



# Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024 – 2028



**Centre for Rural  
Criminology**

# Acknowledgements

The research team would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Narrabri Shire Council. In particular, we greatly appreciate the support and insight provided by those who took the time to participate in this research. Your contributions have been pivotal to the depth and quality of this study. We would also like to acknowledge those key community stakeholders and groups whose participation in this research provided important and unique insight into matters of crime prevention. Your participation has

significantly enriched our understanding of crime and its prevention in the Shire. Special recognition is due to the Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee and the Oxley Police District. Their expert advice and detailed knowledge have been instrumental in guiding this Plan. Lastly and most importantly, we would like to thank the people of Narrabri Shire for lending their voice to this research. Your perspectives have been the cornerstone of our community-focused approach to crime prevention.

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Photos by Abs-AI-oot Horizons Photography

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**NARRABRI SHIRE**  
DISCOVER THE POTENTIAL

**Narrabri Shire Crime  
Prevention Plan:  
2024-2028**

January 2024

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## Introduction

**In 2023, the Narrabri Shire Council engaged the Centre for Rural Criminology at the University of New England to develop an evidence-based crime prevention plan.**

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The Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028 is the product of extensive research on crime and crime prevention in the Shire, drawing on varied research methodologies.

This Plan was created in consultation with the Oxley Police District, the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Committee and key community agencies, organisations and service providers. Most importantly, the Plan is the product of extensive community consultation and input.

Drawing on this engagement, along with the data and evidence collected through the research process, the Plan provides the Shire with an in-depth understanding of crime and crime prevention and an evidence-informed Action Plan to address crime within the Narrabri Shire Local government area.

## Research Team



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# Methodology

The following is a brief description of the multiple methodologies used to understand crime in the Shire and identify local concerns and opportunities for improved community safety. The evidence gathered throughout this research process has been used to inform the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028.

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## Literature review

Exploration and analysis of the leading crime prevention literature nationally/internationally to identify best practice and evidence based interventions.

## Statistical analysis

Analysis of secondary crime statistics (i.e. ABS; BOCSAR) to develop a community and crime profile of the Shire.

## Semi-structured interviews

Interviews to understand the roles and views of key stakeholders involved in crime prevention in the Shire:

- One-on-one semi-structured interviews with external stakeholders (e.g. community leaders; key organisations etc.)
- One-on-one semi-structured interviews with internal stakeholders (i.e. Council staff; Counsellors etc.)
- Group interview with Narrabri Shire Council and Community representatives
- Group interview with Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Committee

## Focus groups

Two community focus groups to understand community sentiment toward relevant crime and crime prevention issues across the Shire.

## Community survey

Community attitude survey to measure community sentiment toward key relevant issues across the Shire, including victimisation and community involvement.

## Social media analysis

A 'netnography' of Facebook groups and other forums examining public opinion and community perspectives around crime in the Shire.







# Crime Prevention: From global to local

The following legislation, policy and regulatory documents provide the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan with context and guidance and help us to situate the Plan within the broader context of crime prevention, which is a shared responsibility.

## International

### United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) is a global framework aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity and peace. [According to the UN:](#)

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by

all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.”

Central to the agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which address key global challenges like health, education, inequality, economic growth, climate change, peace and justice.

#### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

The [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#) has linked the majority of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to crime prevention and criminal justice:

**Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Corruption and poverty
- Violence and poverty

**Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Access to health care in prisons

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Access to education in prisons

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Corruption and gender
- Gender and the criminal justice system
- Measures to prevent violence against women
- Human rights and counter-terrorism
- The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking
- The question of cyberbullying

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Impact of corruption on human rights

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**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Corruption and sustainable development
- The impact of corruption on human rights
- Rehabilitation of prisoners

**Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- The role of the media in the fight against corruption

**Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

- The impact of corruption on human rights
- Human rights and counter-terrorism

**Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- Protection of nuclear materials
- Trafficking in cultural property
- Wildlife and forestry crime
- Money-laundering and organized crime
- Armed conflict and small arms proliferation
- Armed violence and security
- Arms embargoes
- Corruption and firearms flows
- The role of the media in the fight against corruption
- Diversion of arms
- Civil society participation and oversight of firearms control
- Destruction of confiscated and seized firearms
- Investigation and prosecution of firearms-related crimes
- The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking
- Violence against smuggled migrants
- Measures to criminalize smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons
- The role of organized criminal groups in the smuggling of migrants
- Online sexual exploitation of children
- The use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

