



ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 2018 – 30 JUNE 2019

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Limited



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Our Mission

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia promotes community safety by supporting its members through education, awareness and resources to prevent crime.

Our Vision

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch member organisations and the Police, will be the leading volunteer community inclusion and crime prevention organisation in Australasia.

Our History

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) programs were introduced to Australian communities by Police in the 1980s. The logo of the four faces was designed in 1983 by a Victorian volunteer community committee and has become the nationally recognised brand of NHW.

In 2003, NHW conference participants from Australian policing agencies and NHW voluntary associations agreed that there would be significant value in establishing a national structure to assist the growth and development of NHW across Australia and New Zealand.

By 2006, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) was established to provide a collaborative approach to the development of resources; training for members; cross-sector information exchange and advocacy for Neighbourhood Watch in Australia, and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand programs.

The first NHWA Journal was printed in October 2006 and shared information on crime prevention initiatives and events from each of the member jurisdictions.

In 2007 NHWA, as a not for profit organisation, registered as an incorporated association.

In 2010 NHWA established an online presence with the nhwa.com.au website. This continues to be a great point of contact and source of news and information for groups, members and the general public. Following the growth of social media, the NHWA Facebook page was launched in 2011.

NHW's primary role in 2019 continues to be to promote the exchange of information and knowledge between Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Support, communities and Police to improve community safety and social inclusion.



CEO'S REPORT



MARIA BENNETT

Welcome!

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) is a unique organisation that works with Australian Neighbourhood Watch groups, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand and policing organisations, providing national approaches to crime prevention initiatives.

NHWA has now been **incorporated as a company limited by guarantee**, with a professional board structure and committees in place. We have new ideas and plans for future funding, and a structure and Board that will help to ensure our future and the best future for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Australia and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand.

As the peak body, we deliver advocacy, resources and support to our members. We are also very hands on with the delivery of the organisation's major projects. This year we brought to a successful conclusion the Remote and Vulnerable Communities program in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, and also the Diagrammatic Program creating brochures for culturally and linguistically diverse multicultural communities.

This year NHWA commenced a range of new projects, including:

- the **Community Capacity Study in collaboration with the University of Queensland** to survey and measure the effectiveness of NHW. This has been a huge success thanks to the dedicated members who completed the questionnaire.
- the **Neighbourhood Watch International Conference, 3, 4, 5 September 2020 at the Gold Coast**. The conference will bring together volunteers, members, police and other law enforcement agencies to engage and be part of this inaugural national and international crime prevention initiative.

Thanks for the ongoing support of the Chair and Board Directors for their strategic direction and working collaboratively to achieve our goals, and to Anne Collishaw the Executive Assistant, who continues to provide invaluable organisational and project management skills.

Central to all NHWA activities and projects is the relationship between Neighbourhood Watch and policing organisations. We are grateful for the strong partnerships between communities and Police working together for better crime prevention outcomes.

It is a pleasure to be a part of Neighbourhood Watch, delivering tangible results to communities.

Let's take action. Let's take ownership. And number 1, Let's Stay Safe.

Maria Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

CHAIR'S REPORT



BERNIE DURKIN

Dear Stakeholders and Members

On behalf of the Board, it gives me great pleasure to present our Annual Report for the financial year 2018/19.

This has been the first full year that Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHWA) Limited has operated as an entity having transitioned from an incorporated organisation. This transition has not been without its challenges; however, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful contribution that our CEO Maria Bennett has made to ensure that this process has been as smooth as possible. Maria is extremely motivated, very energetic and has assisted everyone involved in this process.

During the 2018/19 financial year we have had some movement with Board Members, and I wish to both thank those who have moved on and welcome our new Board Members. I wish to acknowledge and thank Sergeant Jeff Knight AFP, Superintendent Craig Barrett NT Police, Acting Superintendent Crispin Gargan NT Police, and Ms Bambi Gordon NHW Victoria. I also wish to welcome Cheryl Cartwright as an independent Board member. The evaluation of board skills has led us to include an independent member to contribute to ideas and strategy.

The NHWA Board with strong support from our staff will be focussing its attention on ensuring our governance, management structures and systems align with our strategic priorities in the year ahead. As an organisation we will continue to deliver on our Federal Government commitments.

