'Knox is a place to feel safe and be safe'

Knox Community Safety Plan 2013-17

Executive Summary

Knox is a relatively safe place to live, work and participate in community life. This Plan addresses some areas of concern, builds on our community's strengths and will enable an enhancement of people's quality of life in Knox.

There's never been more interest in community safety than right now. And in 2013, governments and service providers at all levels are facing a generational shift in how to *realise* a safer community.

In simple terms, we've shifted from a '*someone will fix it*' world of 'public safety' to an environment in which governments and others *influence* and *foster 'a safer place to live'*.

This plan acknowledges that shift and recognises what roles Council play – alongside others – in the City of Knox.

'Knox is a place to feel safe and be safe.'

What does the Plan Acknowledge?

The shift in thinking, policy development and governance are captured in this inaugural *Knox Community Safety Plan 2013-17*. Through research and community engagement, the plan acknowledges:

- ✓ Key **crime prevention policy principles** that the whole sector has recognised
- ✓ **Links** with Council's **Vision** and **City Plan** that enable a safer place to live
- ✓ Priorities of greatest concern or **risk** in our community
- ✓ The complexity of crime prevention and how to **measure progress** towards a safer community

What role does everyone play?

Council is just one part of the solution. This plan charts the shift to a safer community by partnering with others, leading a holistic strategic approach.

Other providers are identified and their roles acknowledged. This plan demonstrates the ways in which Council partners with stakeholders, internal and external.

Council will remain a **leader** and **influencing partner** in a range of initiatives and areas of community safety. In some areas, Council will be a lead driver, and in others, a supportive partner.

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Mayor's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present the Knox Community Safety Plan 2013-2017.

Knox Council proudly works with our partners in the community to make our city a safe place. The Knox Community Safety Plan is one of the ways Council is responding, along with our partners to achieve the aspirations and objectives of the Knox City Plan 2013-17 to achieve 'Healthy, Connected Communities'.

In this 50th year since Knox first became a shire, we are proud to say our relationships with police, the community health sector and not-for-profit organisations have never been better. Those effective partnerships enable us to articulate the unique and complementary roles we all play in promoting and enhancing community safety.

Our City faces a number of challenges. This plan – the first of its kind for our City - supports a coordinated approach to addressing community safety and crime issues in Knox. It recommends activities that will both change the environment in which we live and reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. The plan outlines the key areas we want to focus on over the next four years, sets out the roles we all play, and how we achieve a place to feel safe and be safe in.

Council looks forward to working with stakeholders and the community to implement this plan and improve the conditions of community wellbeing in the Knox community.

I commend this plan to our community as a comprehensive guide to realising this aspiration in Knox.

Knox Council Mayor
Cr Karin Orpen

Knox Police Superintendent's Message

Victoria Police is proud to be a key partner in the Knox Community Safety Plan. This initiative provides clearly articulated guidance for all stakeholders who play an important role in keeping our community safe.

The strategic objectives of Victoria Police are outlined in our Victoria Police Blueprint 2012 -2015'. They include effective police service delivery; improving community safety and working with our stakeholders. To achieve our goals, one of our priorities is to help Victorians feel safe and be safe. We cannot achieve this alone which is why working with our stakeholders is critical to our success.

Victoria police is committed to forming partnerships to respond to complex community problems and we are pleased that the Knox City Council is working with us to achieve better outcomes for our community.

Every day, police members at Rowville, Boronia and Knox Police complexes are dedicated to serving the Knox community. Their role is not purely focused on response. Crime prevention and harm reduction is at the centre of their daily duties. The vital support received through the significant partnerships detailed in this plan will ensure that the best outcome can be achieved for the people of Knox. As part of our commitment, we will continue to engage with our stakeholders to ensure they have the requisite information and feedback to help us achieve our goals.

I applaud the Knox City Council for their progressive approach to community safety. Together, we can reduce crime and make a positive impact on a safer future for all people living, working and coming to Knox.

Superintendent
Graeme Arthur

2. Why have a Community Safety Plan?

2. 1 Community Safety in context:

Community Safety is the ability of people to go about their daily life with little fear of harm or injury. Crime and community safety are complex issues that are directly influenced by the actions and behaviours of the whole community.

Crime prevention is a method to address crime and community safety issues that brings about a sustainable reduction in crime.

This is the first Community Safety Plan (the Plan) for Knox and has been developed by Council together with key partners such as Victoria Police, Community Health Services, Neighbourhood Houses, community groups and representatives of the Knox community. It is important that community safety issues and crime prevention responses are identified early and implemented with the support of partners at the local level. This will allow a better understanding of issues impacting on neighbourhoods and provide increased opportunity for the community to have input into solutions.

2. 2 Approaches to Building Community Safety.

There has been a significant change at the Federal, State Government and Local Government levels from the more traditional community safety definition of protection from hazard or harm to a focus on community wellbeing.

For Council to effectively respond to this change, and the complex community safety issues that impact on wellbeing it was important to develop a sustainable community safety strategy and action plan to prioritise and guide this work in the City of Knox.

Coordination between all levels of government and community key partners will be critical to the implementation and success of the Plan. The Plan has been underpinned by public policy principles drawn from key Federal and State Government policy directions that will guide the work in Knox and aims to complement rather than duplicate Council's existing strategies and plans.

Knox Policy Principles for preventing crime and promoting safety:

Council recognises that:

- crime and the causes of crime are complex and require a multi-faceted approach to address the needs of specific locations and target groups;
- best practice and evidence-based solutions will deliver sustainable community safety results;

- committed leadership, sustainable partnerships, and consultation with all levels of government, business and communities are required;
- primary prevention and early intervention approaches to community safety issues are needed; and
- local community safety programs reinforced by higher-level strategic plans and policies will support better community wellbeing outcomes.

2. 3 How this Plan supports the Knox Vision and City Plan

The Knox City Plan 2013-2017 articulates a vision for the city that: "provides a picture of the future City that will deliver the lifestyle, jobs and industry, health and wellbeing desired by members of the Knox community." The work towards achieving this vision will not be possible if people do not feel safe where they live, work, and visit.

A key aspiration of the Knox Vision is a healthy, connected community where each member enjoys good health, both physically and mentally, feels safe, is connected to others and has access to excellent health and leisure facilities and services.

Community safety is a key objective for Council as identified in the Knox City Plan. It identifies that 'Healthy, Connected Communities' are communities which are "A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported." It outlines that this will contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of the Knox community.

3.   What role does everyone play in Community Safety?

A clear understanding of roles and responsibilities in community safety and crime prevention for Council, Victoria Police and the community is an essential part of enabling effective community outcomes.

The plan will enable a whole of community approach that supports:

- An improved level of collaboration to respond to community safety and crime.
- Improved community safety and prevention strategies by promoting good practice.
- Increased commitment to community safety and prevention across different professions, organisations and community settings.
- A better allocation of resources to achieve the greatest impact.

3. 1 What role does Knox Council play?

Due to strong links with community groups and organisations at the local level, Councils are well-placed to facilitate and drive crime prevention responses to address community safety issues.

In order to address the community safety priorities identified in this Plan the role of Council is focused on leading, partnering, and influencing, together with key partners, agencies and community. The response to these priorities will centre on crime prevention programs, community safety initiatives and

Influencing:
Advocacy, coordinating, reporting

Partnering
Program delivery, ducation, advice, promotional support, guidance

Leading the way:
Planning, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, local roads, crossings, research, local law enforcement
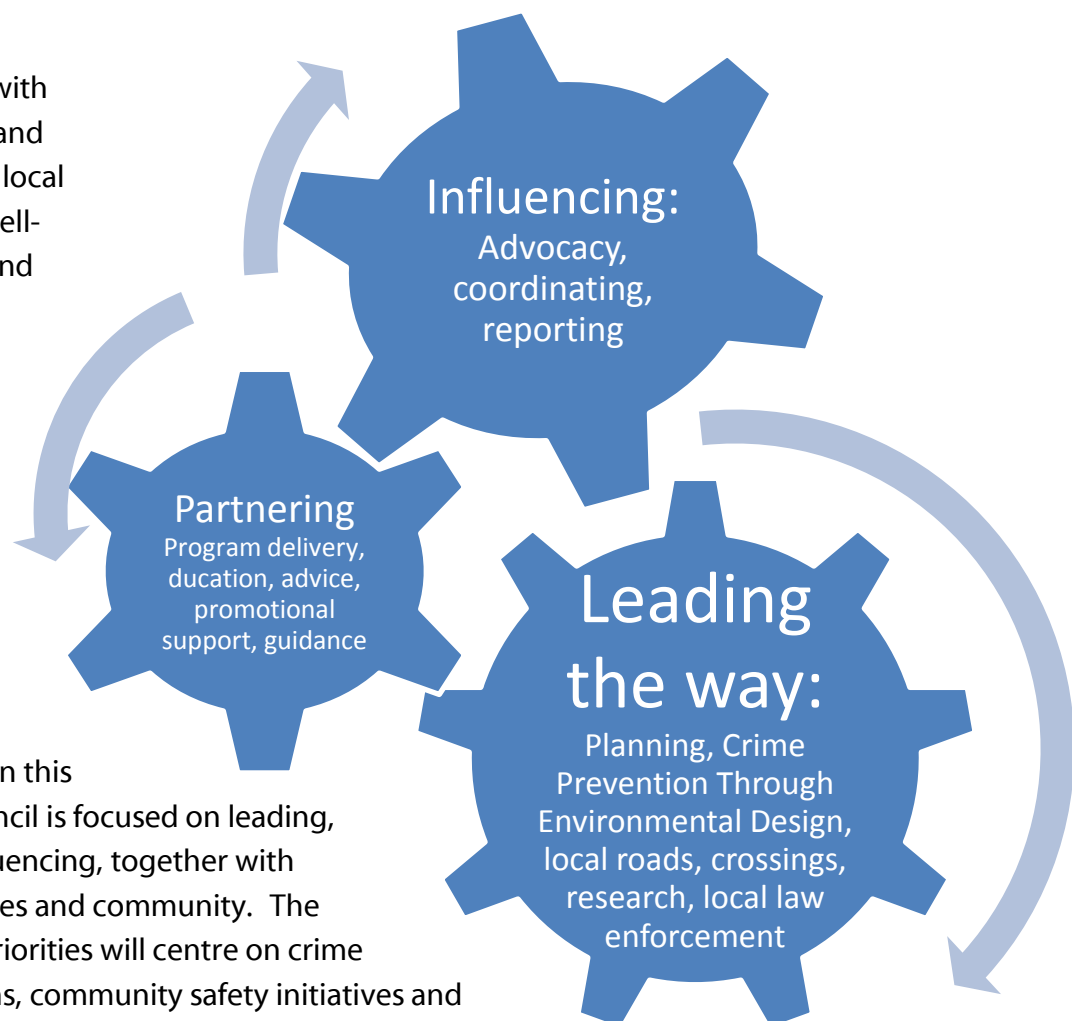
mobilising community actions. It is not the role of Council to respond to, and reduce the impact of these issues alone but it is the role of Council to contribute to outcomes with many key partners.

Council provides advice, support and programs to strengthen community safety in order that neighbourhood amenity is protected, people feel safe and enjoy public spaces and individual rights are preserved. Key activities include road safety, graffiti and vandalism and crime prevention and community strengthening.

3. 2 What role for Police?

The Strategic Plan for Victoria Police, *Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015*, is a document which describes how Victoria Police will approach police service delivery over the next three years. It provides a focus on improving community safety which aims to reduce localised crime and enhance perceptions of safety.

Council and Victoria Police together play an important role in planning and developing community safety and crime prevention initiatives and work closely with other government, local service providers and community to reduce crime and anti social behaviour.

3. 3 What role for community and stakeholders?

Community safety is a responsibility that all community members share. Crime prevention programs are more effective when the community in partnership with Council and Victoria Police, are involved in the development and implementation of responses.

Similarly, active community involvement in safety initiatives helps build communal knowledge and the sharing of accurate information in regards to local crime and safety issues. This can result in communities and partners being less influenced by sensationalised media reports focusing on community safety issues, and more focused on mobilising constructive community action.

4. Where are we at?

The City of Knox is located approximately 25 kilometres east of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD), has a number of shopping centres, railway stations, parks and reserves. It is a vibrant, family oriented area that is characterised by a range of strengths including a generally healthy population, high levels of community participation and volunteering, strong attendance at community events, good access to facilities and services, a range of community and support groups and numerous leisure and recreation opportunities.

As one of the most populous municipalities in Victoria, the City of Knox is a diverse community with approximately 154,000 residents living in eleven suburbs.

4. 1 What's happening on the ground – a snapshot of crime figures

Reported crime and perceptions of crime are important indicators of the level of local wellbeing.

To assist the development of the Plan, a Community Safety Profile was developed that provided an overview of crime and perceptions of safety in Knox. This Profile has informed the evidence base to develop community safety priorities. The following is a summary of the Profile data.

The crime rate in Knox has remained significantly and consistently below the State average for several years. Knox is a relatively safe place to live, work and participate in community life. The current crime rate per population is 27% lower than the rate at the start of the decade.