- Prevention of cybercrime and other illicit uses of the Internet
- The question of cyberbullying
- Cyber-enabled financial crimes
- Hacking and national security
- Hate speech and terrorism
- Human rights and counter-terrorism
- Protection of nuclear materials
- Online recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters
- Countering violent extremism
- The right to privacy and counter-terrorism
- Financing of terrorism
- Protection of victims of terrorism
- Prosecution of terrorism-related cases
- Investigation and prosecution of firearms-related crimes
- The rights of smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking
- Violence against smuggled migrants
- Measures to criminalize smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Protection of nuclear materials

**Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- Wildlife and forestry crime
- Protection of nuclear materials

**Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Bribery in law enforcement agencies
- The role of civil society (or the participation of society) in countering corruption
- Corruption and sustainable development
- The impact of corruption on human rights

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- Corruption in sporting events
  - Protection of whistle-blowers
  - Access to information and corruption
  - Corruption in the private sector
  - Corruption and gender
  - Corruption and poverty
  - Violence against children
  - Violence and poverty
  - Discrimination in the criminal justice system
  - Relations between police and young people
  - Access to health care in prisons
  - Access to education in prisons
  - Rehabilitation of prisoners
  - Alternatives to imprisonment
  - Gender and the criminal justice system
  - Measures to prevent violence against women
  - Access to legal aid and pretrial detention
  - New and emerging forms of organized crime
  - Assistance to victims and protection of witnesses of organized crime
  - Organized crime and terrorism
  - International cooperation in the fight against organized crime
  - Trafficking in cultural property
  - Wildlife and forestry crime
  - Money-laundering and organized crime
  - Armed conflict and small arms proliferation
  - Armed violence and security
  - Arms embargoes
  - Corruption and firearms flows
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**Source:** [UNODC. \(2023, November 12\). Crime prevention, criminal justice, the rule of law and the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

## International

### United Nations (UN) Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime

The UN outlines standards for crime prevention and criminal justice strategies. According to the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#):

“The UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice are authoritative normative instruments. While lacking direct legal binding force, these normative instruments reflect important political commitments made by States. This means that

States are bound in a common aspiration to uphold minimum standards and enact certain safeguards. The consequence for breaches of these standards is a loss of standing and reputation at the international level.”

In Australia, all levels of government develop crime prevention frameworks guided by the UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime.

### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

The 2002 UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime outline eight principles on which prevention should be based:

- Government leadership: at all levels to create and maintain an institutional framework for effective crime prevention
- Socio-economic development and inclusion: integration of crime prevention into relevant social and economic policies, focus on integration of at-risk communities, children, families and youth
- Cooperation and partnerships: between government organisations, civil society, business sector

- Sustainability and accountability: adequate funding to establish and sustain programs and evaluation and clear accountability for funding
- Use of a knowledge base: using evidence of proven practices as the basis for policies and programs
- Human rights/rule of law/culture of lawfulness: respect for human rights and promotion of a culture of lawfulness.
- Interdependency: take account of links between local crime problems and international organised crime
- Differentiation: respecting different needs of men and women and vulnerable members of society

**Source:** [UN Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\), UN Economic and Social Council Resolution 2002/13: Action to Promote Effective Crime Prevention](#) , 24 July 2002, E/RES/2002/13.



## Federal

### National Crime Prevention Framework

The Australian Institute of Criminology prepared the National Crime Prevention Framework on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Crime Prevention Senior Officers' Group (ANSCP SOG)

As stated in the [National Crime Prevention Framework](#):

“The Australian and New Zealand Crime Prevention Senior Officers' Group (ANZCP SOG) provides a national forum for senior crime prevention staff from each State and Territory as well as Commonwealth and New Zealand government to exchange and share information about crime prevention practices.

The ANZCP SOG aims to:

- Support strategic thinking and policy development on crime prevention issues;
- Promote inter-jurisdictional collaboration;
- Promote and encourage strategic research in crime prevention; and
- Share information on matters to be discussed at relevant ministerial and senior officer forums.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice. It seeks to promote justice and reduce crime by undertaking and communicating evidence-based research to inform policy and practice.”

### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

The National Crime Prevention Framework is guided by the principles for crime prevention outlined by the UN, while making important extensions and adaptations to ensure that crime prevention strategies are appropriate for the Australian context.

The National Crime Prevention Framework outlines the requirements for effective crime prevention:

“Promising programs are those that adhere to principles of good practice, are based on sound crime prevention theory and are targeted at the causes of crime. They may have already shown some evidence of success

but are not yet evaluated or, where they have been evaluated, the evidence regarding their effectiveness is not yet clear.

Effective crime prevention requires careful consideration of the evidence base with regard to identifying possible interventions, the circumstances in which these interventions will be delivered and how they will be adapted to suit local conditions. It also requires an understanding of what needs to be done and the factors that are integral to successful implementation. Initiatives should be supported on the basis that they are shown to target factors known to influence crime, are consistent with proven or promising practice and adhere to best practice in implementation.”