Reporting of criminal or suspicious activity has been a core function of all Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups since the inception of the program in Australia. NHWA as part of a key project is looking to enhance the reporting process and harness the enthusiasm of dedicated NHW members Australia wide to increase reporting.

The NHWA Board will be looking at every opportunity to enhance our existing programs and will also be exploring new and exciting options that involve all sections of society and ultimately make our local communities safer and happier places to live.

In conclusion I wish to thank our CEO, staff and my fellow Board members for their outstanding efforts, and I look forward to the consolidation of our organisation and an exciting year ahead.

Best regards

Bernie Durkin
Board Chair

About Us

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW) is the peak body of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Australia and Neighbourhood Support New Zealand (NSNZ). It is governed by a Board comprising NHW representatives and senior Police from each of the member States and Territories of Australia, and New Zealand.

NHW supports and works in partnership with NHW and NSNZ to enhance the safety and security of communities. We share ideas and disseminate information through community programs that encourage participation in crime prevention and the building of safe and confident communities.



NHWA Board Directors and staff with NSW Police representatives at the 2018 AGM

L-R: Les Bulluss, Margaret Pearson, Maria Bennett, Acting Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook, Clare McGrath, Senior Constable Rob MacFarlane, Peter Edwards, Bernie Durkin, Carlene Mahoney, Eric Tibbott, Superintendent Dave Roptell



OUR PEOPLE

Board Directors and Staff



About the Board Directors and Staff



Bernie Durkin – Chairman, Western Australia

Bernie is the Executive Manager for the Community Engagement Division of the WA Police. Part of this role encompasses the position of WA State Director for NHW. Bernie is currently the Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.



Margaret Pearson – Company Secretary

Throughout her career, Margaret has made a significant contribution to the voluntary sector and is President of ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc. Margaret is currently the Company Secretary of NHTWA.



Clare McGrath – Australian Capital Territory

Clare is currently the Vice-President and Board Member of the ACT Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc. Clare has been an active member of NHW since 1985.



Dr Carlene Mahoney – New South Wales

Dr Carlene Mahoney is a Detective Chief Inspector within the NSW Police Force with over 20 years' experience, working in organised crime, child protection and she is currently managing the social media presence for online community engagement.



Peter Edwards – Tasmania

Peter Edwards is a former Commander in the Tasmanian Police Service. He has served as a Detective, Prosecutor, Intelligence Officer and Head of Training. Peter is now a Board member of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania.



Eric Tibbott – New Zealand

Superintendent Eric Tibbott assists the Commissioner of Police in driving the development and implementation of NZ Police's Prevention First Strategy and fosters a "whole of government" approach, contributing to community-based crime prevention.



Les Bulluss – Queensland

In 2011 Les was promoted to Inspector and in 2013 was appointed to his current role as Manager, Community Programs and Engagement, Community Contact Command. Les' portfolio includes Crime and Prevention Cultural Support.



Cheryl Cartwright – Independent Director

Cheryl is a non-executive director and government relations adviser. She has experience as an industry association CEO, a Federal Cabinet Minister's Chief of Staff and as a senior journalist in the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery.



Maria Bennett – Chief Executive Officer

Maria has extensive knowledge, management skills and leadership experience in the public and private sectors. Working with prominent charities/not for profit organisations, and management roles in medical and health industries in Australia and NZ.



Anne Collishaw – Executive Assistant/Project Manager

Anne is a highly experienced and motivated finance and administration professional, with 19 years' proven success in administration, accounts, bookkeeping and customer service, across Construction, Engineering, Transport and Banking sectors.



