jan recording period, there is a common pattern of increased reports of domestic violence-related assault followed by a sudden decrease of reports in the short time afterwards. This could be due to multiple factors such as the end of year, increased social functions, additional day light hours and stressful times around Christmas holidays, however the awareness raised over White Ribbon Day could be a contributing factor to this also. The following action plans aim to reduce domestic violence across the LGA and increase awareness of the impacts on families as well as promote cultural change in men of all ages.
Target Offence: Domestic Violence
Project: It's Time to Talk.
Aim: To increase awareness about domestic violence and services in the local community.
Rationale: Council recognises the importance of making free and up-to-date information on domestic and family violence accessible to the community.
Objective: To increase awareness and reporting of domestic violence in the community.
Lead Agency & Partners: Bankstown City Council, Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, Canterbury City Council and Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee.
Expected Outcome: Increased awareness of identifying domestic violence victims and increased reporting of incidents of domestic violence to Police and local services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct professional development seminar/training for local workers and community leaders, such as religious leaders, to help identify domestic violence victims and how they can assist, refer or report.</td>
<td>Attendance at seminar</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Pending funding</td>
<td>• Conduct professional development seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey of seminar participants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Target Offence: Domestic Violence**  
**Project:** Domestic Violence Resources.  
**Aim:** To provide local services and residents with up-to-date and relevant information in various community languages.  
**Rationale:** Approximately 35% of the population of Bankstown LGA come from countries where English is not the first language (ABS 2011).  
**Objective:** To provide local services and residents with up-to-date, relevant information.  
**Lead Agency & Partners:** Bankstown City Council, Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and It’s Time to Talk Committee.  
**Expected Outcome:** Increase in reporting of domestic violence and knowledge of local services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Utilise Council’s digital media and technology to provide up-to-date and online resources which explain what is domestic violence, provide information on local domestic violence services and explain ways in which it can be reported. | Analysis of digital media statistics (e.g. number of website hits, number of links, and Facebook likes and tweets on the subject etc) | Jan-Jun 2015 | Operational | • Regular website updates  
• Review website data to monitor use of site and information accessed |
| Develop, update and translate resources for distribution to residents and services. | Number of resources distributed  
Number of organisations using resources  
Council to review pre and post campaign data to assess any increase in reported domestic violence incidents with police and local services | Annually | Operational | • Printing and distribution of resources  
• Translation of resources  
• Review Police and local services data to monitor levels of reporting |
Sexual Offences

While Bankstown is ranked 106th in NSW by BOCSAR in 2013 for sexual offences, and the number of incidents is lower than the state average, there has still been a 12.8% per year increase over the past five years.

The following table is based on BOCSAR Statistics from 2013 for sexual offences per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate of in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

There were no hotspots identified for this crime category however 56.3% of incidents have taken place in a residential home, 10.9% on a road/footpath. 66.8% of incidents take place on a weekday with 53.4% at night (BOCSAR).

Below is a table indicating the number of sexual offences in Bankstown.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)
Harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance

While Bankstown is ranked 52nd in NSW by BOCSAR in 2013 for this category, there has still been a 7% per year increase over the past five years. This is a broad crime category and includes the police incident categories of intimidation (includes stalking), telecommunications offences, threats against police, riot and affray, unlawful assembly, and violent disorder to name a few.

The following table is based on BOCSAR Statistics from 2013 for sexual offences per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

![Bar chart showing sexual offences per 100,000 people across different locations]

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

There were no hotspots identified for this crime category however 72.7% of incidents took place in a residential home, 7% on a road/footpath and 6% in retail/wholesale. 45.1% of recorded incidents were domestic violence-related and 6.6% were alcohol-related. It is more common for incidents to occur on a week day (67.8%) and during the day time (63.5%) (BOCSAR).

Below is a table indicating the number of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance incidents in Bankstown.