**Source:** [Australian Government. 2012. National Crime Prevention Framework. Special reports. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.](#)

## State

### NSW Government Crime Prevention Plan 2021

The [NSW Government's Department of Communities and Justice](#) provides evidence-based strategies for the prevention of crime for businesses, community leaders, individuals, government agencies and local Councils.

“[Crime Prevention Programs \(CPP\)](#), Department of Communities and Justice, leads

the development of evidence-based policies and programs to prevent crime and reduce re-offending in NSW. CPP works in close collaboration with communities, government agencies, business and other service providers. CPP's programs are implemented through targeted measures, with an emphasis on the criminal justice system.”

### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

In the [NSW 2021: a Plan to make NSW number one](#), the NSW Government makes a commitment to maintain a strong focus on frontline policing and target crime hotspots and repeat offenders to reduce the level of crime in NSW. It was also a focus to provide communities with more ways to be

involved in local crime prevention activities to improve safety and security in the neighbourhoods.

- Prevent and reduce the level of crime
- Prevent and reduce the level of re-offending
- Improve community confidence in the justice system

**Sources:** [NSW Government. \(2023, November 13\). Crime Prevention Programs \(CPP\)](#), [NSW Government. 2011. NSW 2021 A Plan to Make NSW Number One. Department of Premier and Cabinet.](#)



## State

### NSW Police Force Crime Prevention Strategy 2015 – 2017

The mission of the NSW Police Force, as set out in the [Police Act 1990](#), is to work with the community to reduce violence, crime and fear.

The NSW Police Force aims to protect the community and property by:

- preventing, detecting and investigating crime
- monitoring and promoting road safety
- maintaining social order
- performing and coordinating emergency and rescue operations

### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

[The NSW Police Force Crime Prevention Strategy](#) states the following:

Crime prevention requires understanding and responding to both cause and the crime. Crime prevention is achieved when:

- Police respond to a crime issue before it becomes a significant crime problem and reduce the need to repeatedly respond to similar incidents

- Police and communities work together with other partners to understand the problem and implement local solutions
- Intervention occurs which prevents or reduces crime that may have occurred if that intervention did not take place

**Source:** [NSW Police Force. \(2017\). NSW Police Force Crime Prevention Strategy 2015-2017.](#)

## State

### The Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997 (the Act)

The [Children \(Protection and Parental Responsibility\) Act 1997](#) safeguards children from abuse and neglect. It outlines the duties of parents and guardians in ensuring the well-

being of their children, facilitates collaboration between various agencies and provides a framework for government intervention in cases where child safety is at risk.

### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

Part 4 of the Act provides the Attorney General opportunities to support Local Government

in the development of local crime prevention plans in conjunction with the community.

## Regional and Local

### New England North West Regional Plan 2036 & New England North West Regional Plan 2041 (developed by the NSW Department of Planning)

According to [the NSW Department of Planning](#):

“The Regional Plan provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more

detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions. Priorities for each Council are set out in Local Government Narratives, which will guide further investigations and implementation.”

#### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

The [Regional Plan 2036](#) outlines its vision for preventing the occurrence of crime in Direction 19:

- Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well-connected communities. Crime prevention through environmental design principles can reduce the potential for crime through design and place management, helping people to feel safe and more comfortable. Safe, active and lively

community space are often supported by events and promotion. This fosters healthy living through physical activity, social interaction and community pride

The [Regional Plan 2041](#) extends upon the above Direction with Strategy 7.1:

- Use local plans to enhance the amenity, vibrancy and safety of centres and township precincts

**Sources:** [NSW Government. 2017. New England North West Regional Plan 2036](#), [NSW Government 2022. New England North West Regional Plan 2041](#).

## Regional and Local

### Narrabri Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027

The [Community Strategic Plan](#) presents the community endorsed vision and strategic plan for Narrabri Shire. Informed through extensive community engagement, the plan captures the

voice of the local community and expresses key priorities and strategic directions for the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area

#### Relevant Strategies / Actions / Information

The Narrabri Shire Council outlines several strategies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community. Regarding the prevention of crime, Strategy 1.1.2 aims to:

- Maximise community safety through the implementation of crime prevention and risk management actions

**Source:** [Narrabri Shire Council. Narrabri Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027: Your Voice, Our Future](#).