MAJOR PROJECTS

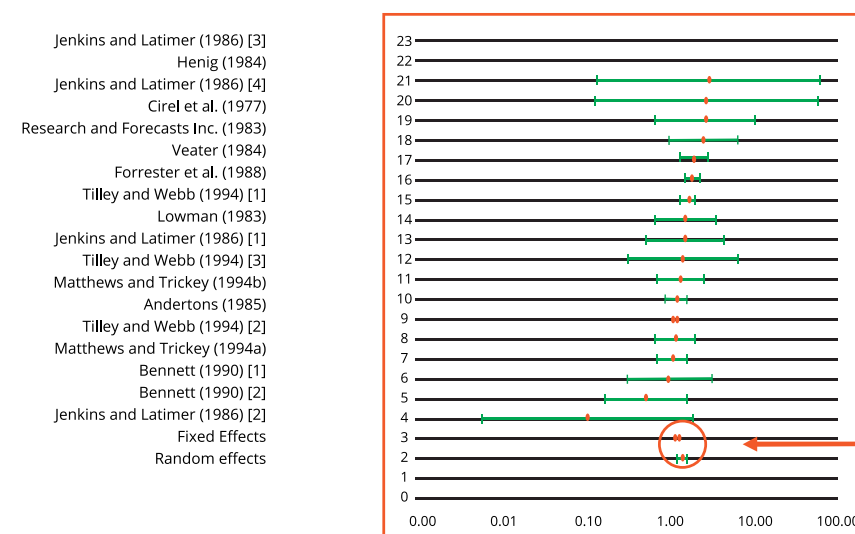
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY CAPACITY STUDY



*Lorraine Mazerolle, Professor of Criminology,
University of Queensland*

The question in the crime and justice arena is whether or not Neighbourhood Watch is an effective approach for reducing crime and disorder problems in communities. Using systematic review techniques, it has been found that **Neighbourhood Watch is associated with a reduction in crime of between 16 and 26 per cent.** This is what a systematic review can produce: what is called a meta-analysis of the overall impact of an intervention. **Neighbourhood Watch works!**

Figure 1: The effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch



*Dr Renee Zahnow, Criminology Lecturer,
University of Queensland*

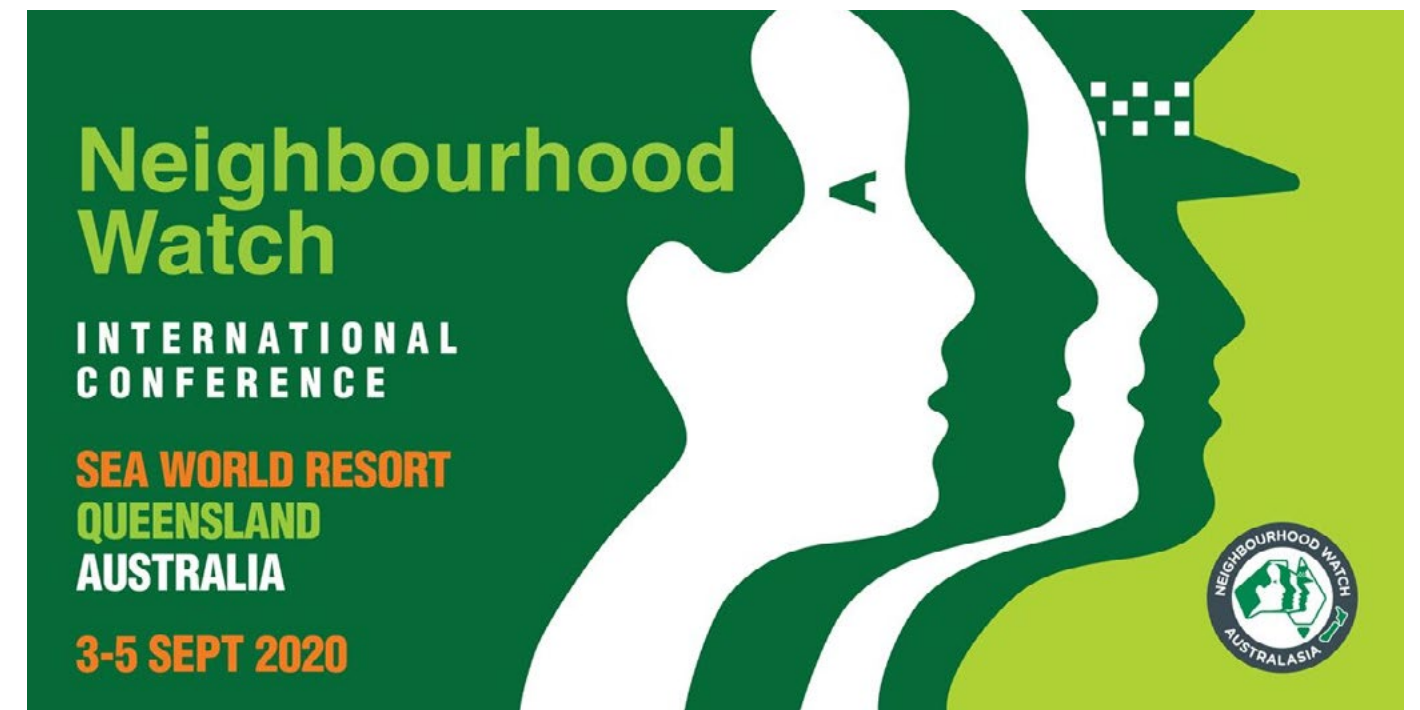
During June and July, the University of Queensland (UQ) conducted a survey of Neighbourhood Watch Queensland members.