![Bar chart showing number of harassment/threatening behaviour/private nuisance incidents in Bankstown over years]

Source: BOCSAR (2013)
**Target Offence:** Domestic and Family Violence.  
Sexual offences & harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisance.

**Project:** LoveBites  
**Aim:** To provide a safe environment in which young people can talk about domestic and family violence and sexual assault.  
- To promote and model respectful relationships for young people.  
- To raise awareness about domestic and family violence and sexual assault - its prevalence and forms.  
- To bring about attitudinal change in relation to domestic and family violence and sexual assault.  
- To challenge gender stereotypes, attitudes, values and social institutions that perpetuates male violence against women.  
- To deconstruct the myths that exist in local communities and society generally on domestic and family violence and sexual assault.  
- To introduce young people to local service providers in an informal environment.

**Rationale:** Early intervention and education can assist in reducing the incidents of these offences as well as increase the reporting of incidents, as currently both offences are said to be under reported crimes.

**Objective:** To educate youth about healthy relationships, domestic and family violence and acceptable and unacceptable attitudes and behaviours inside and outside the home towards family, friends and strangers.

**Lead Agency & Partners:** Bankstown City Council, NSW Police Force - Bankstown LAC, local community organisations trained in LoveBites Facilitation.

**Expected Outcome:** Increased knowledge by local young people about the prevalence of domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Undertake LoveBites workshops in local schools to educate youth about domestic and family violence and sexual assault prevention. | • Evaluations at school workshops  
• Annual safety survey | Quarterly | $1000    | • No of workshops facilitated |
Fraud

As BOSCAR statistics indicate, fraud is a growing problem within the Bankstown LGA. Bankstown LAC report that, in 2007, more than 70% of cases of fraud in Bankstown related to fail to pay for petrol. Due to the relatively stable price of petrol over the last two years, this rate dropped to 32% in 2012 and 22% in 2013 (Mai 2014).

The crime category of fraud also covers deception offences, counterfeit currency and making/using false instruments.

The following table is based on BOCSAR Statistics from 2013 for incidents of fraud per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate of in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

Statistics show 66.6% of fraud incidents occur within retail/wholesale, 12.8% in financial institutions and 9.1% in a residential home. 70% of incidents happen on a weekday with 58.4% during the day time.

Below is a table indicating the number of fraud incidents in Bankstown over the past five years.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)
Target Offence: Fraud
Project: "Anti-Theft Screw" Campaign
Aim: To improve awareness about registration plate theft and reduce incidents of fraud across the LGA.
Rationale: Stolen registration plates are used to disguise vehicles in other crimes. In Bankstown LAC, fail to pay for petrol accounts for approximately 22% of incidents of fraud (Mai 2014).
Objective: To achieve a reduction in the number of registration plates stolen from vehicles.
Lead Agency & Partners: Bankstown City Council & Bankstown LAC.
Expected Outcome: Reduction in theft of registration plates from motor vehicles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raise awareness about registration plate theft through information stalls, involving giving away sets of anti-theft screws to residents.</td>
<td>Review police data pre and post audit recommendations to assess impact of changes on rates of theft</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Existing Resources</td>
<td>• Distribution of screws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Advertising campaign in local papers and through community groups/ networks to raise community awareness about registration plate theft and other forms of fraud. | Level of media coverage                                           | Jan – Jun, Annually | $1,000 | • Review media coverage  
• Review Police and local services data to monitor levels of incidents |
Target Offence: Fraud  
Project: Business Safety Seminar  
Aim: To give owners and operators of small and medium-sized businesses accurate information about the types and prevalence of crime affecting the local business community.  
Rationale: The cost of crime, both financial and psychological, against small and medium-sized businesses each year is substantial. Crime against local businesses affects the whole community.  
Objective: To educate local businesses about crime prevention strategies.  
Lead Agency & Partners: Bankstown City Council, Bankstown LAC and Bankstown Business Advisory Service.  
Expected Outcome: Improve business safety practices across the LGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Conduct a seminar for local businesses involving presentations from local police on business safety practices and crime prevention | Attendance at seminar  
Survey of seminar participants | Jan – June, Annually | $2,000  
BCC | • Organise seminar  
• Review survey information |
| Distribution of Business Safety resources | Number of resources distributed | Jan – June, Annually | $1,500  
BCC | • Distribute resources |
Motor Vehicle Theft