However, there are areas of general concern particularly in relation to young people who are overrepresented in crime data and is comparable to Maroondah and Yarra Ranges municipalities in the Eastern Region:

- People aged 10-20 account for 35.2% of those charged with criminal offences in Knox, yet this age group makes up just 15.5% of Knox's population. [1]
- This age group also makes up 14% of crime victims in Knox. [2]
- Over 33% of all attendances at hospital emergency departments for assault-related injuries incurred at home in Knox were by young people aged 10-24. [3]

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[1] 2011 Census Data and Victoria Police Crime Statistics 2011.

[2] Victoria Police local crime statistics 2011.

[3] Data drawn from Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset collated by Monash University Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit.

- Victorian Police data shows that Knox has the highest incidents of family violence in the Eastern Metro Region in particular involving alcohol and where children were present.

Current Crime Figures: 2007/08 – 2011/12

Criminal Offences 2007/08 - 2011/12
(rate per 1000)

	Knox 07/08	Vic 07/08	Knox 08/09	Vic 08/09	Knox 09/10	Vic 09/10	Knox 10/11	Vic 10/11	Knox 11/12
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2.39	3.44	2.63	2.98	2.49	2.74	1.62	2.57	1.90
Residential burglary	3.22	5.50	3.28	5.23	3.84	4.97	2.88	4.93	3.10
Drug Offences	2.36	2.71	2.26	2.78	2.07	2.65	1.92	2.65	2.21
Theft (shopsteal)	3.71	3.00	4.01	3.63	4.37	3.88	4.12	3.65	3.62
Assault	4.40	5.97	3.89	6.28	4.06	6.36	4.34	6.62	4.87
Property Damage	8.68	10.10	8.13	10.09	8.47	9.52	7.87	8.61	10.17

Family violence:

- Victoria Police data indicates that family violence incidents in Knox since 2000 have consistently been the highest in the outer eastern metropolitan region.

Reported family violence incidents
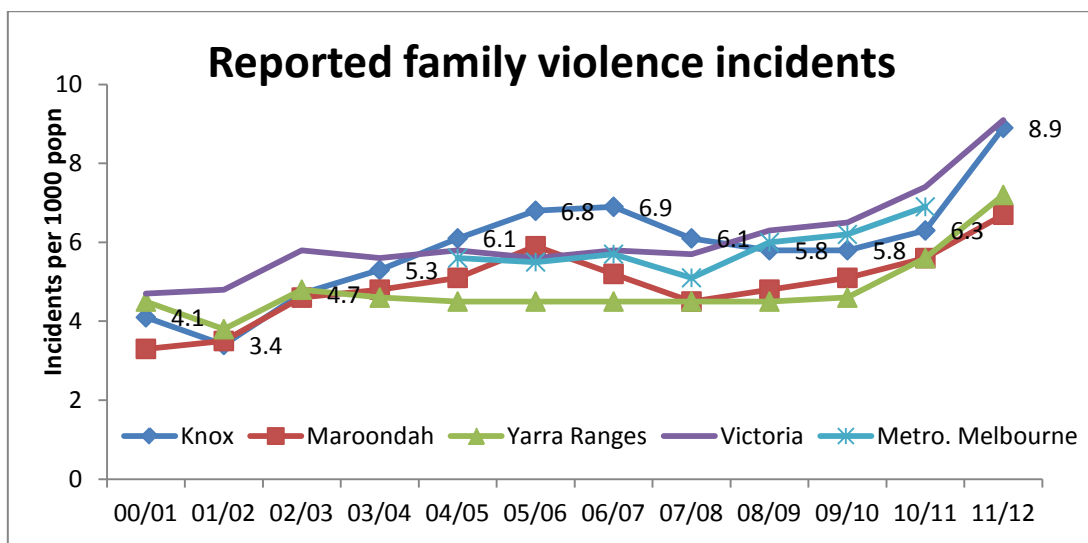
The Knox Community Safety Profile has also identified the following data relating to crime and community safety issues which has informed the development of community safety priorities for this Plan:

Alcohol and drug use by young people:

- A trend towards higher alcohol consumption levels amongst secondary school students in Knox compared to students in the eastern region and Victoria. (Source: Centre for Adolescent Health -Adolescent Health & Wellbeing Survey 2009)

Child abuse and neglect:

- The rate of child protection substantiations in Knox has increased over the past five years, from 3.4 per 1000 adolescents in 2005-2006 to 4.4 per 1000 adolescents in 2009-2010. (Source – Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Adolescent Community Profile, City of Knox, 2010).

- This rate continues to trend upwards when compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region (3.1/1000) and is similar to the rate across Victoria (4.4/1000)[4]. (Eastern Metropolitan Region includes: Yarra Ranges, Monash, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Boroondara, and Manningham Local Government areas)

Transport – related issues including hoon or dangerous driving

- Victoria Police perceptions of safety data for the last three years shows that the number one neighbourhood problem nominated by residents (76.4%) is hoon/dangerous driving; including burnouts, doughnuts, drag racing and excessive speeding. (Source – Victoria Police 'Perceptions of Safety and Crime and Safety Problems, Knox PSA, Corporate Reporting Unit, October 2011).

Illegal Graffiti

- Graffiti is declining in Knox, both in the number of graffiti incidents recorded, and more particularly in the number of square metres covered by graffiti.

- Despite the decline in graffiti incidents, this issue continues to have a significant impact on the community's perceptions of safety. (Source: Knox City Council annual Graffiti Audit 2009-2012)

Perceptions of safety

- Despite a significant reduction in crime rates, the community perceptions of safety indicate that there are areas where people feel unsafe, such as transport interchanges, walking after dark and public transport. (SOURCE: Victoria Police 'Perceptions of Safety and Crime And Safety Problems, Knox PSA', Corporate Reporting Unit, October 2011)

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[4] DEECD Adolescent Community Profile 2010

Mental Health

Mental health disorders are the second highest cause of death and disability (burden of disease) in Knox for both males and females. Mental health has a strong link with community safety issues such as family violence issues and child neglect. (Source: Knox Community Health & Wellbeing Profile 2009-2013.)

Problem gambling

Since 1992-93 $1,737,000 has been lost on Electronic Gaming Machine's in Knox, the 6th highest total for all Victorian municipalities. (Source – Productivity Commission 2010). The prevalence of problem gambling has a strong link with community safety and crime issues such as family violence, child neglect, mental health issues due to the financial stress of problem gambling.

4. 2 What do local people think about safety?

The largest and most significant community engagement project Knox@50 project took place from January 2012 to February 2013. This project involved many diverse community engagement opportunities for the community and provided feedback about what is driving change within the Knox community.

A key theme identified through this process was community safety both actual and perceptions of safety and particular issues such as: graffiti, hoon driving, road safety and cyber bullying are of concern to the Knox community. This plan and the Knox City Plan 2013-2017 respond to those concerns. Cyber bullying is also a key priority for the Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

4. 3 What are Council and other stakeholders doing about safety?

Council currently has several strategies that respond to community safety issues, including the:

- Knox City Plan 2013-2017;

- Knox Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2009-2013;

- Knox Youth Strategic Plan. 2012-2017;

- Knox Municipal Early Years Plan - Off to a Flying Start 2011-2015;

- Knox Healthy Ageing Strategy 2009-2013;

- Knox Arts and Cultural Plan 2012-2022;

- Knox Access and Inclusion Plan – for people with disabilities 2011-2015;

- City of Knox Emergency Management Plan;

- Knox Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 (Draft);

- Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women in our Communities Plan 2012-2014;

- Knox Multicultural Strategic Plan 2012-2017;

- Knox Livable Streets Plan 2012-2022;

- Knox Integrated Transport Plan; and

- Knox Open Space Plan 2012-2022.

Community safety issues are also being addressed through a number of initiatives and working groups, including graffiti management programs and the *Knox Safer Communities Group* - a collaboration of Victoria Police and Knox City Council staff with community safety and crime prevention expertise.

The *Knox Safer Communities Group* provides leadership on:

- Reducing opportunities for crime and improving perceptions of safety;

- Reducing fear in local neighbourhoods by implementing partnership responses to public space safety issues, particularly around perceptions of safety; and

- Delivering projects focused on crime prevention through environmental design principles that includes projects that focus on appropriate lighting, designing out "dark spaces", and enhancing public space through mural and public art projects.

The *Knox Safer Communities Group* will guide, support and provide expert advice to oversee the implementation of this plan. A revised membership, terms of reference and purpose for this Group will be developed to support the successful implementation of the Plan.

5. *What will this plan deliver?*

The Plan's objective is to guide actions undertaken by Council, key partners, the community, and organisations to address issues of real and perceived community safety through sustainable crime prevention programs.

Identified community safety priorities will be delivered using an evidence-based, partnership approach. The Plan will be progressively monitored, reviewed and evaluated to support the achievement of the best possible outcomes for the community.

5. 1 What we are aiming to achieve

The Plan aims to improve conditions of community wellbeing in the Knox community and recognises this will take a committed effort and strong leadership over a long period of time.

5. 2 Our community safety vision

Based on input from Knox community representatives and key internal and external partners, a shared vision statement for community safety has been developed as follows:

"Knox is a place to feel safe and be safe"

5. 3 Guiding Policy, Principles and Approaches

It is envisaged that Council and all key partners will embrace the following principles and approaches when responding to community safety priorities.

Council recognises:

- That crime and the causes of crime are complex and require different solutions to address issues in particular locations
- That best practice and evidence-based solutions will deliver sustainable results
- That committed leadership, sustainable partnerships, and consultation with all levels of government, business and communities is required
- The need for primary prevention and early intervention approaches
- That local programs reinforced by higher-level strategic plans and policies will support better community wellbeing outcomes.

Council and key partners will approach our work to:

- Promote community safety as a right of all people who live, work and visit Knox
- Encourage the community to take responsibility for their own safety, and the safety of others.
- Enable everyone who live, work and visit Knox to do so without fear, whether it is real or perceived, regardless of race, gender, status or diversity.
- Enable community members to be proud of our community.
- Encourage strategies and actions that value our community, and support each other to feel safe and empowered at home, in public, and in the workplace.
- Contribute to a respectful, resilient and nurturing environment.

5. 4 Community Safety Priorities

Community safety priorities for Knox were identified through a rigorous research, data analysis and community consultation process and reflect a range of issues that are relevant to many communities and some specific to the City of Knox.

The community safety priorities identified are:

- Young people and safety;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Child abuse and neglect;
- Family violence;
- Transport-related issues including 'hoon' or dangerous driving;
- Graffiti;
- Perceptions of safety;
- Mental health issues; and
- Problem gambling.

These community safety priorities are directly linked with the following strategies of the City Plan 2013-17:

- To improve personal and community safety and perceptions of safety in Knox, including addressing family violence and child abuse; and
- To improve mental health in the Knox community, strengthen awareness and understanding about mental health issues and improve the availability of support services.

The Plan recognises that community safety priorities do not occur in isolation and that there is an underlying relationship that links crime and community safety issues and their causes. The proposed community safety programs and activities have been developed to identify these links and to reduce their impact on a number of community safety priorities.

For example, the research affirms that the impact of harmful alcohol consumption has significant impacts on all of the community safety priorities with the possible exception of graffiti. If a concentrated effort is focused on extensively reducing the impact of harmful alcohol consumption then it would be expected there would be a reduction in other priority community safety issues.

A further detailed analysis of the causes and linkages between community safety issues is identified in the 'Community Safety Relationship Matrix' located at Appendix B.

5. 5 The Desired Community Safety Outcomes

For each community safety priority area there is a condition of wellbeing (or outcome) statement to provide guidance on what the Plan is aiming to achieve. These are outlined below:

1. **Young people are resilient, safe and connected to their community.**

Priority Area: Addressing young people and safety.

2. **A community that is resilient and strong.**

Priority Area: Addressing anti-social behavior.

3. **Children live in stable and supported families and communities.**

Priority Area: Addressing child abuse and neglect

4. **Families and partners have healthy, equitable relationships and live free from violence.**

Priority Area: Addressing family violence

5. **The community has safe and accessible transport options.**

Priority Area: Addressing safe and accessible transport.

6. **Public places and spaces are well maintained and the community feels safe.**

Priority Area: Addressing graffiti

7. **People have an increased awareness of their relative safety in Knox.**

Priority Area: Addressing perceptions of safety

8. **Young people and adults are resilient and have high levels of emotional and psychological wellbeing.**

Priority Area: Addressing mental health issues

9. **Families are supported to prevent problem gambling**

Priority Area: Addressing Problem gambling

Included at Appendix C (Community Safety Priorities Research) is an overview of the research outcomes and the story behind each community safety priority for Knox. This information will support monitoring and evaluation of the Plan and endeavor to increase a greater understanding of the link between program outcomes and a reduction in community safety issues.

5. 6 Objectives, Strategies and Actions.

In order to work towards achieving these outcomes, community safety action plans have been developed based on best practice crime prevention and community safety strategies. These Action Plans aim to:

- Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for young people;

- Deliver community safety education, strengthening and development programs;

- Address the built and natural environment through 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' to reduce opportunities for crime and increase personal safety and perceptions of safety;

- Increase community action and effort to respond to these community safety priorities; and

- Collect and analyse data to inform current and ongoing community safety work.