# Narrabri Community Profile

## At a Glance

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### Location and Historical Note:

- Narrabri is located between Sydney and Brisbane and has over 12,000 residents. It was named “Australia’s Sportiest Town” in 2001

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### Demographics and Population Trends:

- The population was 12,703 in 2021, a decrease of 5.1% from 2016
- The median age is 40, similar to New South Wales but lower than Outer Regional Australia.
- 45.5% of the community moved to Narrabri in the past five years

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### Family Structure and Cultural Diversity:

- There is a higher proportion of couples without children compared to the state and national average
- 84% of the community was born in Australia, higher than the state and national average

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### Language and Indigenous Population:

- English is the most common language spoken at home
- 14.2% of the population identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

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### Education and Income:

- 11.8% of the population are attending tertiary or technical institutions
- Median weekly household income is \$1,498, higher than the median for Outer Regional Australia

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### Housing and Employment:

- Median weekly rent is \$250, lower than the state and national average
- 56.9% of the community participates in the labour force, with a high proportion working full-time

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### Industries of Employment:

- Top industries include Agriculture, Health Care, Mining, Retail Trade and Education

Unless otherwise stated, the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data has been used to create this community profile for Narrabri Shire Local Government Area (LGA), which sits within the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Outer Regional Australia (NSW) classification.

## Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area

**Narrabri is a Local Government Area located between Sydney and Brisbane and is home to over 12,000 residents.**

In 2001, Narrabri was named “Australia’s Sportiest Town”. To date, Narrabri locals have represented Australia as National Representatives in over 30 different sports, including archery, boxing, cricket, golf, rugby league and rugby union, soccer, waterskiing and wheelchair rugby. In 2011, Narrabri constructed the Sporting Wall of Fame to honour the achievements of these athletes.

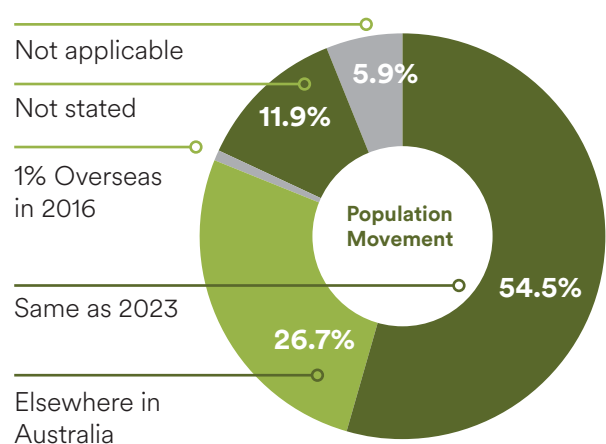
In 2024, the Narrabri Local Government Area sits within the Federal Electorate of Parkes which is held by Mr. Mark Coulton (National Party) and sits within the State Electorate of Barwon which is held by Mr. Roy Butler (Independent).



## Population, Movement and Median Age

**Narrabri has a population of 12,703. This is a 5.1% decrease from 2016 (ABS, 2016).** The median age in Narrabri is 40, nearly identical to New South Wales’ median age of 39 and slightly lower than Outer Regional Australia’s (NSW) median age of 45.

**As of 2021, 39.6% of the community had moved to Narrabri within the past 5 years.** Of Narrabri’s community, 3,395 (26.7%) moved from elsewhere in Australia, 141 (1.1%) had moved from overseas and 2,246 (17.8%) did not specify. This is lower than the internal movement patterns from throughout NSW, where an average of 50% of the population moved to their place of residence within the past 5 years according to the 2021 Census.



**Figure 1:** Narrabri Residential Mobility between 2016 Census and 2021 Census

## Family Structure

Compared to NSW and Australia, Narrabri has a slightly higher proportion of couples without children compared to those with children.

Among one-parent families, 78.1% of one-parent families in Narrabri have a female parent with 21.6% of one-parent families having a male parent.

Family composition	Narrabri	%	Outer Regional Australia (NSW)	%	NSW	%	Australia	%
Couple family without children	1,391	43.5	46,270	47.3	809,586	37.9	2,608,834	38.8
Couple family with children	1,233	38.6	34,988	35.8	954,588	44.7	2,944,140	43.7
One parent family	524	16.4	15,242	15.6	337,729	15.8	1,068,268	15.9
Other family	45	1.4	1,366	1.4	34,061	1.6	108,941	1.6

**Table 1:** Family Composition Narrabri, NSW and Australia in 2021

## Cultural Diversity

**In Narrabri, 84% of the community were born in Australia.** This is similar to Outer Regional Australia (NSW) (81.4%) and higher than NSW (65.4%) and Australia (66.9%) by nearly 20%. Similarly, 78.3% of the Narrabri community report both parents were born in Australia, compared to 6% in NSW and 5.9% in Australia.

The most common language spoken at home in Narrabri is English, with 86.9% of the community reporting that English is the only language used at home. This is very similar to Outer Regional Australia (NSW) which reports 85.8% of households use English only at home.

