



# Preventing Crime

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Office of Crime Prevention  
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## CHURCHILL FELLOW EXPLORES CRIME PREVENTION OVERSEAS

Churchill Fellow Michael Coe has returned from a round-the-world trip with fresh ideas for crime prevention in Western Australia.

Mr Coe, Office of Crime Prevention Designing Out Crime Executive Manager, travelled to the USA, Canada, UK, Amsterdam and Belgium to study best practice in designing out crime and CCTV as part of his 2008 Churchill Fellowship.

As well as meeting with representatives from police agencies, universities and consultancies to discuss crime prevention, Mr Coe attended an International Crime Prevention Conference in Las Vegas and delivered a speech about CCTV in Western Australia to a conference in Amsterdam.

Mr Coe said it was a thrill to learn from experts in countries that were leading the way in designing out crime and CCTV techniques.

"It's helpful for us to learn how other agencies apply designing out crime practices and how CCTV in public places has evolved and is used around the world," he said.

"The effectiveness of CCTV in public places is an issue of considerable debate worldwide.

"The Fellowship allowed me to discover that different forms of CCTV were being used for a variety of purposes with mixed results. We can learn from the experience of others with this technology.

"We may not be on the same scale as these jurisdictions in size and population, but we can continue to do things the right way by examining all options.

"I'm confident we can achieve better results by adopting some of the best practice methods used around the world."



Attorney General and Bateman MLA Christian Porter did his part to promote crime prevention.

## Attorney General supports purse theft campaign

Western Australian Attorney General and Member for Bateman Christian Porter has thrown his support behind the Office of Crime Prevention's Purse Theft Awareness Campaign.

The campaign was the brainchild of the local Retail Theft Forum, an Eyes on the Street initiative which brings together local representatives from police, major retailers, security firms and shopping centres for regular meetings to share information on criminal activity.

The forum identified purse snatching as a growing issue and organised an awareness campaign at the Woolworths Bull Creek store, where WA Police, Office of Crime Prevention staff and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers advised customers on purse and handbag safety over two weeks.

In his role as Bateman MLA, Mr Porter visited the Bull Creek shopping centre to do his part to encourage shoppers to be vigilant about their valuables.

"The Office of Crime Prevention does vital work in generating community awareness and ultimately making our streets safer," Mr Porter said

"It only takes a few seconds to steal a handbag or wallet, so the message is clear – keep your valuables out of sight and hold on tight to your handbags.

"This simple message can stop a burglar in their tracks."

Eyes on the Street Project Coordinator Mat Jovanou said many people were not as vigilant as they should be when it came to handbag safety.

"There were many customers who left their handbags unzipped with purses exposed in the shopping trolley, making them easy targets for would-be criminals," he said.

"Bag-snatchers work in teams and use distractions to carry out the crime. Customers need to be vigilant and aware at all times."

## SAFER MELVILLE PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Crime prevention in the City of Melville received a boost in August with the launch of the City's shared vision of achieving a Safer Melville.

Despite having one of the lowest crime rates in WA, the City is committed to improving safety and reducing crime, developing the Safer Melville 2008-2012 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

The Safer Melville plan focuses on a number of issues, including increased community awareness and education in community crime prevention, burglaries, graffiti and vandalism and other theft.

Office of Crime Prevention Director Wendy Murray said it was good to see the City taking a pro-active approach in the fight against crime.

"Even with low crime rates, the perception of safety can be improved with community awareness and education programs," she said.

"The City of Melville is committed to reducing crime and informing residents about how they can do their part.

"Most recently, with help from the Office of Crime Prevention, the City created a safety and security resource for the community, which includes relevant local contact numbers and valuable crime prevention information."

The resource is available from the Civic Centre, libraries and community centres, or online at [www.melvillecity.com.au/safermelville](http://www.melvillecity.com.au/safermelville).

## Plenty of accommodation still available for Leavers

School graduates have been encouraged to start making plans for Leavers Week, following the release of the Curriculum Council's official exam dates.

The majority of accommodation in Leavers hotspot locations is now available and Leavers will need to book soon.

More than 10,000 graduates are expected to stay on boats and chalets on Rottneest and in caravan parks, hotels, motels and in private accommodation in South West during official Leavers celebrations from 24-27 November.

Office of Crime Prevention Director Wendy Murray encouraged students and their parents to check the official exam dates carefully before finalising their Leavers plans.

"It's a good idea for parents to start discussing the celebration with their children now so that by the time exams come along, everyone will be on the same page," Ms Murray said.

"Students are encouraged to maintain their best efforts to the very end of their exams, confident in the knowledge that there will be plenty of time for celebration afterwards."

For more information contact the Leavers WA Project Manager, Lisa Clack on 9222 9760 or visit [www.leaverswa.com.au](http://www.leaverswa.com.au).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HITS THE AIRWAVES

Crime prevention will be the hot topic as Neighbourhood Watch takes to the airwaves on Kalamunda Community Radio (KCR) each month.

Neighbourhood Watch District Coordinator Ernie Kerrison said he was happy KCR had taken the initiative to discuss what was happening in the district.

"It's so important to get the crime prevention message out there to the public," he said.

In addition to Mr Kerrison, each Wednesday KCR has representatives from the WA Police discuss their roles during the Kalamunda Café program in a new segment from 12noon to 12.30pm.

East Metro Crime Prevention Unit Sergeant Garry Tuffin said he was pleased that the program had proved so popular.

"I think it's a brilliant idea to have local police and associated personnel chat on

air about what's going on both locally and State-wide," he said.

"It makes the community think about home and personal safety."

*Neighbourhood Watch District Coordinator Ernie Kerrison in the hot seat.*



We welcome your ideas. If you have a story you would like to see included in this newsletter please contact Barbro Dowding on 9222 9897 or email her at [Barbro.dowding@ocp.wa.gov.au](mailto:Barbro.dowding@ocp.wa.gov.au)

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**CRIME PREVENTION**  
*Preventing crime is everybody's business*