



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia strives to achieve an organisation built on a culture of collaboration, allowing enhanced knowledge exchange and information sharing, resulting in a highly effective and successful community policing and community engagement partnership. Ultimately, Enabling Safer and Vibrant Communities.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AUSTRALASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



www.nhwa.org.au



An Australian Government Initiative

Message from the President

Patricia Leary, President, NHPWA

It is deeply rewarding to hold the position of President of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia. Neighbourhood Watch is the largest single organised crime prevention activity in the world. Here in Australia and New Zealand, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is proud to be part of this very important community engagement activity.

With 30 years of history and experience in community safety and crime prevention we remain focused on our core values of enabling safe and vibrant communities for all Australians and New Zealanders. Our second Annual Report is testament to the changing face of our communities reflected through our key projects. However, most importantly, this Annual Report reflects what can be achieved through a strong government and community partnership.



The benefits of being a member of NHPWA

Better business sense: The Federal Government Funding has been awarded to NHPWA based on a collaboration model. It makes better business sense for NHPWA as a collective to initiate the research and development of NHPW community safety and crime prevention programs and projects. Whilst setting a sector standard, it also alleviates duplication and creates an advantage through economy of scale for the adoption, production and implementation across Australia.

Better outcomes: Front line community engagement police officers are facing a multitude of issues. Access to NHPWA information can lead

to better business and community engagement outcomes. Collectively NHPWA can bring more resources to bear in relation to community safety, crime prevention and organisational identified issues. The collaborative culture lends itself to greater oversight of programs and projects.

Better ideas: Each policing jurisdiction across Australasia is facing similar community engagement issues within similar community safety and crime prevention arenas. NHPWA has a diverse membership which allows the application of different skills to address a similar problem, producing a more effective solution than perhaps one jurisdiction working alone.

No one idea is totally new; by sharing knowledge and experience an idea can be further enhanced therefore improving delivery to a high and timely standard.

Efficiency: A collaborative approach to the development and implementation of localised strategies and initiatives can result in the saving of valuable time and money therefore increasing efficiency. It can also reduce stress levels of community engagement officers.

Mutual support: Community engagement is demanding and stressful and can require a range of approaches. NHPWA member jurisdictions are supportive of one another

NHPWA is proudly associated with:



ThinkUKnow Partnership

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join the ThinkUKnow cyber safety program. The ThinkUKnow internet safety program delivers interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through schools and organisations across Australia. Available to all NHPWA membership jurisdictions, NHPW volunteers are trained to deliver the cyber safety program.



Federal Government – Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Watch Group

The Speaker of the House was approached  An Australian Government Initiative to recognise the official formation of The Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Watch Group, for the duration of the 44th Parliament. The Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Watch Group is of an apolitical nature and open to all members and senators. The Co-Convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Watch Group are Chris Hayes MP, Member for Fowler and Russell Matheson MP, Member for Macarthur. The first meeting of the group was held in March 2014.

Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency

"High quality community-police partnerships are essential for safe and secure communities. NHPWA plays a valuable and important role in many communities in supporting these partnerships."

Jon White, Chief Executive Officer



Police Federation of Australia

"Police/community relationships through Neighbourhood Watch is a vital crime prevention initiative."

Mark Burgess, Chief Executive Officer



Message from the CEO

Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer, NHTA

People need people to survive. A bold statement, but in my role as Chief Executive Officer of NHTA I am constantly reminded of this very simple fact. Neighbourhood Watch programs are all about people. Engaging individuals, engaging people within geographical communities, people within communities of interest or people within work communities.

It is hugely rewarding to be part of such a positive collaboration of like-minded, committed, passionate, professional people who make up NHTA and who are committed to making our communities a better, safer place to live.

On behalf of NHTA I present our second Annual Report, which highlights our major projects designed to engage with our many and varied communities. Our projects also reflect the positive, important benefits of working collaboratively not just as an organisation but as a collective community, in all aspects of life.

because they recognise, understand and acknowledge the environment within which they work. Access to project information sourced from within NHTA groups can provide valuable insight. Through mutual support NHTA offers encouragement to achieve goals that may not be realised individually.