Over 1,200 responses were received from Neighbourhood Watch Queensland members, which was a great outcome. There was a good representation of members from across Queensland. There have been responses from people in north Queensland as well as South-East region.

The survey is to better understand how the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) program shapes residents' attitudes, perceptions and behaviours specific to crime and disorder by evaluating the influence of NHW across communities.

The survey assesses perceptions, attitudes and behavioural differences between residents involved in NHW compared to those who are not involved in NHW. The survey will help determine the impact of NHW on shaping resident attitudes and capacities around crime prevention, specifically, the effectiveness of NHW programs in reducing the fear of crime in communities.

The full results of the survey will be released during the September 2020 NHW International Conference at the Gold Coast.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 21st century Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) will be on show at the Gold Coast in 2020 with an international conference that will attract Neighbourhood Watch, community and policing groups from around the globe.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHW), the representative body for Neighbourhood Watch Australia and Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, is pleased to announce the official inaugural NHW International Conference to be held at Sea World Resort at the Gold Coast on 3, 4, 5 September 2020.

The conference will bring together NHW groups, volunteers, members and the general public to engage and be part of a major national and international initiative. This will strengthen their resolve and commitment to bring about safer communities.

The conference will include topics such as: illegal drug use, crime prevention through environmental design, observational skills and techniques, information provision and improved online skills.

The very enthusiastic NHWA Chief Executive Officer, Maria Bennett, said "The conference will help to empower and connect all members of Neighbourhood Watch and the community."

She said NHW communities work well with local police groups and the conference would further enhance this collaboration.

"The conference will highlight best-practice work in crime prevention and build on current community safety initiatives," Ms Bennett said.

"It will equip individuals, communities and businesses with knowledge and best-practice strategies from global and local perspectives, enhancing community safety and building community and individual resilience. Building a knowledge base that includes lessons learnt from around the world will help to deliver effective crime prevention and community safety programs in Australia."

The conference will provide an opportunity for local policing groups from around the world to learn from a broad range of community engagement experiences and challenges. It's also an opportunity to increase awareness of Neighbourhood Watch in Australia and the good work already being undertaken, such as local educational programs that provide information about securing homes, cars and buildings, improve understanding of online dangers, and generate community engagement through discussion and activity groups.

Speakers will be drawn from technical experts, police and other law enforcement agencies, Corrective Services, government bodies and other non-government legal groups. Also, university experts will provide latest research and development information.

MAJOR PROJECTS

REPORTING TRAINING

NHW members are encouraged to provide reports and intelligence on drug related activity, property crime and other criminal activity.

The purpose of producing the reporting training series is to upskill the reporting methods of NHW groups, volunteers and members within the community to ensure the best possible outcomes from reports given to crime prevention and law enforcement agencies.

The 'reporting' project incorporates the development of an online reporting training course to be delivered in several different modules, these would include:

- How to report?
- What to report?
- When to report?
- Who should report?
- Call 000 emergency
- Call 131 444 Police assistance non urgent
- Crime Stoppers anonymous reporting
- How to identify illegal drug use in your neighbourhood
- Behavioural observation techniques

The outcome of this project will provide a quantitative measure of evidence-based effectiveness of NHW members in the community in the areas of crime prevention, law enforcement and supply and use of illegal drugs.