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) reports a significant drop in the number of vehicles being stolen (145,000 in 1998/99, 72,000 in 2006/07 and 57,000 in 2012/2013). Bankstown’s rate of motor vehicle theft has also fallen from 970 in 2009 to 680 in 2013 however it is the 10th highest in NSW.

Since 2006, Council has run the annual Operation Bounce Back (OBB) program through the NMVTRC which has positively impacted on the reduction of motor vehicle theft. In 2011/12, Bankstown had 590 incidents of motor vehicle theft involving vehicles over 11 years old. That figure fell by 27% in 2012/2013 to 421, one of the highest reductions for all LGAs participating in OBB.

The following table is based on BOCSAR statistics from 2013 for incidents of motor vehicle theft per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

Police data indicates Bankstown, Greenacre, Yagoona, Condell Park and Bass Hill are the hot spots for motor vehicle theft within the LGA. These areas have large commuter and shopping car parks where vehicles are left unattended for extended periods of time. 50.5% of motor vehicle theft takes place on a road/footpath and 17.7% in a car park. Below is a table indicating the number of motor vehicle theft incidents in Bankstown.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)
Steal from Motor Vehicle

In 2013, Bankstown was ranked the 46th highest LGA in NSW for Steal from Motor Vehicle. According to crime trend data produced by BOCSAR in 2013, the number of incidents over the past five years has increased by 2.5% annually.

The following table is based on BOCSAR statistics from 2013 for incidents of steal from motor vehicle per 100,000 people and compares Bankstown to the overall rate in NSW and surrounding LGAs.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

BOCSAR data indicates hot spots are Panania, Milperra, Bass Hill, Bankstown, Chester Hill, Greenacre, Chullora and Yagoona, as well as most train stations. These areas have quite streets as well as large commuter and shopping car parks where vehicles are left unattended for extended periods of time. 39.5% of steal from motor vehicle incidents takes place on a road/footpath, 31.9% from a residential home and 20.5% in a car park.

Below is a table indicating the number of steal from motor vehicle incidents in Bankstown.

Source: BOCSAR (2013)

The following action plans aim to improve vehicle safety and security across the LGA in reducing and preventing motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles.
Target Offence: Motor Vehicle Theft and Steal from Motor Vehicle

Project: "Safer Car Park" Campaign

Aim: To identify design issues that may create opportunities for motor vehicle theft to occur and to address them using crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles in an attempt to reduce the rate of motor vehicle theft incidents.

Rationale: Approximately 20.5% of vehicles stolen in Bankstown are stolen from car parks. This project intends to identify what factors are contributing to making specific car parks regular targets of motor vehicle theft (BOCSAR 2013).

Objective: To raise awareness of motor vehicle theft in the Bankstown LGA and to achieve a 15% reduction in the number of motor vehicles stolen from targeted Council car parks over the period of the Plan.

Lead Agency & Partners: Bankstown City Council and Bankstown LAC.