6. Action plans

6. 1 Young people are resilient, safe and connected to their community

Objectives:

- Foster and enable a change in community attitudes to the supply of alcohol and alcohol drinking culture particularly for adolescents.

- Increase the protective factors and decrease risk factors for young people in Knox.

- Improve community perceptions of young people.

*EMR = Eastern Metropolitan Region

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources Required
Knox Community Health Service	1. **To establish a community based program (Communities that Care) which focuses on risk and protective factors that impact and shape young people**	Work with partners to develop and implement a community based program (Communities that Care) which focuses on alcohol and drug awareness, schools, families and relationships.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Regional Justice Reference Group). Knox Youth Strategic Plan.	Knox City Council Communities that Care Ltd Secondary Schools Harrison Uniting Care Neighbourhood House Cluster for Knox Victoria Police Local Education Network (LENS) Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 1or 2, pending resources	New	Subject to external funding opportunities .

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources Required
Knox City Council	2. **Continue to engage young people in Knox to promote community pride and sense of belonging**	Increase access to sporting clubs and other local groups through further engagement with clubs and development of relevant programs with Knox City Council's Leisure Services Team.	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Knox Leisure Plan	Sporting Clubs, Community Groups Schools Knox Youth Council Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 1	Existing Ongoing	Delivered within current Council resources
		Connect with multicultural groups in Knox specifically young people focused on community safety issues to build better relationships with Police	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Knox Multicultural Strategic Plan.	Knox Leisure Works Schools Cultural And Linguistically Diverse Community Leaders/ organisations Multicultural Advisory Committee Migrant Information Centre Swinburne TAFE Communities Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Centrelink Knox City Council	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Victoria Police		Implement programs that engage and connect young people with local Victoria Police to build better relationships.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015.	Schools Knox City Council Knox Youth Council	Year 1	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources Required
Knox City Council	3. **Increase positive community views of young people**	Implement public education campaigns and activities with a focus on valuing young people in community life	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017.EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Victoria Police Knox Youth Council Media Schools	Year 1	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council	4. **Increase positive community views of young people cont'd**	Support and promote positive programs about young people through positive messages, stories, and positive youth development programs.	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017.EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Knox Youth Services Schools Local Media Victoria Police	Year 1	New ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council	5. **Implement best practice programs focused on reducing harmful alcohol consumption**	Deliver community education programs focused on behaviour change in relation to harmful alcohol consumption and supply to young people.	Victorian Government, Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013. EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Policy.	Victoria Police Sports Clubs Australian Drug Foundation Good Sports Program Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

6. 2 A community that is resilient and strong

Objectives:

- Increase skills and projects to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

- Decrease the incidents and the impacts of anti social behaviour in the community.

*EMR = Eastern Metropolitan Region

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with Other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. **Develop and implement programs focused on reducing the impact of anti social behaviour and increasing community safety**	Implement programs based on respect and positive participation in community life.	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Multicultural Strategic Plan. EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan	Service Clubs Seniors Clubs	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
		Explore opportunities to use role models to educate people about the impacts of anti-social behaviour.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan	Knox Youth Council Victoria Police	Year 3	Once Off	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with Other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Victoria Police		Promote the reporting of anti social behaviour to Victoria Police.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015.	Knox City Council Local media	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council	2. **Research, develop and implement initiatives targeted at reducing the impacts of harmful alcohol consumption and drug use in the community**	Using existing community events and activities as opportunities to inform the community on the impacts of harmful alcohol consumption and the impacts of drug use.	Victorian Government, Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013.	Schools Victoria Police Sporting Clubs Community/Cultural Organisations	Year 1	Ongoing	Within current Council resources
Eastern Metropolitan Region Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy Group		Promote and produce information for the community on available local support services and programs for problem alcohol and drug use.	EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Policy. Victorian Government, Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013.	EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Drug and alcohol service providers Medicare Local	Year 2	New Once Off	Would requires new resources (Project Officer and program funding) Could be delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with Other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	3. **Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design initiatives**	Investigate opportunities for public art and temporary uses at or near transport interchanges to generate interest, increase civic pride and promote a sense of safety.	Victorian Government, Safer Design Guidelines For Victoria. Knox Open Space Plan. Knox Livable Streets Plan.	Metlink Department of Transport	Year 3	New Once Off	Would requires new resources (Project Officer and program funding)
Knox City Council		Continue to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design initiatives to reduce crime and anti social behaviour through the Knox Planning Scheme.	Victorian Government, Safer Design Guidelines For Victoria. EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan	Safer Communities Group	Year 1	Existing Ongoing	Seek resources through capital works process for locations on Council property.
Lead Organisation	**Strategies**	**Actions**	**Links with Other Plans & Policies**	**Partners**	**Commencing**	**New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities**	**Resources**

Knox City Council		Support and advise private property owners to implement Crime Prevention Through Environment Design principles for new and upgrade development projects.	Victorian Government, Safer Design Guidelines For Victoria. EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan.	Traders Hotels Clubs Knox Liquor Accord Victoria Police Community Groups	Year 2	Existing Ongoing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council	4. **Research, Advocacy and Planning**	Map, location and density of alcohol outlets in Knox including bottle shops and sporting clubs. Map and collect data overlaid on liquor outlets in relation to assaults to assist in collaborative planning programs with key partners.	EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Policy.	Victoria Police EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Knox Liquor Accord Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 1	New Once Off	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
		To seek funding to strengthen the Knox Liquor Accord.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victorian Government, Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013.	Knox Liquor Accord Victoria Police Victoria Commission for Gambling & Liquor Regulation Peak organisations as identified Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 1	New Ongoing	Subject to new resources – external and/or internal (Project Officer and program funding)

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with Other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
		Develop and implement Council policy and guidelines for Council owned facilities leased to Community Groups that hold a liquor license to identify opportunities to reduce impacts of harmful alcohol use change.	Knox Leisure Plan. Good Sports Program. Knox Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	Knox City Council Sporting clubs Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered within existing Council resources.
Knox City Council		Establish a tool to monitor alcohol related assaults incidents and develop appropriate responses for alcohol related community issues with critical partners.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Alcohol and Drug Other Drug Eastern Metropolitan Region Working Group.	Victoria Police EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council		Advocacy to State Government re increased planning controls and robust social impact assessment criteria for liquor outlet density.	Victorian Government, Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-2013.	EMR Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategy Group Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 2	New Once Off	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

6. 3 Children living in stable and supported families and communities

Objectives:

- Increase community understanding and awareness on the signs and impacts of child abuse and neglect.

- Develop improved data and understanding on the underlying causes of child abuse and neglect.

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. **Develop community education programs**	Utilising the Knox City Council Green Foot Flicks Program to develop a project linking substance abuse with child abuse and neglect.	Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017.	Knox Youth Council Victoria Police	Year 2	Existing Ongoing	Within current Council and partner resources
Knox City Council	2. **Research, Advocacy and Planning**	Conduct further research on the underlying causes for home assaults on 15-19 year olds.	Victorian Government, Because Mental Health Matters Policy.	Victoria Police Knox Youth Service provider network Medicare Local Headspace	Year 3	New Once Off	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council		Advocate to the State Government (Child First) to develop an education package for new parents on the signs and impacts of child abuse and neglect.	NA	Migrant Information Centre Child First	Year 2	New Once Off	Within current Council and partner resources

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing, Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Anglicare		Advocate to develop targeted community education and awareness programs that increase understanding and awareness of child abuse and neglect.	Victorian Government, Because Mental Health Matters Policy.	Harrisons Uniting Care Salvation Army Department of Human Services Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee Migrant Information Centre Knox City Council	Year 2	New Ongoing	Within current Council and partner resources
Knox City Council	3. **Continue to support existing initiatives**	Continue implementing the Municipal Early Years Plan *Off to a flying Start 2011-2015*, to support and empower families.	Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	Community Partners	Year 1	Existing Ongoing	Within current Council resources.

6. 4 *Families and partners have healthy, equitable relationships and live free from violence*

Objectives:

- Promote gender equity and a 'zero tolerance' to family violence in the community.

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. **Develop community education programs targeting the impacts of family violence that build respectful relationships, skills and influence social norms, attitudes and behaviours**	Deliver community education re the prevalence and impacts of family violence and encourage increased reporting to Victoria Police.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women Project Womens Health East Migrant Information Centre Multicultural community organisations Community Support groups Family violence counseling services	Year 2	New Ongoing	Explore opportunities to partner with Womens Health East to deliver this key initiative.

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council		Develop a series of key messages and images to support a community education campaign targeting family violence.	Victorian Government, Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women & Children 2012-2015. EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Victoria Police Womens Health East Family violence counseling services Neighbourhood House Network Migrant Information Centre Shakti Melbourne	Year 2	New Once Off	Would require new resources (Project Officer and program funding) Could be delivered through a partnership arrangement
Knox City Council	2. **Enhance community connectedness opportunities for women**	Work with sporting clubs and community groups to identify initiatives to engage women and girls to participate in community sports and activities.	Knox City Council Leisure Plan. Knox Multicultural Strategic Plan.	Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women Project Eastern Football League Cricket Victoria Association Soccer Association Netball Association Community cultural Groups Migrant Information Centre	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council		Support opportunities that encourage socialising and interaction between newly arrived migrant women and women who have been here for a number of years, through creating and enabling community meeting and gathering spaces.	Knox Multicultural Strategic Plan	Migrant Information Centre Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee	Year 2	New Once Off	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council	3. **Continue to support existing initiatives**	Continue support for the Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women in our Communities project.	Knox Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Victorian Government, Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women & Children 2012-2015.	Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women in our Communities Plan Womens Health East	Year 1	Existing Grant time limited	State Government Grant funded until 2014. Approaches to be incorporated into Council business.
Knox Community Health Service		Participate in the development of relevant actions and support existing initiatives to contribute to the implementation of the *Together for Equality and Respect: A Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women in Melbourne's East 2013-2017*.	Knox Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Womens Health East. Victorian Government, Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women & Children 2012-2015.	Knox City Council	Year 1	Existing Ongoing	Within existing Council and partner resources.

6. 5 The community has safe and accessible transport options

Objectives

- Increase safety and perceptions of safety for transport options in Knox.

- Increase safe driver behaviours on local roads.

*EMR = Eastern Metropolitan Region

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Victoria Police	**1. Reduce the incidents of hoon driving through targeted initiatives**	Raise awareness of the impacts of hoon driving, and reporting through targeted programs.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement.	Knox City Council Schools Community Businesses Sporting clubs Roadsafe Eastern Metro	Year 2	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
		Investigate the feasibility of setting up a *'Hoon Hotline'* for Knox.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement.	Knox City Council	Year 3	New Ongoing	Within existing Council and partner resources.

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	2. **Increase safety at public transport interchanges**	Conduct community safety audits with public transport authorities of transport interchanges and recommend Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design initiatives.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group). Knox Integrated Transport Plan.	Public Transport Authorities Public Transport Users Victoria Police Victoria Police Protective Services Officers located at train stations	Year 2	Existing Ongoing	Within existing Council and partner resources.
Knox City Council	3. **Increase the safety of pedestrians and bike riders**	Improve the safety and connectivity of pedestrian paths and crossings through targeted place based projects.	Healthy Ageing Strategy 2009-2013. KCC Access & Inclusion Plan For People with Disabilities 2011-2015. Knox Open Space Plan. Knox Livable Streets Plan. Victorian Pedestrian Access Strategy.	VicRoads Victoria Police Relevant Service providers Healthy Together Knox Team	Year 3	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Develop and implement a targeted program for dangerous school crossings to reduce incidents and change driver behaviour.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015.	Victoria Police Schools Local Media Community	Year 1	New Ongoing	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council		Seek opportunities to improve the safety of bicycle users.	Victoria Road Safety Strategy, Arrive Alive 2008-2017. Knox Livable Streets Plan. Knox City Council's Integrated Transport Plan.	VicRoads Roadsafe Eastern Metro Relevant user groups	Year 3	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Roadsafe Eastern Metropolitan Region	4. **Continue to support existing transport safety initiatives**	Continue to support the Roadsafe Eastern Metro Group and programs that respond Eastern Metropolitan Region Roadsafe Strategic Plan 2013-14 to: • high risk young drivers (18-21 years) • older drivers • drink driving • bicycle safety • pedestrian safety • young driver programs.	Victoria's Road Safety Strategy, Arrive Alive 2008-2017. Eastern Metropolitan Region Roadsafe Strategic Plan 2013-14.	Roadsafe Eastern Metropolitan Region and partners Victoria Police	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources

6. 6 Public places and spaces are well maintained and the community feels safe

Objectives

- Reduce graffiti on public and private property in the City of Knox.
- Increase opportunities for mural art projects as a graffiti prevention tool.