BE CONNECTED

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia is a Be Connected network partner.

Be Connected is a free Australian Government initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians when they use the internet and everyday technology. Older Australians will be able to learn the basics of going online, including:

- Being safe while online
- Talking to or seeing family and friends who live far away, more often
- Finding new friends or old friends who share similar interests and hobbies
- Keeping up-to-date with what's happening in their community and around the world
- Shopping online, safely and securely, without leaving home

Older Australians with low internet skills can often feel isolated from their community and family at a time in their lives when feeling connected is increasingly important.

NHWA is the peak body for NHW Australia and as a 'Be Connected' partner aims to help older Australians through a community centred approach. The program will help older Australians to realise the value of being connected online and provide access to appropriate training and support in a safe and familiar environment.

This course will be offered free of charge to:

- Older Australians who have low or no engagement with digital technology
- Families, peers and influencers of older Australians who lack the skills and confidence to go online
- Community organisations that are committed to digital inclusion and supporting older Australians bridge the digital divide

The course will be presented as a train the trainer package. NHWA will train 100 Digital Mentors who will then be fully equipped to go out into the community to train our older Australians. All training, resources and support will be provided free of charge. This is a great opportunity for all NHW members and groups!

MAJOR PROJECTS

DIAGRAMMATIC PROGRAM

Due to its tremendous success and popularity, the diagrammatic brochures program was extended from the previous year. With Australia's dramatically varied multicultural society, providing crime prevention information in a range of languages is problematic, particularly because of the cost but also because of the need to select the appropriate languages.

By providing brochures with minimal English and diagrams that clearly explain our messages, these brochures are a major contributor to our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members.

The diagrammatic brochures have been welcomed in many communities, including by Western Australia's large Chinese community and the Aboriginal communities in the vast north west of the State.

NHWA worked with multicultural teams from police departments, local governments and migrant organisations around Australia, to create, design and deliver the brochures.

The six information-laden brochures are available on the website and cover:

1. Protect Yourself - Personal Safety
2. Protect Your Vehicle - Vehicle Safety
3. Protect Your Home - Home Security
4. Behind Closed Doors - Family Violence
5. Be a Good Neighbour - Being a Good Neighbour
6. Be Safe and Secure - Being Safe and Secure

Thousands of these brochures have been downloaded and shared. Through this visual learning tool, the ideals and values of NHW and the Australian principles of keeping oneself and one's family and belongings safe are shared throughout our diverse communities.



REMOTE AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Children Come to School

Gunbalanya - Arnhem Land Northern Territory

NHWA has successfully introduced the "Children Come to School" project under the Remote and Vulnerable Communities program.

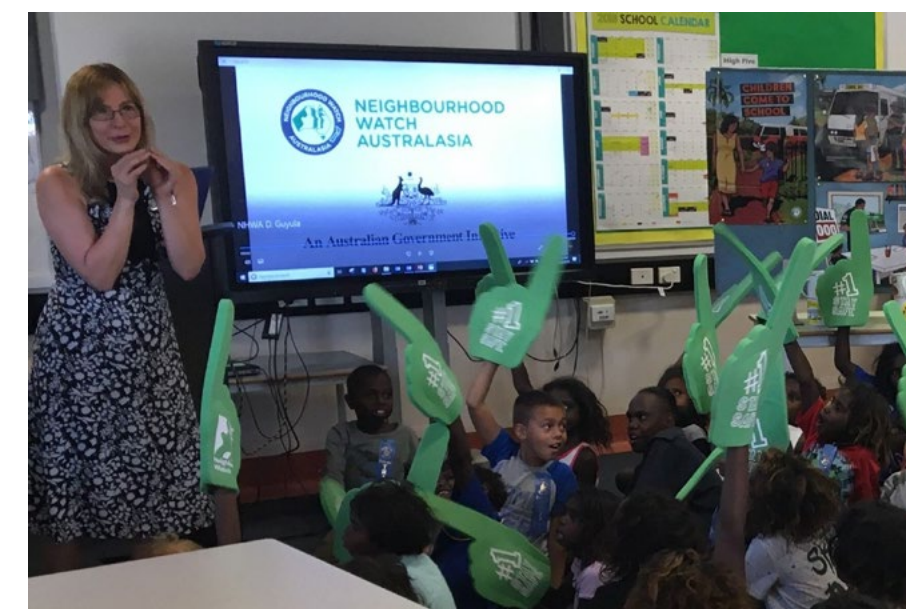
In Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory the main issues affecting children and young people in the Communities were identified as gambling, domestic violence, suicide, truancy, alcohol abuse, illicit drug use and petrol/glue sniffing.