Sense of accomplishment: NHTA believes working collaboratively is vital to the success of the organisation. To be successful members need to be diverse, understand their environment and be able to work towards the NHTA defined goals. There is often a greater sense of accomplishment when these goals are achieved collectively.

Working as part of NHTA makes good business sense

Across multiple disciplines, whether it be the corporate sector, government or the not-for-profit sector, the ability to work in a collaborative environment has become a major requirement for success. Working collaboratively within NHTA can:

- provide access to quality evidence-based information
- save valuable time
- save money and increase efficiency
- foster effective relationships between Community Engagement Officers across Australia
- create a collaborative approach to problem solving within a community engagement context
- provide exposure to and solutions to address potential risks when working within community engagement
- limit the overlap of service and resource development and the coordination of existing service delivery
- Provide research and analyses that is broader in scope and more expansive in detail than those done by a single organisation in isolation
- Gain access to skill sets of a person or group of people that may only be required for a certain project
- A unique chance to gain a better understanding of the cross section of organisations working across community safety and crime prevention.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia funding

NHTA was awarded \$1.5m from the Federal Government POCA (Proceeds of Crime Act) Funds. A Funding Agreement was entered into with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department in April 2012. NHTA will receive \$500k per year for a three year period.

NHTA FUNDING Year Two (April 2013 to May 2014)

NATIONAL OFFICE: (\$220k)

- Administration • Employment • Insurances/Tax

EXECUTIVE BOARD: (\$40k)

- Member AGM Conference • Executive Meetings • Development/Training

COMMUNITY: (\$240k)

- Community Funding Program • Community Project Funds • Remote and Vulnerable Communities Project
- Community Resources • Community Training Days • Web-based Communication • Community Awards



The Collaborative Partnership of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

At a community level NHTA strives to achieve an enhanced knowledge base focus, built on an information sharing model, which is a significant component to effective community policing and community engagement.

This is done by the continual building of police and community partnerships for community engagement through the development and implementation of localised strategies and initiatives.

NHTA, through a culture of collaboration with its member jurisdictions, will provide examples of best practice resources and project models based on research, experience and knowledge. These best practice resources will provide opportunities for each jurisdiction/community to decide on adoption, adaption and/or implementation as required.



Current NHTA Projects



Community Funding Program

NHTA has successfully completed the development, structure and processes required for an Australian-wide community funding program. NHTA offers \$100,000 per year to NHTA groups for localised problem solving working in partnership with police and/or local government (not available in New Zealand).

Community Training Days

NHTA provides opportunities for Neighbourhood Watch grassroots members and community engagement officers to be exposed to relevant information around localised community safety and crime prevention initiatives. These opportunities provide an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others. Offered free of charge to all member jurisdictions.

NHTA Australasian Research

NHTA successfully completed the development and implementation of an Australasian-wide community survey in partnership with Griffith University, Queensland. The survey successfully analysed who NHTA members are;

what the value of NHTA is; and how effective the community/police partnership is. This first time research was made available to all member jurisdictions.

NHTA will continue to identify and undertake relevant research based on identified current community safety issue trends, to develop crime prevention education resources.

NHTA Community and Policing Awards

To successfully promote NHTA as a values-based organisation, by celebrating the extraordinary contributions by community individuals, groups and police employees, NHTA has established an annual awards-based system. Available to every member jurisdiction.

Remote and Vulnerable Communities Project

To research, develop and address community safety issues within remote and vulnerable communities. NHTA, in initial collaboration with SAPOL, WAPOL, NTP and QPS, has successfully commenced the research and development of a Neighbourhood Watch Program that delivers a community-led response methodology specific to the needs of remote and vulnerable communities. Through a trial project NHTA will provide a body of knowledge relating to crime prevention in indigenous and/or marginalised communities. After evaluation, this program will be available to all member jurisdictions.

Diagrammatic Brochure

NHTA is embracing diversity through the development of a diagrammatic community safety brochure focused on addressing Family Violence. Presented through diagrammatical pictures, the information is aimed at community members who do not have English as a first language. Developed and implemented across five jurisdictions initially, this project is available to all member jurisdictions.

Repository of Information

The establishment of a web-based NHTA Repository (library) of Information will relate specifically to community safety and crime prevention projects developed and implemented to tackle localised issues. The purpose is to create a significant resource of projects for reference and learnings to enhance the knowledge and capability of community policing officers who work across community engagement roles. This project is available to all member jurisdictions.