*EMR = Eastern Metropolitan Region

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. Continue to support and strengthen collaborative partnerships and programs with community to manage graffiti on public and private infrastructure	Develop and implement graffiti awareness and education programs for traders, schools and the community. Monitor incidents of graffiti through the GRIP system database.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement. Department of Justice, Graffiti Prevention and Removal Grants.	Victoria Police EMR Graffiti Network	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
		Seek opportunities through networks and community groups to share graffiti management practices and evidence based programs.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement.	Victoria Police EMR Graffiti Network	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
		Continue to support the delivery of graffiti cleaning programs on Council property including volunteers and corrections graffiti cleaning program.	Department of Justice, Graffiti Prevention and Removal Grants.	Department of Justice Community Relevant contractors	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council	2. **Develop and implements Community Art projects as graffiti prevention initiatives**	Seek opportunities to implement community art projects as graffiti prevention initiatives on public and private infrastructure through support for young people in a mentoring program.	KCC Knox Arts & Cultural Plan 2012-2022. Department of Justice, Graffiti Prevention and Removal Grants.	Local businesses Schools Victoria Police Community and interested community groups.	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council	3. 1. **Continue to monitor graffiti levels in the community to support graffiti management programs.**	Conduct an annual graffiti audit to measure the ongoing effectiveness of Council's graffiti management approach.	Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement.	External contractor Victoria Police	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council		Manage and enhance the GRIP system database to increase software features that enable improved evaluation and monitoring of graffiti levels in the community.	Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement. Department of Justice, Graffiti Prevention and Removal Grants.	Graffiti Reduction & Interception Program system Victoria Police EMR Graffiti Network	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council	**3. 2. Conduct ongoing evaluation of graffiti programs and practices by Council and community to reduce graffiti levels**	Lead the review of graffiti cleaning programs across Council to develop a model that delivers cost savings and enhances service delivery for the community.	NA		Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Support and educate paint spray can retailers to ensure they understand the law and compliance regarding the sale of cans to minors.	Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.	Victoria Police Traders Local businesses Market stall holders	Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources.

6. 7 People have an increased awareness of their relative safety in Knox

Objectives

- Increase community connections through public spaces and places.

- Increase positive media coverage of community safety in Knox.

- Embed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in planning for the community.

*EMR = Eastern Metropolitan Region

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. Increase knowledge and understanding of crime prevention through environmental design principles	Develop a tool kit to encourage developers to incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles into new or updated projects.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group). Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria. Victoria Government, 2011 Families Statement. Knox Open Space Plan. Knox Livable Streets Plan. Healthy Together Knox Team.	Victoria Police	Year 2	New Once Off	Would require new resources (Project Officer and program funding) Could be delivered through a partnership arrangement

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Victoria Police	2. **Develop programs and improve design that support and promote community connectedness**	Support opportunities for neighbourhood groups to conduct community safety audits of 'unsafe areas' and work together to implement recommendations.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group). Victoria Police Blueprint 2012-2015.	Knox City Council Community groups	Year 2	New Ongoing	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Encourage local media to include celebrations of projects to create safe spaces and places in Knox.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Local media Victoria Police Schools Community groups	Year 3	New Once Off	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Where appropriate investigate the feasibility of encouraging street trading and dining to enhance street activity and public surveillance.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Traders Local businesses Community	Year 2	New Once Off	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Encourage broader participation and greater ownership of local community places to reduce opportunity for crime and people feeling unsafe.	EMR Community Crime Prevention Plan (Justice Reference Group).	Friends groups Gardens For Wildlife Multicultural community organisations Migrant Information Centre Mothers Living Well	Year 3	Existing Ongoing	Within current Council resources

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	3. **Conducting Research, monitoring and evaluation of community perceptions of safety**	Investigate options to develop a local perceptions of safety Survey for Knox.	NA		Year 1	New Ongoing	Would require new resources (Project Officer and program funding)

6. 8 Young people and adults are resilient and have high levels of emotional and psychological wellbeing

Objectives

- Supporting and skilling community groups on management of mental health issues.

- Increase community understanding of the impacts of mental health.

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. **Develop programs that increase community understanding to support people with mental health issues in Knox**	Support mental health first aid training to staff/volunteers at neighbourhood houses in Knox.	Victorian Government, Because Mental Health Matters Policy.	Neighbourhood Houses Stephen Gray (Psychologist)	Year 1	New Once Off	Supported through existing external funding.
Knox City Council		Encourage the development of a community education strategy to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of mental health.	Victorian Government, Because Mental Health Matters Policy. Knox Youth Strategic Plan 2012-2017.	Mental Health service providers Knox Community Health service Headspace Migrant Information Centre	Year 3	New Ongoing	Would require new resources (Project Officer and program funding) Could be delivered through a partnership arrangement

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	**2. Develop advocacy initiatives to increase mental health services**	Explore opportunities with key partners to develop an advocacy campaign in relation to more mental health services and emergency support teams in Knox.	Victorian Government, Because Mental Health Matters Policy.	Mental Health service providers Knox Community Health service Headspace Victoria Police Migrant Information Centre	Year 2	New	Delivered through shared resources between Council and partners
Knox City Council	**3. Continue to support existing initiatives focusing on mental health**	Support the implementation of *'Headspace'* and *'Free 2 B Me'* mental health Programs.	NA		Year 1	Ongoing Existing	Within current Council resources

6. 9 *Families are supported to prevent problem gambling*

Objectives

- Increase community awareness on the impacts of problem gambling on the community.

- Raise awareness of the impacts of problem gambling and links to community safety issues

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	1. **Support the implementation of the Knox Responsible Gaming Policy through ongoing research and data development on problem gambling issues in Knox**	Support to incorporate Knox City Council's *Electronic Gaming Machine Policy* into the Municipal Strategic Statement/	Knox Responsible Gaming Policy.		Year 1	New Once Off	Within current Council resources
Knox City Council		Advocate for further research into the impacts of online gambling.	Victorian Government, Taking Action On Problem Gambling Policy 2006.	Problem Gambler Support Services Gambler's Help Eastern Department of Justice Local Government Working Group on Gambling Eastern Metropolitan Region Gambling Group	Year 2	New Once Off	Would require new resources Could be delivered through a partnership arrangement

Lead Organisation	Strategies	Actions	Links with other Plans & Policies	Partners	Commencing	New, Existing Ongoing, Once Off Activities	Resources
Knox City Council	2. **Promote Community Education and partnerships in relation to problem gambling**	Encourage targeted community education campaigns about the impacts of all forms of problem gambling on families and the community.	Victorian Government, Taking Action On Problem Gambling Policy 2006.	Problem Gambler Support Services Eastern Regional Local Governments Community Safety Officer Network Migrant Information Centre	Year 2	New Ongoing	Would require new funding - . Explore external funding options.

7. *Monitoring, Resourcing and Evaluation*

In order to effectively assess the success of the Community Safety Plan, a clear approach to monitoring and evaluation has been developed.

The Plan outlines a monitoring and evaluation approach based on the Result Based Accountability framework. This approach endeavours to increase a greater understanding of the link between program outcomes and changes in the community. This process will involve monitoring and evaluation of key indicators to provide both Council and the community with an annual 'report card' on progress. This will be used to identify if the strategies are making a difference in the community. This in turn will assist Council and partners to make decisions to either continue, change or stop a program.

Monitoring and evaluation of programs and initiatives will, wherever possible, be based on local analysis, local needs and local participation.

The annual 'report card' will focus on the programs and initiatives with which Council is the lead agency. Other initiatives not led by Council will be evaluated by the relevant lead agency in collaboration with other partners.

7. 1 Resourcing

The resources required to deliver programs in the Plan will involve a mixed contribution from Council, external funding grants, shared resource funding models with key partners, and community support to deliver low cost and/or no cost programs.

Council's role of the Knox Safer Communities Group will be to investigate opportunities for shared resourcing of initiatives, and opportunities to seek funding from other funding sources to support the full implementation of the Plan.

Appendix

a: How did we develop this plan?

The key steps in developing the Plan are summarised in Figure, below

Step 1: Knox Community Safety Profile

Extensive research was undertaken to understand crime statistics and data in Knox and the broader Eastern Metropolitan Region to inform the development of the Community Safety Plan for Knox

Step 2: Literature Review

Background research on issues of Community Safety to better understand local and international crime prevention approaches was completed

Step 3: Analysis

Findings of Steps 1 & 2 were analysed to inform the development of the community consultation methodology and Community Safety Plan more broadly.

Step 4: Community Consultation

A series of activities to inform the development of the plan including workshops with internal Council staff and the community, a community survey and consultation with key groups.

Step 5: Draft Plan

Through consolidations the Knox Safety Profile, literature review and community consultation, a draft Knox Community Safety Plan was developed.

Step 6: Community Consultation

Community consultation for a broader community feedback process to inform the final plan was undertaken

Step 7: Final Plan

Following feedback received from community and our partners on the draft Knox Community Safety Plan, the final plan was endorsed by Council June 2013.

Figure 1: Development Methodology

b: Community Safety Relationship Matrix

The Plan recognises that community safety priorities do not occur in isolation and that there is an underlying relationship that links crime and community safety issues and their causes.

For example, the research affirms that the impact of harmful alcohol consumption has significant impacts on all of the community safety priorities with the possible exception of graffiti. If a concentrated effort is focused on extensively reducing the impact of harmful alcohol consumption then it would be expected there would be a reduction in other priority community safety issues.

This matrix outlines the relationship (where applicable) between priority Community Safety issues.
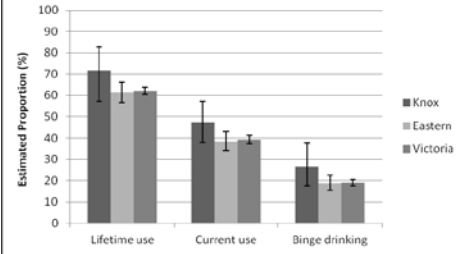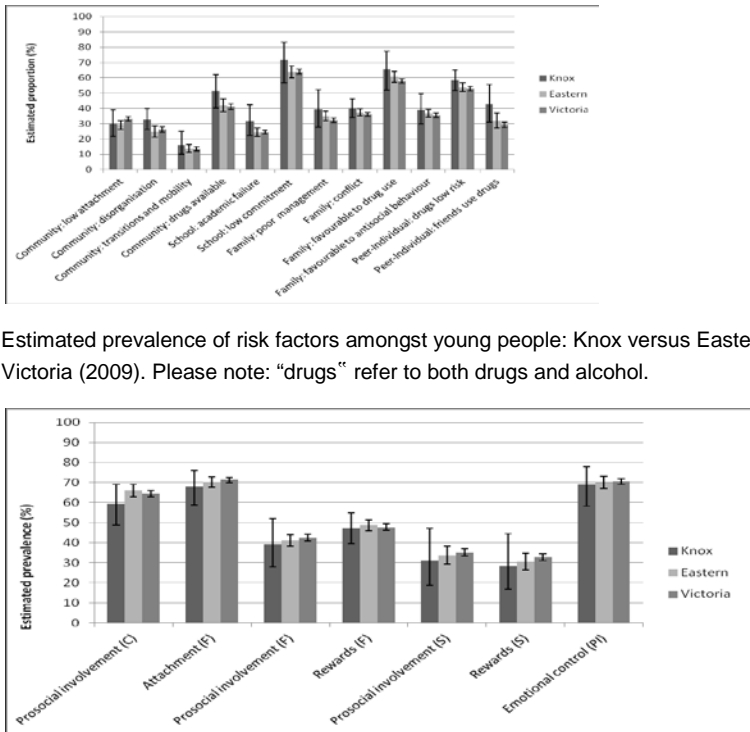
This matrix has informed the responses outlined in the Community Safety Action Plan and will continue to inform the implementation of the Plan.