Expected Outcome: Reduction in theft of motor vehicles within targeted Council car parks. It is also expected the rates of steal from motor vehicle offences will be positively affected as a result of this project.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Time Frame</th>
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<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| In partnership with Police, Council will conduct CPTED audits of targeted Council car parks. The audits will inform the environmental changes that may need to be made to enhance the safety and security of the car park. | Council will review pre and post audit data to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft. | Jan – June 2015       | Funding required will be based on CPTED recommendations | • Pre audit statistics  
• Conduct the audits  
• Implement the most appropriate recommendations of the audits  
• Post Audit statistics - review Police data to monitor a reduction in offences |
| Submit request for the design of the signs. Install/update signs in targeted Council car parks displaying car safety tips. | Council will review pre and post installation of signs data to assess impact of program on rates of motor vehicle theft. | July 2015 – Dec 2015 (Monitoring timeframes to coincide with above) | $3,000 Signage and Installation | • Consult the audit recommendations for the most useful position/ location of signs  
• Install the signs  
• Review Police data to monitor a reduction in offences |
| Conduct education campaign in targeted Council car parks to raise awareness about vehicle security, including information display and leaflet drop on windscreens. | Council will review pre and post campaign data to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft. | April 2015 – June 2016 | $250 Printing $1000 Promotional items | • Develop car safety information flyer  
• Conduct information display in targeted car parks  
• Distribute flyers  
• Review Police data to monitor a reduction in offences |
| Review number of cars not following "Safer Car Park" principles in targeted council car parks. | Assess number of car park users implementing “Safer Car Park” principles. | April 2015 – June 2016 | $250 Printing | • Audit cars in car park  
• Send letters/leaflet drop on windscreen to vehicle owners not following park smarter principles |
**Target Offence:** Motor Vehicle Theft  
**Project:** Operation Theft Deterrent  
**Aim:** To increase community awareness about theft prevention and the benefits of vehicle security.  
**Rationale:** Bankstown LGA is ranked the 10th highest state in NSW for Motor Vehicle Theft (BOCSAR 2013)  
**Objective:** To raise community awareness about motor vehicle theft prevention and securing their vehicle.  
**Lead Agency & Partners:** Bankstown City Council.  
**Expected Outcome:** Reduction in theft of and from motor vehicles as well as an increase in community confidence and knowledge of how to reduce the risk of them being targeted.

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<th>Milestones</th>
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</table>
| Provide 50 vouchers for approved installations of car alarm systems to residents with vehicles at a high risk of being stolen. | Council to obtain pre and post campaign data through BOCSAR to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft. | Jan- Jun 2015 | $20,000 Pending funding | • Review crime data to assess high risk theft areas  
• Residents registration for car alarm vouchers  
• Survey of registered residents |
| Provide 100 car club lock vouchers to residents with vehicles at a high risk of being stolen. | Council to obtain pre and post campaign data through BOCSAR to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft. | Jan- Jun 2015 | $3000 | • Review crime data to assess high risk theft areas  
• Residents registration for Club lock vouchers  
• Survey of registered residents |
| Conduct education campaign in targeted areas to raise awareness about vehicle security. | Council to review pre and post campaign data to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft. | Jan-Jun 2015 | $1000 Promotional Items  
$300 Printing | • Distribution of vehicle security information and car safety tips  
• Review Police data to monitor a reduction in offences |
| Advertising campaign in local papers and through community groups/networks to raise community awareness about motor vehicle theft. | Council to review pre and post campaign data to assess any reduction in the rate of motor vehicle theft.  
Level of media coverage | Jan-Jun 2015 | $5000 Advertisement costs | • Review Police data to monitor a reduction in offences |
**Target Offence: Steal from Motor Vehicle**

**Project:** Operation Tool Safe

**Aim:** To increase community awareness about theft prevention and increase the chances of stolen items being recovered.

**Rationale:** Goods that are easily resold are least likely to be recovered. By making it as hard as possible for items to be resold and enabling Police to identify property, chances of getting valuables back to the owner are increased.

**Objective:** To raise community awareness about theft from motor vehicles and reduce the number of incidents.

**Lead Agency & Partners:** Bankstown City Council and local community organisations.

**Expected Outcome:** Reduction in theft from motor vehicles and an increase in recovered stolen goods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measures</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Engraving tradesmen’s tools with business name and contact details. | Council to obtain pre and post campaign data through BOCSAR to assess any reduction in the rate of steal from motor vehicle. Obtain information from Bankstown LAC in regards to recovered stolen goods. | Annually | $5000 | • Review crime data to assess high risk theft areas  
• Residents registration for engraving  
• Survey of registered residents |
Youth Crime Prevention and Safety Programs

Over the past few years, Council has been dedicated to running programs for young people who either live, work or study in the Bankstown LGA. Council’s commitment can also be seen in the recruitment of a Youth Crime Prevention Project Officer who operates in the Community Planning and Development Team.

