

Council Meeting

25/Aug/2025

Notice of Motion No.184

Crime Rate and Community Safety

That Council resolve:

1. To note that according to data published by the Crime Statistics Agency:
 - a) During the 12 months to March 2025, crimes committed by children aged between 10 and 17 in Knox increased to 909 offender incidents, the highest level since electronic records began in 1993, and more than double the 441 offender incidents recorded in the 12 months to March 2024.
 - b) The increase in child offending is not exclusive to Knox and is happening across the state, with crimes committed by children aged between 10 and 17 climbing to 24,550 incidents in Victoria during the 12 months to March 2025. This marks a 16 per cent year-on-year rise and is the highest level recorded since electronic record-keeping began in 1993.
2. To acknowledge and endorse the recent media comments of Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner of Regional Operations, Bob Hill, who in March 2025 said (in part): “The overall crime rates in Victoria are totally unacceptable. We completely understand the community concerns around young offenders breaking into homes, stealing cars, and putting other people at risk on our roads. As a society, we simply cannot tolerate this level of offending. The time has come for Victorians to feel safe in their homes again and for young offenders to be held accountable.”
3. To acknowledge the recent decline in perceptions of safety felt across the Knox community, and in line with *Theme 5: Being a strong voice for safety* of the Council and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, reinforce the critical objective that: *Our community feels safe, respected, and supported in public spaces and at home through Council’s delivery, advocacy, and partnerships.*
4. To recognise the proactive efforts of Victoria Police’s Eastern Region Division 2 in establishing a new Local Safety Committee that will bring together councillors, council officers, community agencies, and Police to share relevant information, respond to emerging issues, and plan and coordinate crime prevention and community safety initiatives across Knox.

5. To express Council's strong support for engaging with and participating in the Local Safety Committee.
6. To consider a process to provide the Knox community with a straightforward and accessible way to raise local crime and safety concerns for the Local Safety Committee's attention.

Cr Glen Atwell

Tirhatuan Ward