Appendix B - Matrix

	YOUTH	ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT	FAMILY VIOLENCE & GENDER EQUITY	TRANSPORT & ACCESS	GRAFFITI	PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY	MENTAL HEALTH	PROBLEM GAMBLING
YOUTH		Young people are more visible in public spaces and are often deemed to be the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour, especially when drugs & alcohol are involved. Young people who binge drink are at increased risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system, either as a victim or an offender.	Victims of child abuse and neglect are more prone to become involved in drug use and crime, and to experience poor school performance, poor peer relations and mental health disorders.	Family violence has a substantial impact on children's emotional, cognitive, developmental and behavioural wellbeing. This can affect learning, social and relationship capacity, attention and personality development. There has also been a statewide increase in the number of parents being assaulted by their children/stepchildren and young people being abused by siblings. This increase has also occurred in Knox.	Young people are more reliant on public transport than those old enough to obtain a drivers license. When transport options are seen as inadequate or unsafe, there can be a real impact on the quality of life experienced.	Graffiti is predominantly carried out by teenagers, some of whom may progress to more serious offending as they get older. The issue is one that contributes to alienation between young people and older members of the community.	"Young people hanging around" is one of the most common reasons given by Knox residents for feeling unsafe. Young people congregating in public is often associated with gangs and trouble in the minds of many community members.	Schools in Knox are particularly concerned about the mental health of students, including anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, body image, loss and grief (particularly during parental divorce), and suicidal thoughts. Ensuring appropriate support for students, families and schools can reduce the risk of harm, including involvement in substance abuse, violence and crime. Young people living with a parent with mental health issues particularly need support to ensure their education and social development are not unduly impacted.	Young people whose parent(s) have a gambling problem are likely to face disruption and stress at home as financial pressures impact on the family.
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	Young people are more visible in public spaces and are often deemed to be the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour, especially when drugs & alcohol are involved		Victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely to wish to spend time away from the home environment, and may engage in drug/alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour.	Drug and alcohol use is associated with some family violence incidents, but not all. Latest research shows that attitudes to women are one of the most important factors in violence against women. Antisocial behaviour that belittles or intimidates women may be risk factor violence at home.	Witnessing antisocial behaviour such as public drunkenness and assaults at transport interchanges or on public transport can adversely affect people's willingness to utilize public transport. Similarly, witnessing 'hooning' by car drivers can adversely affect residents' quality of life.	While graffiti itself is often independent of drug/alcohol abuse, other types of criminal damage are more often the result of excess drug/alcohol consumption.	Witnessing antisocial behaviour such as loud, drunken aggression elicits fear among community members, even when the behaviour is not directed at them personally. This may then lead to avoidance behaviour and accompanying reductions in quality of life and wellbeing.	Some people with particular types of mental illness that is not well-controlled may engage in antisocial behaviour which is confronting for witnesses and potentially dangerous.	People with a gambling addiction may engage in antisocial behaviour as a result of stresses caused by trying to deal with the issues, which further increases their risk of coming to the attention of the criminal justice system.
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT	Victims of child abuse and neglect are more prone to become involved in drug use and crime, and to experience poor school performance, poor peer relations and mental health disorders.	Victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely to wish to spend time away from the home environment, and may engage in drug/alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour.		Those areas with high rates of child abuse also tend to have high rates of family violence, pointing to high levels of family dysfunction.	Lack of access to safe, reliable transportation can impact on a parent's frustration levels and may leave them feeling trapped in a toxic home environment. Parents without cars may find it difficult to effectively shop for food, meaning the children's nutritional needs may be unmet.	Young people abused at home are more likely to seek approval outside of that environment. Graffiti writers tend to have their own subculture which can be welcoming to young people looking for a feeling of belonging.	Residents who see or hear children being physically or verbally abused in their homes or in public may feel that their neighbourhood is becoming unsafe or that social order is deteriorating. Children who are abused in their homes would clearly feel unsafe there.	Child abuse and neglect may result from mental health issues of the parent(s), and has serious implications for the current and future mental health of the child.	There have been documented cases of parents neglecting their children in order to spend more time gambling. It is also likely that financial stresses will make the provision of appropriate food, clothing and school supplies more difficult.
FAMILY VIOLENCE & GENDER EQUITY	Family violence has a substantial impact on children's emotional, cognitive, developmental and behavioural wellbeing. This can affect learning, social and relationship capacity, attention and personality development. There has also been a statewide increase in the number of parents being assaulted by their children/stepchildren and young people being abused by siblings. This increase has also occurred in Knox.	Drug and alcohol use is associated with some family violence incidents, but not all. Latest research shows that attitudes to women are one of the most important factors in violence against women. Antisocial behaviour that belittles or intimidates women may be risk factor violence at home.	Those areas with high rates of child abuse also tend to have high rates of family violence, pointing to high levels of family dysfunction.		Women are more likely to feel vulnerable and unsafe on public transport, particularly at night and on their own.	Young people in an unhappy home environment are more likely to seek approval outside of that environment. Graffiti writers tend to have their own subculture which can be welcoming to young people looking for a feeling of belonging.	Women subjected to violence in the home or unwanted sexual attention may have their overall perception of safety reduced. Some violence in the home may be due to mental illness on the part of the perpetrator. Some of the decisions they make about getting out and about, and overall quality of life is likely to be impacted.	Family violence is detrimental to the mental health and wellbeing of victims and witnesses, particularly children. Some violence in the home may be due to mental illness on the part of the perpetrator.	Financial stresses associated with problem gambling may lead to violence in the home, or conversely gambling may be a type of escape from violence and abuse in the home.
TRANSPORT & ACCESS	Young people are more reliant on public transport than those old enough to obtain a drivers license. When transport options are seen as inadequate or unsafe, there can be a real impact on the quality of life experienced.	Witnessing antisocial behaviour such as public drunkenness and assaults at transport interchanges or on public transport can adversely affect people's willingness to utilize public transport. Similarly, witnessing 'hooning' by car drivers can adversely affect residents' quality of life.	Lack of access to safe, reliable transportation can impact on a parent's frustration levels and may leave them feeling trapped in a toxic home environment. Parents without cars may find it difficult to effectively shop for food, meaning the children's nutritional needs may be unmet.	Women are more likely to feel vulnerable and unsafe on public transport, particularly at night and on their own.		The presence of graffiti has been shown to make some people feel less safe on the streets and on public transport. Vandalism of transport infrastructure can affect the quality and reliability of transport services.	Where public transport is reliable and well-patronised, people feel more confident in using it themselves. The environment around transport interchanges also has a huge impact on the feeling of safety and resulting willingness to use public transport.	Although rare, aggressive or antisocial behaviour on public transport by a person with a serious mental illness can be frightening for witnesses. Lack of access to safe, reliable public transport to perform routine activities can have a negative impact on the mental health of non-drivers.	Research shows that the number of problem gamblers within a particular area is directly linked with the availability of electronic gaming machines in that area.
GRAFFITI	Graffiti is predominantly carried out by teenagers, some of whom may progress to more serious offending as they get older. The issue is one that contributes to alienation between young people and older members of the community.	While graffiti itself is often independent of drug/alcohol abuse, other types of criminal damage are more often the result of excess drug/alcohol consumption.	Young people abused at home are more likely to seek approval outside of that environment. Graffiti writers tend to have their own subculture which can be welcoming to young people looking for a feeling of belonging.	Young people in an unhappy home environment are more likely to seek approval outside of that environment. Graffiti writers tend to have their own subculture which can be welcoming to young people looking for a feeling of belonging.	The presence of graffiti has been shown to make some people feel less safe on the streets and on public transport. Vandalism of trains and buses can affect the quality and reliability of transport services.		To some people, graffiti and vandalism are signs of lawlessness and social disorder, which makes them, feel unsafe.	No direct links	No direct links
PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY	"Young people hanging around" is one of the most common reasons given by Knox residents for feeling unsafe. Young people congregating in public is often associated with gangs and trouble in the minds of many community members.	Witnessing antisocial behaviour such as loud, drunken aggression elicits fear among community members, even when the behaviour is not directed at them personally. This may then lead to avoidance behaviour and accompanying reductions in quality of life and wellbeing.	Residents who see or hear children being physically or verbally abused in their homes or in public may feel that their neighbourhood is becoming unsafe or that social order is deteriorating. Children who are abused in their homes would clearly feel unsafe there.	Women subjected to violence in the home or unwanted sexual attention may have their overall perception of safety reduced. This can affect decisions they make about getting out and about, and overall quality of life is likely to be impacted.	Where public transport is reliable and well-patronised, people feel more confident in using it themselves. The environment around transport interchanges also has a huge impact on the feeling of safety and resulting willingness to use public transport.	To some people, graffiti and vandalism are signs of lawlessness and social disorder, which makes them feel unsafe.		Although rare, aggressive or antisocial behaviour in public by a person with a serious mental illness or a drug and alcohol problem can make people feel unsafe.	No direct links

	YOUTH	ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT	FAMILY VIOLENCE & GENDER EQUITY	TRANSPORT & ACCESS	GRAFFITI	PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY	MENTAL HEALTH	PROBLEM GAMBLING
MENTAL HEALTH	Schools in Knox are particularly concerned about the mental health of students, including anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, body image, loss and grief (particularly during parental divorce), and suicidal thoughts. Ensuring appropriate support for students, families and schools can reduce the risk of harm, including involvement in substance abuse, violence and crime. Young people living with a parent with mental health issues particularly need support to ensure their education and social development are not unduly impacted.	Some people with particular types of mental illness that is not well-controlled may engage in antisocial behaviour which is confronting for witnesses and potentially dangerous.	Child abuse and neglect may result from mental health issues of the parent(s), and has serious implications for the current and future mental health of the child.	Family violence is detrimental to the mental health and wellbeing of victims and witnesses, particularly children. Some violence in the home may be due to mental illness on the part of the perpetrator.	Although rare, aggressive or antisocial behaviour on public transport by a person with a serious mental illness can be frightening for witnesses. Lack of access to safe, reliable public transport to perform routine activities can have a negative impact on the mental health of non-drivers.	No direct links	Although rare, aggressive or antisocial behaviour in public by a person with a serious mental illness or a drug and alcohol problem can make people feel unsafe.		Problem gamblers are more likely to develop mental health issues related to the stress of their gambling, and may be more likely to have suicidal thoughts.
PROBLEM GAMBLING	Young people whose parent(s) have a gambling problem are likely to face disruption and stress at home as financial pressures impact on the family.	People with a gambling addiction may engage in antisocial behaviour as a result of stresses caused by their gambling. They may turn to alcohol and/or drugs to deal with the issues, which further increases their risk of coming to the attention of the criminal justice system.	There have been documented cases of parents neglecting their children in order to spend more time gambling. It is also likely that financial stresses will make the provision of appropriate food, clothing and school supplies more difficult.	Financial stresses associated with problem gambling may lead to violence in the home, or conversely gambling may be a type of escape from violence and abuse in the home.	Research shows that the number of problem gamblers within a particular area is directly linked with the availability of electronic gaming machines in that area.	No direct links	No direct links	Problem gamblers are more likely to develop mental health issues related to the stress of their gambling, and may be more likely to have suicidal thoughts.	

c: Community Safety Priorities Research

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 1 – Young people are resilient, safe and connected to their community (Youth)	
Desired Outcome	Young people are resilient, safe and connected to their community.
Population – who are the people you are targeting?	

Population Accountability

Young people in Knox Municipality

Risk Factors:

- Young people are over represented in crime rates in Knox as the perpetrator and victim
- Alcohol and drug related issues
- Family conflict
- Low commitment to school
- Favourable family attitudes to anti social behaviour.

What would the results look like?

- Young people actively involved in community activities.
- Young people engaged in education and participating in the community.
- Young people are resilient.
- Young people are healthy and safe.
- Nurturing community of young people.
- Community have positive perceptions of young people.

Indicators: How can we measure?

% of young people who binge drink (Adolescent Health & Wellbeing Survey 2009) Risk and protective factors for young people in Knox (Adolescent Health & Wellbeing survey years 7,9 &11 2009)	 Please note: Black line segments represent the confidence intervals surrounding the data. The length of a confidence interval is dependent on the size of the sample. Although sample sizes for Knox were small, the data is indicative of historical
Alcohol related hospital admissions 15-24 yrs Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit annually Secondary supply data for Knox	Estimated prevalence of alcohol consumption amongst young people.
Secondary Data to monitor: %Crime and Victim rates for Young people in Knox (Victoria Police data) % parental participation in schools Community Indicators Victoria every 4 years (secondary data) % of young people who are engaged in education or work Community Indicators Victoria every 4 years (secondary data)	 Estimated prevalence of risk factors amongst young people: Knox versus Eastern Department of Education and Early Childhood Development region versus Victoria (2009). Please note: "drugs" refer to both drugs and alcohol. Protective factors amongst young people: Knox versus Eastern region versus Victoria (2009) (C = community; S = school; F = family; PI = peer/individual)

Wholly alcohol attributable hospitalisations...

Alcohol related hospital admissions
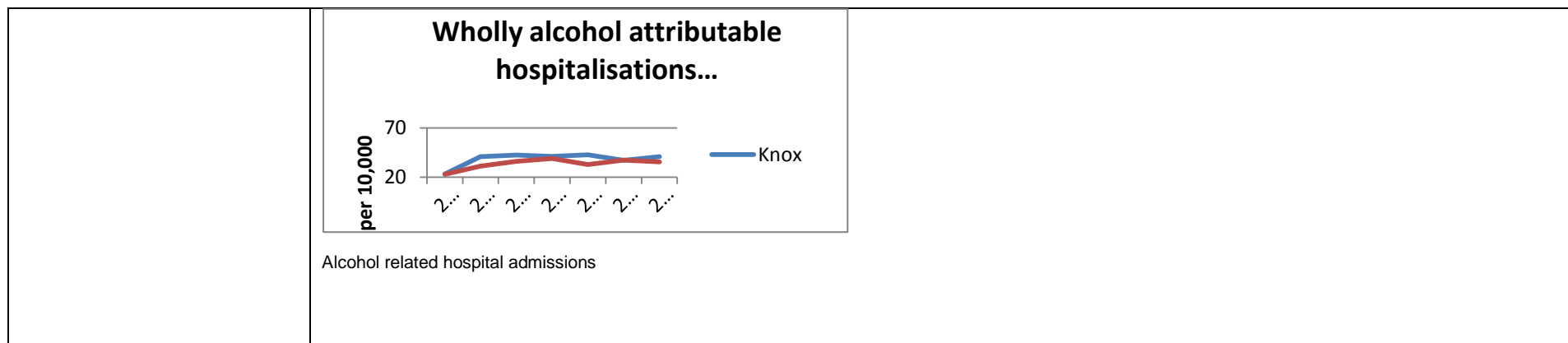
Partners

Youth Services, Communities that Care Ltd., sporting clubs, community groups, Leisure Works, Health Services, University of the Third Age , older citizen groups, Victoria Police, schools, churches, Knox businesses, other identified service providers.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Best practice – A governance model is currently being developed for the Communities That Care Ltd. for Knox This is program is supported by the Centre for Adolescent Health and the Royal Children Hospital – this model is an internationally acclaimed program that specifically focuses on increasing the protective factors and decreasing the risk factors in young people including working with their families. Lead organisation for this program is Knox Community Health Service and Council a partner.