Top responses of languages other than English*	Narrabri	%	NSW	%	Australia	%
Mandarin	29	0.2	270,685	3.4	685,274	2.7
Tagalog	25	0.2	51,616	0.6	31,195	0.5
Nepali	21	0.2	68,148	0.8	133,068	0.5
Sinhalese	20	0.2	13,570	0.2	85,869	0.3
Filipino	20	0.2	30,853	0.4	90,853	0.4
English only used at home	11,039	86.9	5,457,982	67.6	18,303,662	72
Households where a non-English language is used	166	3.6	856,911	29.5	2,295,688	24.8

**Table 2:** Languages Spoken at Home Narrabri, NSW and Australia in 2021 \*All People.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

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**In Narrabri, 14.2% of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander** compared to 9% of Outer Regional Australia (NSW), 3.4% of NSW and 3.2% of Australia.

## Narrabri Community Education

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**11.8% of the Narrabri community is attending a tertiary or technical institution.** Although this is lower than NSW (23.8%) and Australia (23.3%), this is an increase of 3.6% for the Narrabri community compared to 2016 (ABS, 2016) and is almost identical to the 12.0% of people living in Outer Regional Australia (NSW).

## Household Income

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**In Narrabri, the median weekly household income is \$1,498, an increase of 20.6% from 2016 (ABS, 2016).** This is also higher than the median weekly household income for Outer Regional Australia (NSW) which is \$1,278.

**The median weekly rent payment is \$250, an increase of 25.0% from 2016.** This is the same as Outer Regional Australia (NSW) and lower than the median weekly rent payment for NSW, which is \$420 and Australia which is \$375.



**For homeowners in Narrabri, the median monthly mortgage repayment is \$1,343, a 3.8% decrease from \$1395 in 2016 (ABS, 2016).** The current median monthly mortgage repayment for Narrabri is similar to Outer Regional Australia

(NSW) median monthly mortgage repayment, which is \$1,300 and is lower than NSW median monthly mortgage repayment by \$824 and lower than the Australian median monthly mortgage repayment by \$520.



## Labour & Employment



The ABS (2021) defines an area's labour force as those individuals who are aged 15 years and over. In Narrabri, 56.9% of the community is in the labour force with 63.5% of those in the labour force working full-time.

This is an increase of 2.9% of full-time workers in Narrabri's labour force from 2016. **The proportion of people working full-time in Narrabri's labour force is higher than Outer Regional Australia (NSW), NSW and Australia by 5.2%, 8.3% and 7.6%, respectively.**



Compared to Narrabri, the labour force in Outer Regional Australia (NSW), NSW and Australia each have higher proportions of individuals who are working part-time and who are

away from work. **4.1% of Narrabri's labour force is unemployed, while 4.9% of NSW's and 5.1% of Australia's labour force are unemployed.**

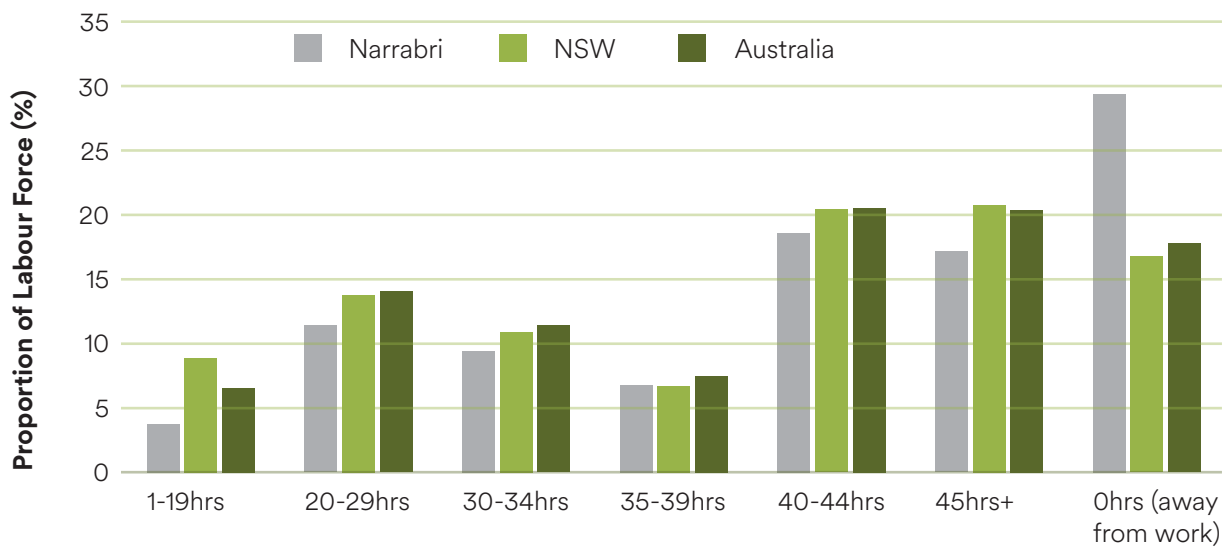


In addition, **the Narrabri community tend to work longer hours per week compared to those in NSW and Australia**, with 30.4% of people in the labour force reporting working

45 hours or more in the week of the 2021 Census. This is nearly double the proportion of people working 45 hours or more in NSW (16.8%) and Australia (17.9%).