This position has coordinated projects in partnership with local community and government organisations such as:

- **Midnight Basketball Bankstown Program (2011 – current)**
  Midnight Basketball is a program to help ‘at risk’ local young people to identify and embrace positive attitudes. The program is run on Saturday nights to provide young people with safe activities to participate in on the weekends in a motivating environment to prevent boredom and involvement in criminal activities.

  Dinner and compulsory life skills workshops along with tournament basketball games run from 7.30pm until midnight. Participants are provided with safe transportation home via a Midnight Basketball bus, provided in-kind by local community organisations. Currently, this program is run for 12-18 year olds over an eight-week period with two tournaments per year.

- **Twilight Soccer Program (2012 – Current)**
  Twilight Soccer was inspired by the success of the Midnight Basketball Program. Running on a similar model, Twilight Soccer engages young people, aged 12-16 years, in Bankstown and is run over a six-week period with two tournaments per year.

- **U-Turns for Youth Program (2010 – 2012)**
  The aim of the U-Turns for Youth Program was to deter at risk young people from committing motor vehicle theft and stealing from motor vehicles. The program provided a hands-on training course in practical aspects of automotive mechanics, for young people identified as being at risk of committing motor vehicle offences. The course was accompanied by workshops on a range of life skills, including anger management, drug and alcohol abuse, self esteem and team work.

Other youth safety related initiatives include the Streetwise Skateboarding Workshops and Competitions run in partnership with Skateboarding Australia. These workshops are run to encourage local young people to learn to skateboard and utilise local skate parks. Workshops are for all ages and skill levels and also educate participants about skate park etiquette and safety. Workshops and competitions have created a better atmosphere within the skate parks and have provided opportunities for local skate park users to gain responsibility and empowerment through involvement in planning competitions with local youth services.

Council endeavours to continue with the current youth crime prevention and safety initiatives as well as seek further opportunities and funding to facilitate additional projects for local young people.
Addressing Perceptions

It is clear from surveys conducted by Council, perceptions of crime in the area and actual crimes are not reflective of each other.

Since 1999, crime statistics in the Bankstown LGA have predominantly shown a downward trend. Bankstown has remained under the state's averages in most of the crime categories including sexual assault, break and enter - dwelling, break and enter - non-dwelling, steal from person and malicious damage to property. Despite this, there is a level of fear in a section of the local community, as the following Council survey results indicate:

- 62% feel safe in their own neighbourhood;
- 78% feel safe at home alone during the day;
- 70% feel safe at home alone after dark;
- 79% feel safe shopping in the Bankstown CBD during the day; and
- 48% feel safe shopping in the Bankstown CBD after dark.

Of the residents surveyed, 70% haven't been a victim of crime within the last 5 years and of those who have been a victim, majority of them were break and enter and assaults. In saying this, it is evident to see that the perceptions of crime in the area and actual crimes are not reflective of each other.

One of the greatest challenges facing Bankstown is the perception of safety and fear of crime within the LGA and, more prevalently, among ill informed people living elsewhere in Sydney. One factor is negative attention and coverage from the metropolitan media of South Western Sydney region, particularly of criminal offences, even if they are not occurring in Bankstown.