Knox City Council Youth Plan has a focus on increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors and will link with actions in the community safety plan – there are a number of programs already operating that focus on some of these issues such as bullying, youth support and advocacy service, school failure, youth participations and engagement.

Programs to be initiated over the life of this plan include – Headspace and the Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre – aims to equip students with real life employability skills for transition to further study and work.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

Although the crime rate in Knox has been consistently below the state average over the past nine years - Crime data for 10/11 indicate people aged between 10 and 20 years account for 35% of people charged with offences in Knox yet this age group makes up just 17% of the population. This age group makes up 14% of reported crime victims in Knox.

Adolescent health and wellbeing survey results for 2009 report that a significantly higher proportion of surveyed young people binge drink compared to the eastern region and Victoria. The survey indicates that risk factors in particular from Year 7 to 11 students in Knox indicate- ease of drug availability in the community including alcohol, academic failure, low commitment to school, poor family management, family conflict, family attitudes favourable to anti social behaviour low perceived risks of drug use and friends drug use. Overall the survey indicates a large proportion of young people in Knox are exposed to high levels of risk factors (such as those for year 7) and low levels of protective factors, with the implication of less than optimal development in the future.

Through community consultation - Young people are telling us that bullying, community perceptions of young people – community report they feel unsafe when young people "hang around", young people Knox feel they have a poor relationship with Victoria Police and want to make it better. Alcohol and all the issues associated with it – impact on young people in Knox – anti social behaviour, violence, health issues , Health and wellbeing survey indicates just over 50% of young people in Knox who have ever drunk alcohol get their drinks form home.   Young people also report feeling unsafe at transport interchanges, and would like more places to hang around in to feel safe

There is opportunity to build on the protective factors for young people in Knox which include opportunities for pro social involvement at school and reward, and emotional control however young people in Knox do show lower trends for these protective factors but not significantly compared to the eastern region and Victoria.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	City Plan Strategic Objective/s	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 2 – A community that is resilient and strong (Anti-social behaviour)

Desired Outcome	A community that is resilient and strong

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Community

What would the results look like?

- People have respect for each other.
- People feel empowered, safe, confident and have healthy relationships.
- People are contributing and participating in a positive way in the community.
- People are positively connected.
- People are equipped and confident to respond to challenging behaviour.

Indicators: How can we measure?

% of alcohol related assaults

(turning point) & Victoria Police data annually

% of public order offences

(Victoria Police) annually

Secondary data:

% of people feeling part of the community (Community Indicators Victoria/VIC health indicators)

4 years

Alcohol-related assaults

Rate of 'behaviour in public' offences: 2004/5 to 2011/12

	Knox	Metro	Mar	YR	VIC
2004/05	60	63	60	47	94
2005/06	34	46	47	34	74
2006/07	27	44	45	27	67
2007/08	42	40	27	24	63
2008/09	30	101	64	32	120
2009/10	26	129	68	24	151
2010/11	58	98	59	49	123
2011/12	34	98	63	37	116

Partners

Victoria Police, Communities that Care, Knox City Council Youth Services, licensed premises.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Collaborative programs that provide opportunity for all relevant partners to deliver outcomes across the municipality. This would include engaging with local media and Victoria Police to delve community messaging around reporting crime etc to promote behaviour change and community responsibility on this issue. Timely data sharing between agencies particularly Victoria Police and council to enable targeted initiatives and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to reduce the opportunity of anti social behaviour in particular hot spot locations. Exploring programs that focus on community connections, respectful relationships and responding to challenging behaviour.

Communities that care collaboration will also respond to working in the community to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in young people.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

Anti social behaviour is very subjective by nature and is difficult to get a clear understanding of what it actually is, Victoria Police class anti social behaviour in a class of public order offences such as abusive/obscene/insulting/threatening language/drunken offensive/disorderly indecent, riotous behaviour. In Knox the statistics for the last few years show the rate of offences to be significantly lower than the state or Melbourne metro average and generally trading downward. Despite this anti social behaviour is perceived as a significant concern to the community. However, low level harassment or public disorder can have a large impact on perceptions of safety in particular alcohol related antisocial behaviour.

Research has consistently shown that the concentration of liquor outlets is predictive of alcohol related issues (Donnelly et al 2006)

The outcomes of the community consultation indicated the community experiencing:

Alcohol misuse was felt to be associated with a 'culture of drinking' prevalent in the community.

Transport interchanges and shopping centre were seen as unsafe areas due to the prevalence of people 'hanging around using bad language.

Victoria Police reported that anti social behaviour has an impact on the communities sense of safety but no one is reporting incidents when they occur – such as drunken behaviour. Victoria Police requested that a focus of the plan should target community education around reporting incidents to Victoria Police.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	**City Plan Strategic Objective/s**	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 3 –Children living in stable and supported families and communities (Child abuse and neglect)

Desired Outcome	Children live in stable and supported families and communities

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Families

What would the results look like?

- Happy and healthy children.

- Children who meet their milestones.

- Children who have a high level of physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

- Children living free from violence.

Indicators: How can we measure?

% of child abuse substantiations

(Department of Human Services) annually

% of hospital presentations for home assaults (young people)

Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit annually

% of children on track developmentally (Australian Early Development index) 3-4 years

% of re - reports of child abuse and neglect (Department of Human Services)

Child abuse substantiations rate per 1000 children 0-17 yrs

ED presentations for home assaults 2006-2010 (%)
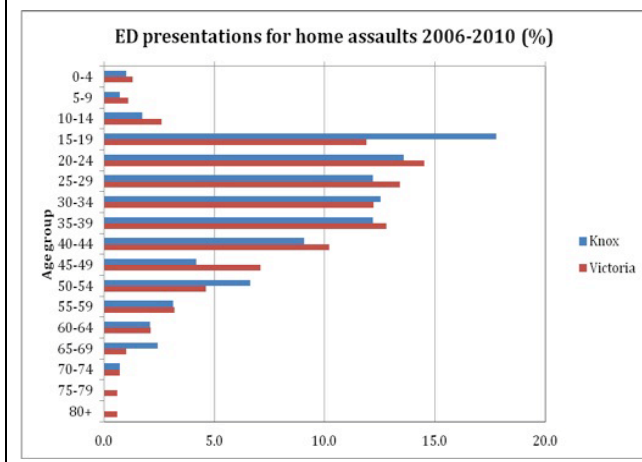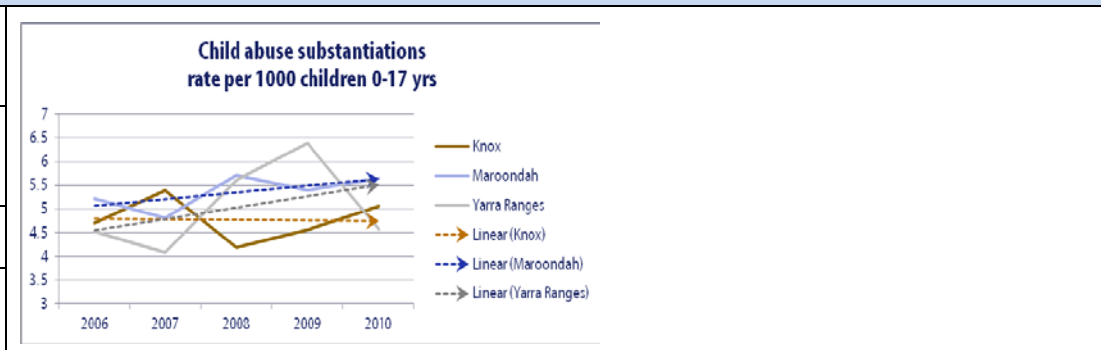
% of children developmentally vulnerable on 2 or more AEDI domains

Knox 2009: 7.6   Knox 2011: 7.5   Vic 2009: 10.0   Vic 2011: 10.3

% of child abuse reports that are re-reports, Knox 2010

59.8%

% of child abuse reports where 5+ previous reports made, Knox 2010

20.6%

Partners

Yarra Ranges Shire Council, mental health services, schools, preschool/childcare centres, Office of Housing, Infolink, Department of Human Services, Victoria Police, Salvation Army, Anglicare, Knox Community Health, Knox City Council Planning, Knox City Council Youth Services, Centrelink, Sporting Clubs, Department of Education & Early Childhood Development teachers, Knox City Council Maternal and Child Health nurses, Eastern Health, family support agencies, Women's Health

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Knox City Council is providing specialised training to its Maternal and Child Health Nurses to identify indicators of child abuse and neglect, as well as family violence.

Risk identification and formal referral between services from Maternal Child Health onwards.

Education and support for vulnerable families.

Community strengthening building activities for vulnerable families.

Resourcing of services.

Focus on family resilience.

Education and awareness programs that focus on early intervention.

The forthcoming 'Pairs' program will work with 'at risk' families to increase parent and child interaction and connectedness and build bonding relationships.

Knox City Council has a draft Municipal Early Years Plan Off to a flying start 2011-2015. The plan does not specifically address child abuse, but has a Strategic Priority Action Area to support and empower families who may be experiencing disadvantage.

Knox is participating in the Child FIRST (Family Information Referral & Support Teams) program which aims to effectively link families with service appropriate community based service providers.

The Basin Boronia Bayswater project supports families in these suburbs to increase school and preschool participation, connect vulnerable families to services, and aims for long-term changes in family resilience and capacity to support children over time.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

Children who are subjected to abuse and neglect may experience poor school performance, learning disorders, antisocial behaviour and mental health disorders (Paolucci et al 2001).

The rate of child protection substantiations in Knox has increased over the past five years, from 3.4 per 1000 adolescents in 2005-2006 to 4.4 adolescents in 2009-2010. In 2009-2010 the rate of child protection substantiations in Knox was higher than the rate in the eastern region for adolescents (3.1 per 1000) and similar to the rate across Victoria (4.4 per 1000). (Source Department of Education Early Childhood Development Adolescent Health Profile 2010).

The data obtained direct from Department of Human Services is slightly different due to figures for children 0-17 rather than just adolescents. It shows a rate of substantiated child abuse reports of 4.7 in 2006 to 5.1 in 2010. The rate shows a somewhat significant increase from 4.2 in 2008 to 5.1 in 2010. The rate for all three outer eastern metro council's appears volatile, with no clear trends emerging

As a rate per 1000 children, Bayswater, Boronia and Wantirna have the highest rates of child abuse reports. However Boronia overtakes Bayswater for substantiated reports as a rate per 1000 children

The rate of young people aged 15-19 attending emergency departments due to assault injuries incurred at home is significantly higher than for Melbourne and Victoria as a whole. The figure per 1000

Young people in that age group is 4.3 for Knox, 2.3 for Melbourne, and 3.0 for Victoria

The community consultation in Knox indicated that :

- Children home alone was identified as a problem in Knox including where both parents work full time and primary aged children stay home on their own.
- It was also reported that a high percentage of sole parent households live in Knox.

Partners who attended a workshop also indicated that increase substantiation rates could be impacted by:

- Increased and mandatory reporting.
- Increased pressure (financial, social, substance abuse) on families.
- Greater awareness in schools in understanding the signs of abuse and neglect.
- Problem gambling, housing affordability, prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, increased mental health issues, family violence.
- Issues with blended families, sibling to sibling abuse.

Increased trust within and between agencies in relation to reporting systems and processes linked to child abuse and neglect.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	**City Plan Strategic Objective/s**	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 4 –Families and partners have healthy equitable relationships and live free from violence (Family violence and gender equity)

Desired Outcome	Families and partners have healthy equitable relationships and live free from violence

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Population Accountability

Families

What would the results look like?

- Happy and healthy people
- People have a high level of physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing
- People are free from violence in their home and in the community
- Women are respected and able to participate fully in community life and the economy.

Indicators: How can we measure?