		Narrabri	Outer Regional Australia (NSW)	NSW	Australia
<b>Education</b>	Attending a tertiary or technical institution	11.8%	12.0%	23.8%	23.3%
<b>Household income</b>	Median weekly household income	\$1,498	\$1,278	\$1,829	\$1,746
	Median weekly rent payment	\$250	\$250	\$420	\$375
	Median monthly mortgage repayment	\$1,343	\$1,300	\$824	\$520
<b>Employment</b>	Employed working full-time	63.5%	58.3%	55.2%	55.9%
	Employed working part-time	26.4%	31.2%	29.7%	31.2%
	Away from work at the time of the Census	6.0%	6.4%	10.2%	7.8%
	Unemployed	4.1%	4.1%	4.9%	5.1%

**Table 3:** Education/Income/Employment Narrabri, NSW and Australia in 2021



**Figure 2:** Hours Worked in a Week Among Labour Force

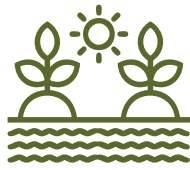
## Industries of Employment

The data presented below are drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (2021) General Community Profile for Narrabri. This dataset is

based on the people whose usual place of residence is Narrabri (i.e., those who live in Narrabri).

Most Common Industries of Employment (% age of labour force)		
Narrabri	Outer Regional Australia (NSW)	NSW
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing <b>(18.4%)</b>	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing <b>(18.1%)</b>	Health Care and Social Assistance <b>(14.4%)</b>
Health Care and Social Assistance <b>(11.1%)</b>	Health Care and Social Assistance <b>(11.9%)</b>	Retail Trade <b>(9.0%)</b>
Mining <b>(8.0%)</b>	Education and Training <b>(8.8%)</b>	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services <b>(8.9%)</b>
Retail Trade <b>(7.8%)</b>	Retail Trade <b>(8.2%)</b>	Education and Training <b>(8.7%)</b>
Education and Training <b>(7.7%)</b>	Construction <b>(7.3%)</b>	Construction <b>(8.6%)</b>

**Table 4:** Most common industries of employment in Narrabri, NSW and Australia in 2021



**18%**

Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fishing



**11%**

Health Care and  
Social Assistance



**8%**

Mining



**8%**

Retail Trade



**8%**

Education  
and Training

### Narrabri's Labour Force, Including Transient Individuals

When looking at the industry of employment for community members who live in Narrabri, the most common industry of employment is Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (18.4% of the labour force), followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (11.1%), and Mining (8.0%).

Compared to Outer Regional Australia (NSW), Narrabri's community has a stronger focus on mining instead of Construction. Compared to NSW, Narrabri's community has a larger focus on Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and Mining.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) also compiles data for Working Population Profiles. Unlike General Community Profiles, Working Population Profiles are based on the people's place of work on the night of the census. This means that the Working Population Profile provides a snapshot of the workforce which includes people who travel for work.

When looking at Narrabri's Working Population Profile from the 2021 Census, the most common industry of employment changes to Mining (20% of the labour force), followed by Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (15%), and Health Care and Social Assistance (10%).

According to data from the 2021 Census for Narrabri, there were a total of 1,398 individuals recorded working in the Mining industry of employment, with 934 (66.76%) of these individuals travelling to Narrabri for work (i.e., they were recorded as not living in Narrabri as their usual place of residence in the 2021 Census). This indicates that Narrabri's mining workforce is supported by people who travel to Narrabri for work.

## Volunteer Work

17.4% of the Narrabri community undertook voluntary work through an organisation or group between 2020 and 2021.

This is 4.4% higher than NSW and 3.3% higher than Australia.

**Sources:** [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(2021\). Narrabri 2021 Census All Persons QuickStats](#), [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(2016\). Narrabri 2016 Census All Persons QuickStats](#).