Fear of crime and perceptions of safety and crime can impact on residents' quality of life. To address these issues, throughout the timeframe of the Plan, Council and the Bankstown Community Safety Committee aim to work closely with local community organisations and media to develop positive promotion of the Bankstown community, including promotion of improved crime rates and results of local crime prevention projects.
**Project:** Local Safety Forums - Addressing Perceptions of Crime and Safety  
**Aim:** To reduce the fear of crime and increase perceptions of safety for residents across Bankstown by educating the actual crime statistics in local areas.  
**Rationale:** Despite statistics indicating Bankstown has comparatively low levels of crime, surveys conducted with residents indicate there are concerns with the levels of fear of crime and negative perceptions of safety.  
**Objective:** For residents and visitors to feel safe while in the Bankstown LGA and around their local neighbourhoods.  
**Lead Agency & Partners:** Bankstown City Council and NSW Police Force - Bankstown LAC.  
**Expected Outcome:** Increase positive perceptions of safety and decreased fear of crime.

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
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</table>
| To undertake local safety forums within each ward of Bankstown LGA to address the perceptions of crime and safety.  
  - Forums are to be conducted quarterly, rotating in each ward.  
  - Provide an opportunity for residents to identify local issues.  
  - Present local crime statistics, specific to the relevant ward/suburb.  
  - Brainstorm strategies for residents to implement to reduce the issue at a local level. |  
  - Pre and post surveys of forum participants  
  - Online residential perceptions of safety and crime survey | Quarterly | $2500 |  
  - Number of participants attending forum  
  - Positive changes in survey results |
**Current Safety Initiatives**

The Bankstown Community Safety Committee and Bankstown City Council support a number of ongoing safety initiatives. These projects include regular CPTED audits of shopping precincts, the community safety expo, the existing CCTV program and a number of community events which aim to raise awareness of crime problems and community safety issues within the LGA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Funding Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CCTV in Bankstown Plaza               | Maintenance of existing CCTV system                                    | -Increased sense of Security  
-Use of footage by Police                                                             | -Community Safety Officer  
-Bankstown Sports Club  
-Bankstown LAC                                                                      | Council Maintenance Budget                                                       |
| Community Safety Audits               | Prioritise sites for audits to be conducted across LGA in hotspots     | -Increased perception of safety  
-Reduced opportunities for anti-social behaviour  
-Encourage legitimate use of space                                                    | -Community Safety Officer  
-Bankstown City Council  
-Bankstown LAC CPO  
-Bankstown Community Safety Committee  
-Community Organisations  
-Residents  
-Councillors  
-Businesses                                                                          | Council Maintenance Budget                                                       |
| Community Safety Expo                 | Conduct interactive community safety expo                              | -Increased community awareness of local safety services  
-Provide opportunity for community to directly liaise with safety services          | -Community Safety Officer  
-Bankstown Community Safety Committee  
-Emergency and safety services                                                      | $8000                                                                        |
| Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly (SABRE) | Provision of smoke alarms or battery replacement to residents over 65, fragile or with a disability | -Reduction in potential for fire injuries/fatalities  
-Increased Fire safety awareness  
-Increased falls prevention in elderly, fragile or disabled | -Community Safety Officer  
-Fire and Rescue NSW                                                                | $1,500                                                                      |
| Community Safety Resources            | Production, translation or reprinting of community safety information e.g. safety brochures, contact number magnets, drug and alcohol information, fraud prevention | -Increased community awareness of local safety services                           | -Community Safety Officer  
-Bankstown Community Safety Committee                                                | $5,000                                                                      |
Safety Partnerships

Council supports a holistic approach to crime prevention. As such, it is involved in a number of ongoing safety partnerships and committees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Community Safety Committee</td>
<td>To develop projects in partnership with the community focusing on a holistic approach to community safety and crime prevention.</td>
<td>Bankstown City Council Councillors, Bankstown City Council staff, Bankstown LAC, Fire and Rescue NSW, State Emergency Service, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service, United Muslim Women’s Association local residents.</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Community Drug Action Team</td>
<td>Working to reduce the impact of drug problems by forging partnerships on local projects and identifying opportunities for improving services.</td>
<td>Bankstown City Council, Australian Red Cross, NSW Health, Bankstown LAC, Bankstown Community Resource Group.</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee</td>
<td>To provide opportunities for networking, information sharing, training, community education and raising awareness on the impact of violence against women.</td>
<td>Bankstown City Council, Bankstown LAC, Muslim Women’s Association, BCS Lifecare Counselling and Family Services, Mary’s Place, Department of Family and Community Services, Family Relationship Centre, Bankstown Women’s Health Centre, South West Sydney Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, Mission Australia, Bankstown Area Multicultural Network, Housing NSW.</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankstown Liquor Accord</td>
<td>To minimise harm related to alcohol consumption across the LGA.</td>
<td>Bankstown City Council, Officer of Liquor, Gaming &amp; Racing, Bankstown LAC and local licensees.</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