NHWA worked with many local community stakeholders on education challenges and co-designed the "Children Come to School" project, developing resources specifically tailored to promote positive attitudes towards education.

The customised resources included information about the local schools, positive imagery about Indigenous life, encouragement to family members regarding the value of a child's school attendance and introducing Indigenous role models. Information was provided in an interactive format, so students were able to personalise their individual booklets.



L-R Commissioner Reece Kershaw, Constable Paul Keightley, NHWA CEO Maria Bennett, Government Engagement Coordinator Tony O'Leary, Indigenous Engagement Coordinator Doona Nadjamerrek



NHWA CEO Maria Bennett with children from Gunbalanya School at the launch of the Children Come to School project

NHWA also engaged with the Gunbalanya Independent Public School, the school connects with children and their families, using a range of initiatives including home visits to unengaged and disengaged students, engagement with school children and their families via social activities and has also established a trade training centre.

Education is the golden key to opening opportunities for all types of positive future prospects such as employment, increased self-esteem, breaking down antisocial behaviours and keeping children, the future adults and Community leaders, out of the justice system.

NHWA is committed to this very important program and thanks all stakeholders for their enthusiasm and involvement.

Events, Publications & Awards

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK

Hundreds of NHW volunteers, members and police celebrated NHW WEEK by organising community events in their local area.

NHW Week aims to raise public awareness of NHW and the benefits of belonging to a local Neighbourhood Watch group.

The aim is to increase membership of and encourage participation in Neighbourhood Watch programs throughout Australia.

Each year NHW WEEK continues to grow, with more events being held to promote crime prevention and personal safety.

A few of the activities include:

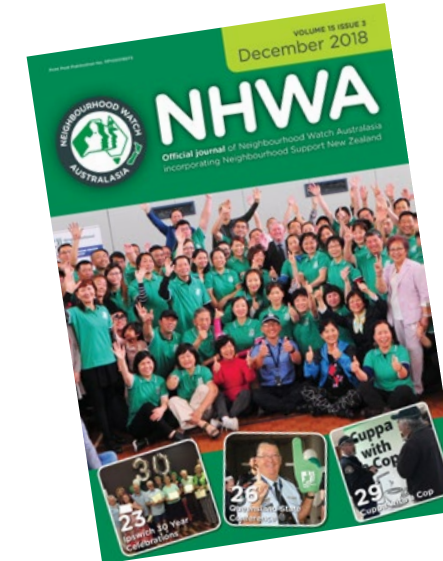
- Vehicle number plate one-way security locking screws to prevent car registration plate theft.
- Distributing NHW window stickers and letterbox plaques.
- Property identification, using an engraver or UV pen to mark your valuables.



NHWA JOURNAL

The NHWA Journal is printed and distributed across Australia and New Zealand 3 times a year.

Over 10,000 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to Neighbourhood Watch members, groups and policing organisations as well as an extensive email database. Also available via paid subscription to all members of the public.

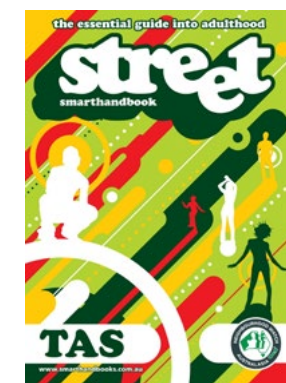


STREETSMART HANDBOOKS

Since 2002, the Streetsmart Handbooks have been delivered to teenagers at secondary schools. They provide friendly positive approaches for youth on important topics relevant to them as they transition into adult life.