# Crime Data

## At a Glance

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- General Crime Trends:**
- Most of the 66 specific offence types recorded by BOCSAR (Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research) had fewer than 20 incidents annually between 2019 and 2023
  - There were 13 offence types with stable trends, while only 6 offence types showed an increasing trend. No offence types exhibited a downward trend
- 

- Stable and Increasing Crime Types:**
- Stable: Includes Non-Domestic Assault, Break & Enter (Dwelling), Steal from Motor Vehicle and Malicious Damage to Property
  - Increasing: Notable increases in Motor Vehicle Theft, Fraud, Breach of Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), Intimidation/Stalking/Harassment, Domestic Assault and Breach of Bail Conditions
- 

- Theft Offences:**
- Break and Enter (Dwelling) offences are stable with a recent peak in 2023
  - Significant rise in Motor Vehicle Thefts, predominantly occurring in residential areas during night time
- 

- Domestic Violence-Related Offences:**
- High proportion of Assault, Intimidation/Stalking/Harassment, Sexual Offences and Malicious Damage to Property incidents are related to domestic violence
  - Majority of domestic violence offenders are male
- 

- Rural/Farm Crime:**
- Increasing incidents of trespass and illegal hunting/shooting
  - Low reporting rates of these crimes to police
-

## Crime Profile

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The information included in this crime profile has been sourced from the NSW Government Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR, 2023a).

BOCSAR collects data about incidents of offences recorded by the NSW Police Force. The data are anonymised and randomised to prevent re-identification of incidents, offenders and victims.

BOCSAR also reports the results of a trend test. BOCSAR's trend test is performed using Kendall's Tau-b (BOCSAR, 2023b). When the trend is statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ), this means the change per year is unlikely to be a result of seasonal variation. When the trend is stable, this suggests that the changes in offence rate per 100,000 people are not statistically significant ( $p > .05$ ) and may be a result of seasonal variation.

**It is important to note that a trend upwards or downwards may not always be a direct result of changes in the prevalence of crime. Changes in recorded incidents may be impacted by changes in reporting practices of victims and police.**

### In NSW there are four ways to report a crime

1. Triple Zero (000) for emergency services
2. Police Assistance Line (131 444) for non-emergency services
3. CrimeStoppers (1800 333 000) for anonymous reporting of non-emergency crimes
4. To report a crime in person, community members can visit their local police station

Additionally, BOCSAR reports crimes as individual incidents. For privacy, BOCSAR does not identify crimes committed by the same offender. This means that crime rates may reflect repeat offenders or offences which occurred simultaneously rather than each crime incident representing a unique offender.

Finally, the NSW Police Force are able to add domestic violence (DV) related and alcohol-related flags to certain offences (BOCSAR, 2023b). While these flags offer important insight into how certain crimes have unfolded in the 2019-2023 period, police may encounter practical challenges when assessing whether or not a crime is related to domestic violence or involved alcohol. For example, police may record offences after the incident has occurred, meaning no assessment about the involvement of alcohol can be made. In some instances, over 30% of incidents do not specify a DV-related or alcohol-related flag. Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting these estimates.



## Overview

**In general, the incidents of recorded offences in Narrabri are not high enough for a 5-year trend to be calculated by BOCSAR.** This means that among the 66 specific offence types recorded by BOCSAR, the majority (47 of them) had fewer than 20 recorded incidents in at least one year between

2019 and 2023. **There are 13 offence types which have a stable trend, while only 6 offence types are trending up per year.** No offence types have a downward trend as calculated by BOCSAR.

## Stable and increasing crime types

Stable	Increasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assault (Non-Domestic)</li> <li>• Break &amp; Enter (Dwelling)</li> <li>• Steal From Motor Vehicle</li> <li>• Steal from Dwelling</li> <li>• Other Theft (e.g. stealing occurring somewhere other than a residential dwelling)</li> <li>• Malicious Damage to Property</li> <li>• Trespass</li> <li>• Use/Possess Cannabis</li> <li>• Prohibited &amp; Regulated Weapons Offences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor vehicle theft is up an average of 17.9% per year over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Fraud is up an average of 10.4% per year over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Breach of Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) is up an average of 9.9% per year over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Intimidation, Stalking &amp; Harassment is up an average of 6.9% per year over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Assault (Domestic) is up an average of 6.4% per year over the past 5 years</li> <li>• Breach of bail conditions is up an average of 4.9% per year over the past 5 years</li> </ul>

**Table 5:** Stable and increasing crime types in Narrabri Shire

## Assault (All)

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Assault (All)</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>177</b>
· Assault (Domestic)	Up 6.4% per year	81	94	107	120	101
· Assault (Non-Domestic)	Stable	69	62	71	60	71
· Assault (Police)	Not calculated	2	2	10	1	5
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>Not calculated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
· Murder	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Attempted Murder	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· "Murder Accessory, Conspiracy"	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Manslaughter	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Robbery (All)</b>	<b>Not calculated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
· Robbery (Without a Weapon)	Not calculated	0	1	3	0	0
· Robbery (With a Firearm)	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	1
· Robbery (With a Weapon Not Firearm)	Not calculated	1	1	1	0	2
<b>Sexual Offences (All)</b>	<b>Not calculated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
· Sexual Assault	Not calculated	21	17	22	13	17
· Sexual Touching, Sexual Act & Other	Not calculated	20	13	11	10	12

**Table 6:** Recorded Offences Against The Person in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023

## Break and Enter (Dwelling)

**The rates of recorded Break and Enter (Dwelling) offences during the 2019-2023 period have remained stable, with 2023 recording the highest number of offences (128 occurrences) out of the 5-year period.**

Although these offences were slightly more likely to be recorded as occurring at night and on weekdays, there were no substantial temporal patterns for Break and Enter (Dwelling) during the 2019-2023 period.