Rate of family violence incidents and reports in Knox

(Victoria Police data)

% of people willing to intervene in family violence incidents (2011 Vic Health Indicators Survey)

% of people satisfied with feeling part of the community (2011 Vic Health Indicators Survey)

% of women in the workforce (2011 Census data)

Reported family violence incidents

Number of Family Violence Incident Reports by Knox postcode, 2001-2012
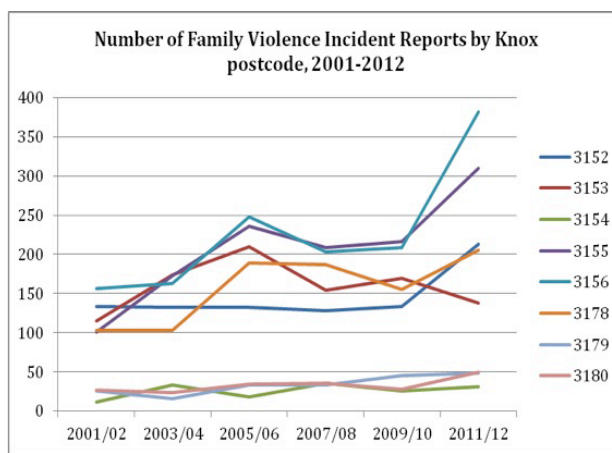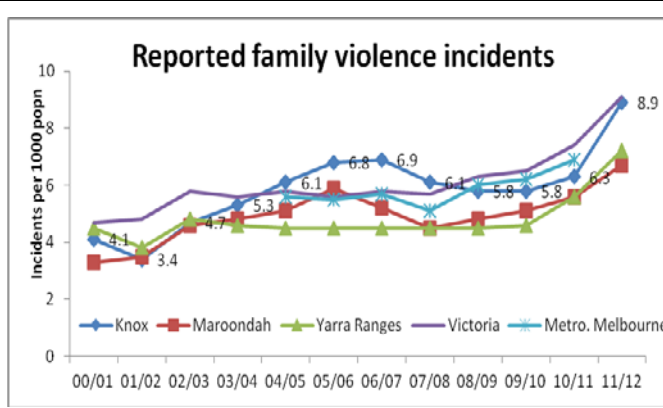
% prepared to intervene in a situation of domestic violence:

Knox: 92.7   Maroondah: 95.1   Yarra Ranges: 96.3   Victoria: 93.1

Satisfaction with feeling part of the community (Knox %):

2007: 68.6   2011: 70.8

Labour force participation rate age 15+ (%)

Male: 75.5 (Knox)   71.3 (Vic)

Female: 56.8 (Knox)   52.5 (Vic)

Data Development Agenda

Participation rates of women involved in sporting activities

Partners

- Welfare agencies that respond to family violence.
- Health – Knox Community Health Service.
- Victoria Police
- Schools, early childhood, education.
- Preventing Violence Against Women Project.
- Women's Health East
- Church and cultural groups (Migrant Information Centre, Aboriginal Services, Mullum Mullum Healing service).
- Eastern Football League and other sporting groups.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Family violence has been identified as a priority area in the Community Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the Community Strengthening & Social Equity Plan and will be the subject of closer scrutiny in coming months as the $4 million Preventing Violence Against Women Outer East pilot project gets underway. This world-first project will work within the five key settings identified in the State government's Right to Respect plan discussed above.

The Outer East Preventing Violence Against Women Strategic Alliance has been formed to enhance information sharing and communication between various agencies, including legal services, crisis support, Victoria Police, council and Neighbourhood Houses. Knox also works closely with local Victoria Police on this issue as part of the Community Health and Wellbeing Reference Group and the Safer Communities Group.

Public education campaigns that promote no tolerance to violence and gender equity.

Legislation and policy.

Individual support for vulnerable families.

Increasing community ownership of respectful relationships through school sporting clubs and gender equity programs involving community in the solutions including grass roots, advocacy campaigns, mass media, social media and public action.

Cultural change at sporting clubs.

Service pathways for example through Maternal and Child Health nurses.

Intensive programs that focus on repeat family violence offenders through tactical support for Victoria Police.

Baby makes three parenting programs.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

Violence against women is a serious public health issue. Research indicates the profound and long-term toll that violence takes on women's health, on families, communities and on society in general. (Women's Health East 2011). In particular, family violence has a substantial impact on children's emotional, cognitive, developmental and behavioural wellbeing. A recent review of the research literature found "convincing evidence that children exposed to family violence 'are more likely to experience higher rates of depression and anxiety, trauma symptoms and behavioural and cognitive problems'. This can affect a wide range of outcomes or areas of functioning in children, including learning, social and relationship capacity, attention and personality development" (Wilcox 2012:4).

Ferntree Gully and Boronia account for the highest number of reported family violence incidents in Knox over the last decade.

Knox has a high number of family violence reports, especially involving alcohol and in the presence of children

Victorian Victoria Police data (which is likely to be an underestimate) shows that children were present at 37% of family violence incidents in Knox in 2010/11. This is higher than the Victorian average (35%), but less than the Eastern Metropolitan Region average of 40%.

The community consultation in Knox indicated that :

- Family violence was identified as a prevalent, but hidden issue in Knox, but because of lack of reporting, the incidence of family violence is much higher than what the statistics show.

- Reports from consultation have identified that family violence is on the increase in Knox.

- It was felt that there is a need to support at risk women and children in the community.

- Gender equity was identified as a related-issue, but is broader than family violence and also impacts women in public places and in the work place.

Partners who attended a workshop also indicated that increase substantiation rates could be impacted by:

- There is community support for increased reporting of family violence incidents and less tolerance of turning the other way.

- Better reporting mechanisms for family violence incidents and mandatory reporting particularly in hospitals.

- Increased pressures on the family unit such as financial pressures post Global Financial Crisis, mortgage stress, problem gambling, alcohol and drug abuse, aggression and mental health issues and employment pressures.

- Gender equity and women's position in society encompassing values, culture and roles at the micro level.

- The media's influence.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?			
City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	**City Plan Strategic Objective/s**	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 5 – The community has safe and accessible transport options (Transport and access)

Desired Outcome	The community has safe and accessible transport options

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Community

What would the results look like?

- The community are confident using public transport, bike paths, roads, and footpaths.
- Community can access and use safely the transport options available in Knox.

Indicators: How can we measure?

% of hoon driving offences (Victoria Police)

Drink driving infringement notices (Victoria Police)

Perceptions of safety whilst using public transport, walking or at home (Victoria Police)

Secondary data to be monitored – Road crash stats (VicRoads)

Data obtained by local laws (Knox City Council) on incidents at school crossings

Police Service Area : Knox

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Tier 1 Drive whilst Disqualified / Suspended	0	5	13	12	9	18
Tier 1 Excessive Speed >70klm	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tier 2 Careless Driving	0	1	9	11	12	7
Tier 2 Conduct/engage in race/speed trial	0	0	2	0	2	0
Tier 2 Evade Police / Pursuit	0	0	6	3	2	6
Tier 2 Excessive Speed >45klm	12	23	27	34	26	23
Tier 2 Fail to have proper control	0	1	1	1	2	0
Tier 2 Improper use of Motor Vehicle	8	31	50	31	12	12
Tier 2 Speed/Manner Dangerous	0	2	0	1	0	2
Tier 2 Undue noise/smoke	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	20	63	108	94	65	71

Data extracted on 5 November, 2012
Data extracted from Vehicle Impoundment System
Data relates to the period 1 July, 2006, to 31 December, 2011.

Drink Driving Infringement Notices Issued (rate per 10,000)
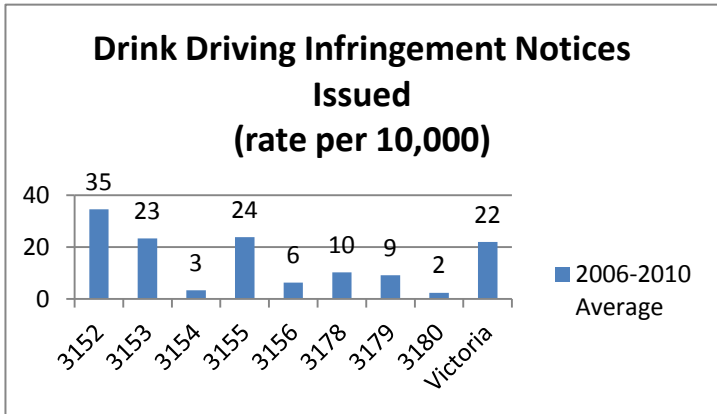
Source: www.socialstatistics.com.au

Primary offences committed for vehicle impoundment 2011
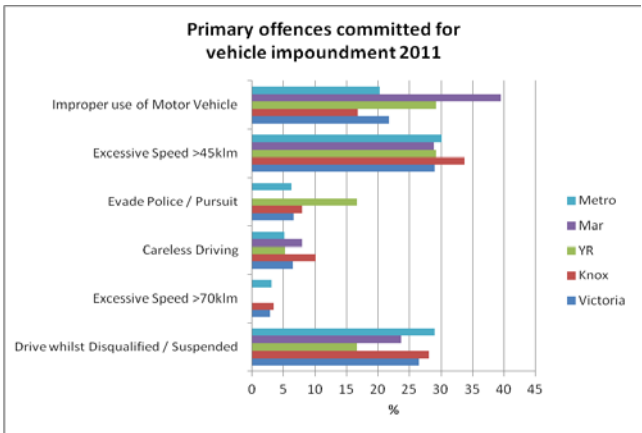
Victoria Police data

	Rolling 12 month average		
	Average	Max	Min
Home Day	96%	98%	94%
Home Night	88%	92%	84%
Transport Day	82%	87%	77%
Transport Night	31%	36%	22%
Walk Day	91%	94%	88%
Walk Night	59%	65%	53%

Victoria Police data from 2008-2011.

KNOX PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY ROLLING 12 MONTH AVERAGE

Partners
Victoria Police, Knox City Council Traffic and Transport, VicRoads, Roadsafe, Knox City Council Local Laws, public transport authorities, schools, sporting clubs
What are the key strategies to achieve this?
Sustainable and evidenced based behaviour change programs that target dangerous driving, partners understanding their roles and responsibilities, increasing and understanding what is driving perceptions that areas are unsafe and developing collaborative programs to reduce those issues. Implementing crime prevention through environmental design initiatives at public transport interchanges and high profile pedestrian access roots throughout the community.
Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?
Hoon driving as confirmed by Victoria Police data (perceptions of safety survey) and Community safety survey conducted by the community safety team during 2012 was nominated by residents as a key safety issue. Through the community survey it was also identified there are major issues with the under reporting of hoon driving offences in the community "as many people do not want to be involved in any court proceedings or identifying hoon drivers. Other issues also identified were car egging, and unsafe crossings in particular school crossings. Connectivity of walking paths including safer crossings for people with disabilities were identified as Although the rate of drink driving infringement notices in Knox is well below the Victorian average there are pockets of high rates including Wantirna and Wantirna South, followed by Boronia and Bayswater. Through the community safety survey conducted by Knox City Council in 2012 safety around transport interchanges was of concern to the community and can be a barrier to using public transport, this perception was also confirmed during the community consultation session with partners, including feeling unsafe on bike paths particularly at night,   Safety around school crossings was identified by the community as an issue and promoting safe and sustainable transport to school options was viewed as a challenge.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?			
City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	**City Plan Strategic Objective/s**	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 6 –Public places and spaces are well maintained and the community feels safe (Graffiti)

Desired Outcome	Public places and spaces are well maintained and the community feels safe

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Community including businesses and traders.

What would the results look like?

- Public places are graffiti free.
- The feeling of community pride and sense of safety.
- Public art murals are supported and enhance amenity.
- Private property is maintained, graffiti free.

Indicators: How can we measure?

The annual graffiti audit (Knox City Council survey)

Percentage of people who think that graffiti is of concern to them and their neighbourhood. Please note: Graffiti is included as vandalism (Victoria Police)

Secondary to be monitored data.

Victoria Police Crime Data arrests for graffiti offenders in Knox.

Perceptions of Neighbourhood Problems

Levels of Graffiti in Knox Since 2004 (per sqm)

Knox City Council Graffiti Audit
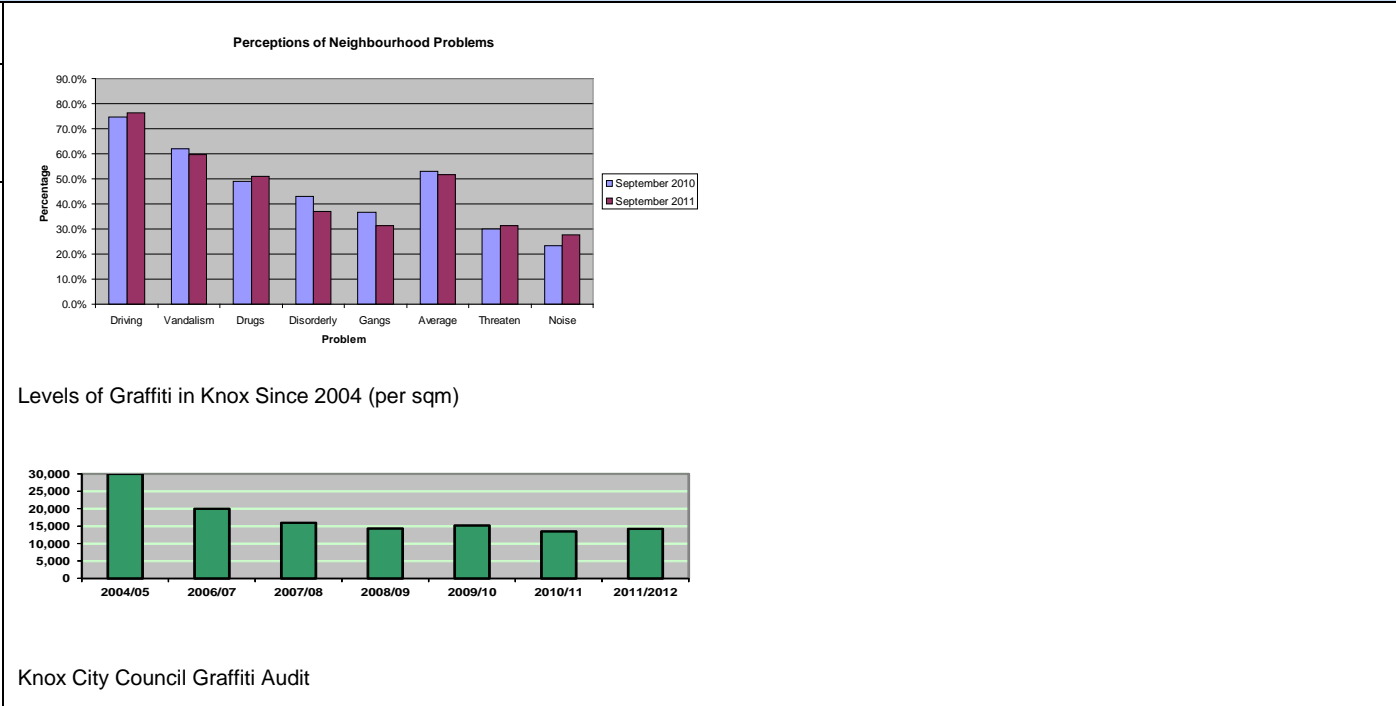
Partners