Topics include cyber bullying, depression, social behaviour in the community, dangers of drugs, alcohol and much more. They also give teenagers and their families details of places and organisations to contact whenever they need assistance.

NHWA's partnership with the Streetsmart Handbooks promote the NHWA goal of creating a safe, connected and inclusive community, where people feel empowered, informed and engaged with one another and with Police.



Events, Publications & Awards

NHWA AWARDS



NHWA Police Commissioner's Award 2018 presented by Tasmania Police Commissioner Darren Hine to recipient Senior Constable Ian Edwards, Tasmania Police



NHWA 2018 Malcolm Grant OAM Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Queensland Police Service Superintendent Darryl Johnson to recipient Wendy Walker, Mountain Creek, NHW Queensland



2018 ThinkUKnow Award for online safety presentations presented by Australian Federal Police Detective Superintendent Jayne Crossling to recipient Graham Higgerson, Geelong, NHW Victoria



Financial Report



MARGARET PEARSON

It is now a year since Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Limited became a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, and during this time efforts have been made to supplement the funding received from the Federal Government.

The Federal Grant is for six specific projects, namely:

- Community Capacity Study- NHW University of Queensland survey;
- Reporting Training;
- NHW International Conference;
- Media Engagement;
- Youth Engagement Program; and
- Break the Cycle.

The Federal Government has made available through the Department of Home Affairs \$800,000 for the 2019 – 2021 financial years.

In addition to this, NHPA was successful in generating new income from a number of other grant opportunities.

We would like to thank our many supporters without whom we would not be able to operate.

NHPA continues to source additional funding to enable the organisation to undertake its various activities in line with its Strategic Plan to:

- promote community safety by supporting its members through education, awareness and resources to prevent crime;
- provide strategic leadership with the Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support programs to ensure members of the community feel safe and secure; and
- foster and enhance the partnership between police and the community thereby improving the safety and security and quality of life for all Australians and New Zealanders.