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Bankstown City Council (2010), Bankstown Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2010 - 2012


Mai, G, (2014) NSW Police Force, Bankstown Local Area Command, Intel Unit


NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2014)


# Appendix One: NSW BOCSAR Recorded Crime Statistics for Bankstown LGA

## NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2008-2012

### Number of recorded incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 24-month and 60-month trend and Local Government Areas rankings (for 2012)

#### Bankstown Local Government Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence group</th>
<th>Offence type</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2008</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2009</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2010</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2011</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2012</th>
<th>24-month trend</th>
<th>60-month trend</th>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>743</td>
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### NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2008-2012

**Number of recorded incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 24-month and 60-month trend and Local Government Areas rankings (for 2012)**

#### Bankstown Local Government Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense group</th>
<th>Offense type</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2008</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2009</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2010</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2011</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2012</th>
<th>24-month trend**</th>
<th>60-month trend**</th>
<th>2012 LGA Rank*</th>
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<td>105</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Stable</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>Possession and/or use of cocaine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>Possession and/or use of narcotics</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>151.3</td>
<td>354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>Possession and/or use of amphetamines</td>
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<td>27.5</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>Possession and/or use of ecstasy</td>
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<td>6.5</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Possession and/or use of other drugs</td>
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<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>Dealing, trafficking in cocaine</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9.0</td>
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<td>Drug offenses</td>
<td>Dealing, trafficking in narcotics</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<td>6.6</td>
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<td>Dealing, trafficking in amphetamines</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<td>76</td>
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Please refer queries for all other criminal justice matters to the NSW Police Force.
### NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2008-2012

**Number of recorded crime incidents and rate per 100,000 population, 24-month and 60-month trend and Local Government Areas rankings (for 2012)**

#### Bankstown Local Government Area

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<th>Offence group</th>
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<th>Rate per 100,000 population</th>
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<th>2010-2012 trend</th>
<th>2012 LGA Rank</th>
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<td>Escape custody</td>
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<td>Fail to appear</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Resist or hinder officer</td>
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<td>109</td>
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<td>7.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Transport regulatory offences | | 1,271 | 626.6 | 1,229 | 600.5 | 1,303 | 652.1 | 2,241 | 1,792.2 | 3,092 | 1,554.1 | Stable | 24.5% |

| Other offences | | 116 | 67.3 | 204 | 109.7 | 207 | 109.8 | 204 | 108.4 | 207 | 108.1 | Stable | Stable |

---

*For minor and miscellaneous, the data are counts of recorded victims, not crime incidents.*

**For the 24-month trend the annual percentage change is provided if the trend was significant.*

**For the 60-month trend the average annual percentage change is provided if the trend was significant.*

*Note that trend data are only calculated for Local Government Areas (LGA) with populations greater than 9999 people (2011 Census).*

*Ranking are only calculated for the major offences. Rankings are not calculated for other due to the low number of recorded victims per LGA.*

*The robbery and sex offence categories are combined because the numbers are too small within the individual categories to calculate reliable rate estimates.*

** Trend information is not calculated (nc) if at least one 12-month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents.

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**NOTE:** Data sourced from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research must be acknowledged in any document (electronic or otherwise) containing that data. The acknowledgement should take the form of Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.