Victoria Police, Knox City Council Teams – Parks, Facilities and Works, Traders, Businesses, Schools, Volunteers, Community.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Knox City Council has implemented a Graffiti Management programs through a Council endorsed plan since 2002 The aim of the plan was specifically focused on graffiti prevention and management to reduce the social, environmental and economic impact of graffiti and vandalism related-activity in Knox. The plan included a multi-faceted approach consisting of education, prevention and removal strategies and incorporates zero tolerance strategies. It was developed as a direct response to community perceptions of safety and crime associated with graffiti and vandalism and the social and environmental costs incurred by Council and the community as an outcome. A multi faceted approach continues to be the most effective strategy to reduce the impacts of graffiti and increase perceptions of safety.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

- Graffiti in Knox is decreasing, both in terms of the number of incidents and the total area covered. The most recent figures reveal a reduction of 20.48% from the 2010 result
- This reduction in graffiti may be due to a number of factors, including the renewed attention by council to the issue, and the efforts of local Victoria Police in targeting repeat offenders.
- The rate at which people perceive graffiti or other vandalism to be a problem in their neighbourhood is also reducing, but remains a concern to almost 60% of surveyed residents in 2011.
- In a recent survey carried out by Neighbourhood Watch, graffiti and vandalism were nominated as a local problem by 51% of Knox residents surveyed.

There is considerable debate as to whether the presence of graffiti implies an 'unsafe' community; it continues to figure, however, in surveys measuring perceptions of local safety, and for that reason must be considered an ongoing issue for the Council and the community.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	City Plan Strategic Objective/s	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 7 – People have an increased awareness of their relative safety in Knox (Perceptions of safety)

Desired Outcome	People have an increased awareness of their relative safety in Knox

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Community.

What would the results look like?

- People feel confident and safe out in the community day or night.
- The built and natural environments are safe places and spaces for all.

Indicators: How can we measure?

Perceptions of safety data

(Community Indicators Victoria)

Knox Community Safety Survey (Knox City Council 2012)

% of Knox residents feeling safe or very safe, CIV data

How safe or unsafe do you feel when you are in the following situations?

Data development Agenda:

Develop perceptions of safety survey for Knox to be conducted annually.

% of new and rebuild development implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

Partners

Victoria Police, Council, Local media, Knox Community Health Service, Licensed Venues through the Knox Liquor Accord, Knox Youth Providers Network, Neighbourhood House Network, Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

There is a general consensus in the literature that the most significant effect of fear of crime is the reduced quality of life it imposes on those affected by it. As well as wide-ranging physiological and psychological effects, "fear of crime can prompt people to change their behaviour by adopting protective or avoidance behaviours" (Doran & Burgess 2012). Protective behaviours may include young people carrying knives, even if their fear is unfounded (Bondy et al 2005), or older people withdrawing from social activities in the community. A person need not have been a victim of crime or a witness to crime in order to form a view of safety in a particular location. Even low-level incivilities or harassment can have a huge impact on perceptions of safety, and this extends to alcohol-related antisocial behaviour (Morgan & McAtamney 2009). For example, a young family leaving a community event like Carols by Candlelight who is confronted by noisy, alcohol-affected people can affect the family's decision to attend such events in the future.

Appropriate planning and design of urban environments can significantly improve the community's sense of safety. A key approach to achieving these outcomes is through implementing best practice frameworks that have improved communities throughout the world specifically through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

To increase perceptions of safety in a community requires a collaborative approach focusing on particular environmental and situational crime prevention programs – to reduce the opportunity for crime and increase the risk and efforts associated with offending. It also requires working with the community to gain a greater understanding of perceived unsafe areas that do not really experience high crime however make people feel unsafe and what interventions will work through an analysis of the evidence.

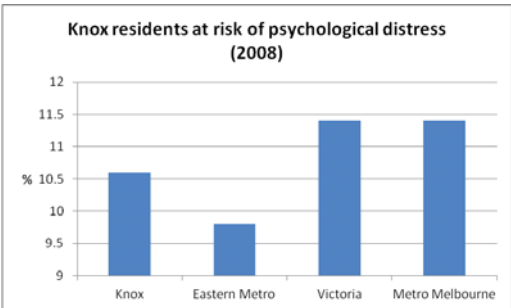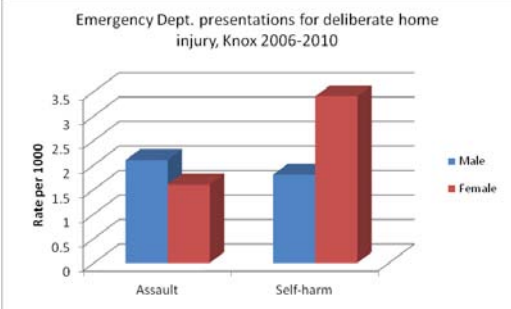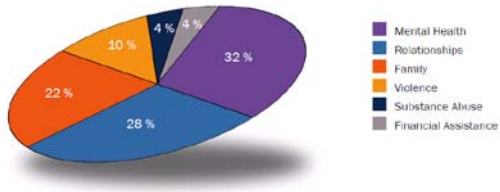**Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?**

- Reported crime in Knox is falling, the current crime rate (2010/11) @ 4737 offences per 100,000 population, is 37% lower than the rate at the start of the decade (7579/100,000 in 2001-02).
- The crime rate has remained significantly and consistently below the State average.
- Knox residents report high levels of feeling safe during the day in their neighbourhoods, but feel much less safe at night, particularly on public transport.[5]
- When asked what makes them feel unsafe, the most common reasons given by Knox residents are groups of people – 'young',' weird', 'gangs' or 'undesirable' – loitering or 'hanging around'. Issues around young people made up the second largest category (there was some crossover with loitering), and not far behind was environmental amenity factors such as poor lighting, seclusion, and litter.[6]

A recent Neighbourhood Watch survey of Knox residents found that 31% of those surveyed mentioned public transport (particularly train stations) as a crime and safety concern in their area, with 30% deliberately avoiding that place or situation due to fears for their safety.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	City Plan Strategic Objective/s	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 8 – Young people and adults are resilient and have high levels of emotional and psychological wellbeing (Mental health)

Desired Outcome	Young people and adults are resilient and have high levels of emotional and psychological wellbeing

Population – who are the people you are targeting?

Young People and Adults

What would the results look like?

- Young people and adults have low levels of stress and are resilient.
- Young people and adults have rewarding, productive relationships and are supported by the community.

Indicators: How can we measure?

Measures of psychological distress – (Community Indicators Victoria)

Emergency Department Presentations for Self Harm Injuries, 2006-2008

Knox School Focused Youth Service report 2009: areas of wellbeing concern

Knox residents at risk of psychological distress (2008)

Emergency Dept. presentations for deliberate home injury, Knox 2006-2010

Partners

Headspace, Victoria Police, Community Health Sector, Neighbourhood Houses, Local Media, Communities That Care collaboration, Churches, other mental health service providers in Knox including Medicare Local, Council teams – Knox City Council Youth Services.

What are the key strategies to achieve this?

Through a community safety lens and working with identified partners their needs to be a focus on supporting and skilling community groups supporting people with mental health issues in their services, such as neighbourhood houses. Mental health as such is not a community safety issue however from a holistic perspective high numbers of vulnerable young people who are self harming are at high risk Through a collaborative approach actions will focus on programs and initiatives that can support or advocate to support ongoing programs or resourcing for new initiatives that are a gap in the Knox community.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

- Mental health disorders are the second highest cause of death and disability (burden of disease) in Knox for both males and females.[7]
- Knox has a high rate of emergency department attendance and hospitalisation for self-harm injuries, particularly in the under-25 age group.
- In the 2009 Knox SFYS report secondary school students, teachers and youth agencies rated mental health as their top area of wellbeing concern
- During the community consultation to inform this plan mental health was identified as a growing community safety issues by participants, and young people were felt to be particularly at risk.

In particular Neighbourhood Houses advised they were experiencing an increase of customers who have mental health/ behavioural issues attending programs and staff/volunteers do not feel adequately equipped to manage episodes or difficult behaviour particularly in young people.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	City Plan Strategic Objective/s	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

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[7] Knox Community Health & Wellbeing Profile 2009-2013.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan Priority 9 – Families are supported to prevent problem gambling (Problem gambling)	
Desired Outcome	Families are supported to prevent problem gambling

Population – who are the people you are targeting?
Families

What would the results look like?

- Families gamble responsibly.
- Families have financial capacity to support adequate living standards.

Indicators: How can we measure?

PLEASE NOTE: Due to changes in Victorian Legislation in 2012, the number of Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM) in Knox will be reduced over time. Therefore EGM losses cannot be compared to current EGM levels and losses. Data Development Agenda/ further research: Losses from online gambling in Knox.	For Information Only (Community Indicator Victoria data).

	Knox	Maroondah	Yarra Ranges	Metro Melb	Victoria
Losses per adult 2010/11	695	831	279	658	620
Losses per adult since 1992/3	14375	14145	5348	11690	10806
EGM's per 1000 adults 2011/12	7.1	9.2	3.7	6	6.1

Partners
Victoria Police, Knox City Council Social Policy and Planning, Problem Gamblers support services for Knox Residents, Department of Justice (Victorian State Government).

What are the key strategies to achieve this?
Problem gambling is a very complex issue that most communities are dealing with – through a community safety lens the major focus for actions will be developing preventative community education programs and partnership initiatives. There also requires further research and data development to gain a meaningful understanding of the true impact of gambling including problem gambling in all forms has on the community in order to develop programs from a evidence base. Continue discussions with community partners to develop and enhance Council's role in relation to this issue from a community safety perspective.

Story behind the Baselines. How are we doing on the most important issues?

Gambling, if undertaken responsibly, provides a leisure activity. It contributes to employment and economic activity. It is also an important source of taxation revenue for State governments. However, there is ongoing concern about the social and personal costs associated with problem gambling and subsequent impacts on the overall health and wellbeing of families and communities. Examples of these impacts are outlined in Appendix C. 8 Discussion of problem gambling generally tends to focus on Electronic Gaming Machines rather than other forms of gambling, as this type carries the greatest risk of harm.9

- As at August 2011, Knox had 865 EGMs in 11 venues. Losses from these venues reached $84 million in 2010/11.
- In the same period losses at Maroondah totalled $68 million, and $31 million in Yarra Ranges.
- Since 1992-93 $1,737,000,000 has been lost on Electronic Gaming Machine's in Knox, the 6th highest total for all Victorian municipalities.10
- Gambling machine density and rate of losses tends to be higher in the more disadvantaged areas of Knox.11

In 2009 the Productivity Commission inquiry into gambling found that Australians spend nearly $12 billion a year on poker machines and 75% of people with a serious gambling problem played poker machines. Electronic gaming machines (Electronic Gaming Machines) or poker machines are installed in easily accessible venues more commonly located in low income areas targeted at vulnerable individuals. For these individuals, EGMs provide an escape from their problems which can lead to excessive spending of money and time on gambling. The design and accessibility of Electronic Gaming Machines contributes to this by providing an easy way of making high average bets2. Gambling is also linked to anxiety, depression, excess alcohol and tobacco usage, and increased suicide risks which are factors that exacerbate problem gambling. These factors also cause negative social and economic outcomes as a result of arguments, relationship breakdown, loss of income, inconsistent work behaviour, and loss of money and property.

Crime can be a cause or a result of gambling and there is an established link between problem gambling and criminal activities, such as fraud, robbery and theft, drug offences, violent crimes and murder. A 2008 study of all Australian convictions Problem gambling can lead to family dysfunction and domestic violence including spouse and child abuse

Through community consultation online gambling was considered a growing problem that lacks reporting or awareness.

How does this link to Council's City Plan themes and strategic objectives?

City Plan theme/s	1. Healthy and Connected Community	**City Plan Strategic Objective/s**	1.2 A safe community with strong community connections and where learning and volunteering are valued and supported.

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[8] Knox Gambling Profile 2009.

[9] Productivity Commission 2010.

[10] www.socialstatistics.com.au

[11] ibid.