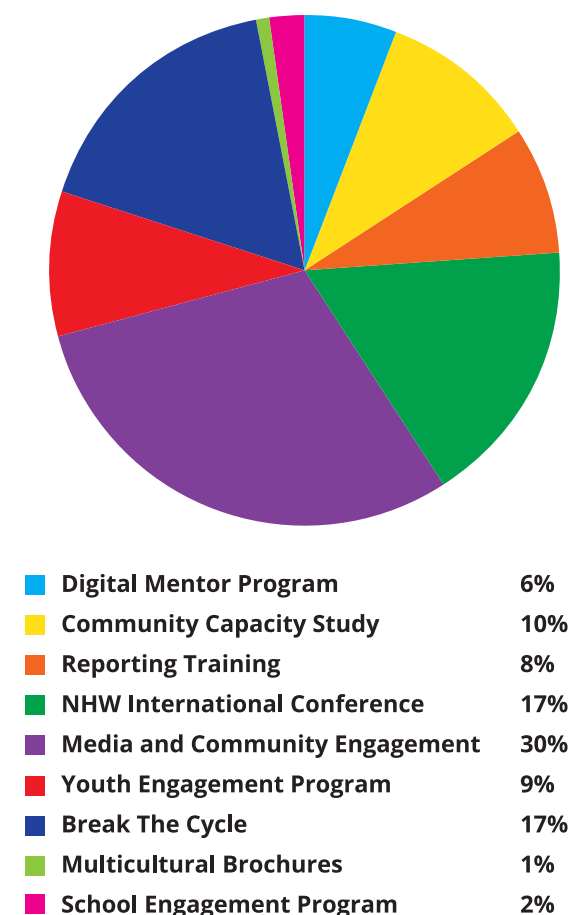
Best regards

Margaret Pearson
Company Secretary
Chair Audit, Finance, Risk Committee

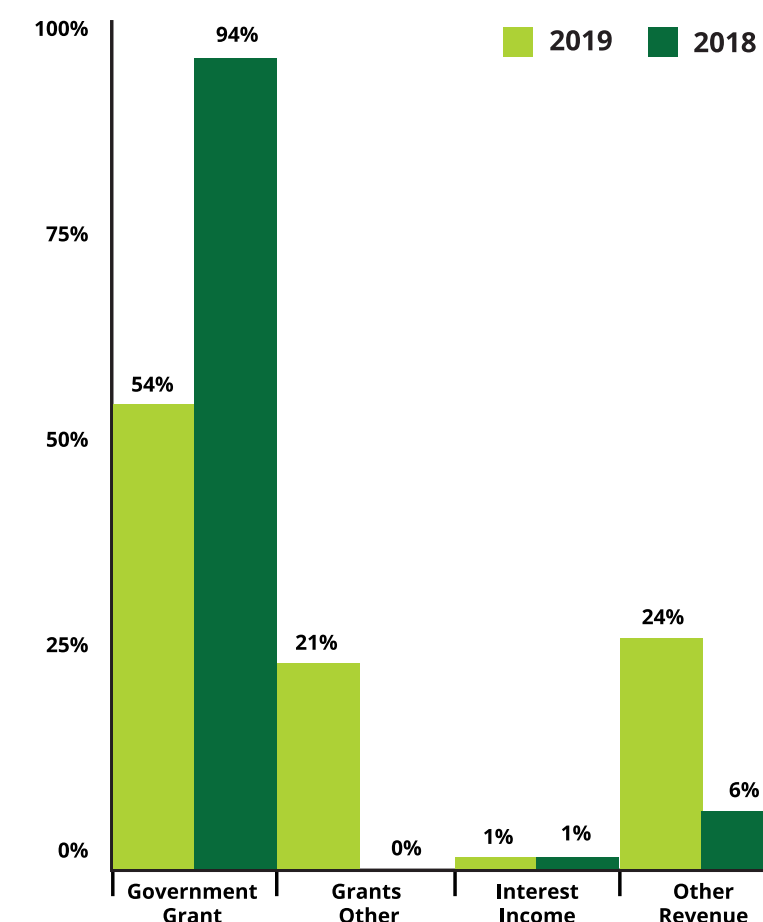
Financial Information

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Limited
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

MAJOR PROJECTS



INCOME



BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019

	2019	2018	Variance
Assets			
Cash on Hand	\$317,297	\$331,642	-4%
Accounts Receivable	\$19,860	\$13,750	44%
Total Current Assets	\$337,157	\$345,392	-2%
Total Assets	\$337,157	\$345,392	-2%
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$1,054	\$7,303	14%
Employee Liabilities	\$27,501	\$13,437	105%
GST	\$29,142	\$8,746	233%
Income Received in Advance	\$118,500	\$21,562	450%
Total Current Liabilities	\$176,197	\$51,047	245%
Total Liabilities	\$176,197	\$51,047	245%
Net Assets	\$60,959	\$294,345	-45%
Equity			
Current Year Earnings	-\$115,525	\$55,590	-308%
Retained Earnings	\$276,485	\$238,755	16%
Total Equity	\$160,959	\$294,345	-45%

Acknowledgements & Partnerships

VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

To the many thousands of Volunteers and Members of Neighbourhood Watch in Australia and Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand, we sincerely thank you.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia acknowledges with gratitude the funding provided by the Federal Government.

THINKUKNOW PROGRAM



ThinkUKnow is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Commonwealth Bank, Microsoft and Datacom, and delivered in partnership with all State and Territory police and Neighbourhood Watch Australasia.

The cyber safety presentations sensitively cover a range of topics including sexting, cyber bullying, online child exploitation, online privacy, and importantly what to do when something goes wrong.

Presentations are aimed at parents, carers and teachers and young people from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

"The Police are the Public and the Public are the Police."

This quote by Sir Robert Peel in the 1800s, is as relevant now as it was nearly 200 years ago.

It epitomises the collaboration that is essential between the community and police working together to bring about safer communities and reducing crime.

The future of effective crime prevention lies within the strong partnerships between communities and Police, as we work together to achieve common goals and create safer, inclusive and more resilient communities.



Neighbourhood Watch Australasia acknowledges all Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Support and policing jurisdictions throughout Australia and New Zealand including partners.



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



NSW GOVERNMENT



NSW Police Force



NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa



NT POLICE,
FIRE & EMERGENCY
SERVICES