Up-to-date Information

NHTA works consistently to provide up-to-date, relevant information through the web page, magazine, email alerts and social media. It produces a range of news articles, media releases and safety tips. Available to all member jurisdictions.

The Board of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

At a strategic level Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) is a collaboration of like-minded community and police professionals, involved in similar activities and linked in a common mission of “enabling safer and vibrant communities”, through the auspices of Neighbourhood Watch/Support programs.

The Board creates an environment of support and innovation that allows the confidence appropriate for addressing community safety and crime prevention issues, often high in complexity with many interdependent sub-issues.

NHWA strives to create a culture of collaboration between member jurisdictions to boost the confidence of individual members, enabling them to achieve significant outcomes. The culture of collaboration allows similarly identified community and policing issues to be analysed from differing perspectives. Paramount to the success of NHWA is the ability to focus different Neighbourhood Watch/Support approaches to the same problem therefore increasing the likelihood of innovative problem solving outcomes.

NHWA as an overarching body creates an environment to achieve increased efficiency – not only through mutual support and the acknowledgement of diversity, but by teamwork and the application of different skill sets.



President
The Honorable Patricia Leary
(Tasmania)



Vice President
Mr Bernie Durkin
(Western Australia)



Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs Margaret Pearson
(ACT)



Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Ingrid Stonhill
(Queensland)



Board Member
Inspector Carlee Mahoney
(New South Wales)



Board Member
Mr Roger Eynon
(New Zealand)



Board Member
Superintendent Michael Hebb
(Northern Territory)



Board Member
Mr Geoff Kloot
(Victoria)



Board Member
Mrs Clare McGrath
(ACT)



Projects Administrator
Mrs Caroline Campbell
(Queensland)



Board Member
Det Sgt James Braithwaite
(AFP)



Board Member
Snr Sgt Troy Stephens
(Northern Territory)



Board Member
Asst Comm Paul Stewart
(Queensland)

National Office

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NHWA Constitution

The Neighbourhood Watch Australasia "first draft" Constitution was adopted at the first official Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Advisory Board Conference on 24th October 2006, held in Adelaide, South Australia.

Since 2006 a significant number of organisational changes have occurred, none more significant than successfully receiving Federal Government Funding.

The acceptance of public funding required organisational structural change to NHWA and saw a coming of age from a volunteer collaboration transitioning to an indemnified business board governance and management model. Government funding enabled the employment of staff to manage the business along with a strategic business structure providing service delivery to meet the agreed objectives of the Contractual Funding Agreement. Incorporated in the ACT, the rewrite of the NHWA Constitution encompasses changes to the model rules, legislation and the Act and better reflects the NHWA business model.



Knock Knock Membership Drive

The NHWA Knock Knock program is a new national Neighbourhood Watch membership drive. The Knock Knock resources provide an excuse, opportunity and/ or reason, to go next door and meet neighbours in a non-confronting way. It encourages neighbourliness through an introductory voucher system. Available to all member jurisdictions.

ThinkUKnow Partnership

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join the ThinkUKnow cyber safety program. The ThinkUKnow internet safety program delivers interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through schools and organisations across Australia. Available to all NHWA membership jurisdictions.

Production of NHWA Resources

A suite of resources including signage, brochures, posters, banners, newsletters, magazines, training discs have been prepared to enhance project delivery within

member jurisdictions and are available to all membership jurisdictions.

Collaborative Partnerships

NHWA works collaboratively with all its member jurisdictions. NHWA has also sought to build relationships and work collaboratively with like-minded organisations such as ANZPAA (Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency), AFP (Australian Police Federation), Police Federation of Australia and Microsoft.

Presentations

Presentations and representation have been made by NHWA on behalf of the member jurisdictions to actively promote the importance of crime prevention and community safety. These have been undertaken specifically through the auspices of Neighbourhood Watch/ Support program delivery.

Board Governance Training

NHWA embraces a culture of improvement. Through relevant training opportunities



NHWA provides Board Members with opportunities to better understand their individual roles and responsibilities along with their collective governance responsibilities for an incorporated society funded by the Federal Government.