Temporal Pattern	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Total	5 Year Total (%)
<b>Time of Day</b>							
· Day	46	38	28	38	50	200	43.2
· Night	60	42	40	43	78	263	56.8
<b>Day of week</b>							
· Weekday	64	56	39	46	69	274	59.2
· Weekend	42	24	29	35	59	189	40.8
<b>Day of the Week by Time of Day</b>							
· Weekday, Day	29	32	19	27	37	144	31.1
· Weekday, Night	35	24	20	19	32	130	28.1
· Weekend, Day	17	6	9	11	13	56	12.1
· Weekend, Night	25	18	20	24	46	133	28.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7:** Temporal Patterns of Break and Enter (Dwelling) Offences from July 2018 to June 2023

## Theft (All)

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Theft (All)</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>485</b>
· Break & Enter (Dwelling)	Stable	106	80	68	81	128
· Break & Enter (Non-Dwelling)	Not calculated	38	42	12	19	19
· Receiving/Handling Stolen Goods	Not calculated	17	13	4	8	9
· Motor Vehicle Theft	Up 17.9% per year	25	29	27	45	47
· Steal From Motor Vehicle	Stable	75	52	64	62	95
· Steal From Retail Store	Not calculated	33	27	9	15	34
· Steal From Dwelling	Stable	53	46	41	48	31
· Steal From Person	Not calculated	2	1	1	0	3
· Stock Theft	Not calculated	6	2	7	1	2
· Fraud	Up 10.4% per year	47	60	46	72	68
· Other Theft	Stable	48	32	32	36	49

**Table 8:** Recorded Theft Offences in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023

## Motor Vehicle-Related Offences

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Motor vehicle theft increased by an average of 17.9% per year over the 2019-2023 period, while recorded incidents of steal from motor vehicle rates remained stable.

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During the 2019-2023 period, motor vehicle theft most commonly occurred in a residential setting. **Residential motor vehicle theft comprised 75.7% of all motor vehicle theft in Narrabri between 2019 and 2023. Most motor vehicle thefts (61.8%) occurred during the night.**

Similarly, during the 2019-2023 period, 62.6% of theft from motor vehicle incidents occurred in a residential setting. Additionally, similar to motor vehicle theft, 60% of theft from motor vehicle incidents occurred during the night.



## Against Justice Procedures

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Against Justice Procedures</b>	<b>Up 8.5% per year</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>221</b>
· Escape Custody	Not calculated	1	1	0	0	1
· Breach AVO	Up 9.9% per year	57	78	56	96	81
· Breach Bail Conditions	Up 4.9% per year	95	73	113	119	112
· Fail to Appear	Not calculated	0	1	0	1	10
· Resist/Hinder Officer	Not calculated	10	20	13	6	9
· Other Offences Against Justice Procedures	Not calculated	1	6	2	5	8

**Table 9:** Recorded Offences Against Justice Procedures in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023

## Malicious Damage to Property (Includes Graffiti)

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Malicious Damage to Property (Includes Graffiti)</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>124</b>
Disorderly Conduct	Stable	77	54	55	37	65
· Trespass	Stable	50	33	25	26	42
· Offensive Conduct	Not calculated	12	6	15	5	12
· Offensive Language	Not calculated	7	4	6	1	2
· Criminal Intent	Not calculated	8	11	9	5	9

**Table 10:** Recorded Malicious Damage and Disorderly Conduct Offences in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023

## Drug Offences (All)

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Drug Offences (All)</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>66</b>
· Use/Possess Cocaine	Not calculated	0	1	1	0	2
· Use/Posses Narcotics	Not calculated	2	2	0	3	0
· Use/Possess Cannabis	Stable	35	36	32	34	35
· Use/Posses Amphetamines	Not calculated	8	11	7	8	5
· Use/Posses Ecstasy	Not calculated	0	1	1	2	0
· Use/Possess Other Drugs	Not calculated	1	5	1	11	4
· Deal/Traffic Cocaine	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Deal/Traffic Narcotics	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Deal/Traffic Cannabis	Not calculated	4	3	1	7	0
· Deal/Traffic Amphetamines	Not calculated	2	3	0	3	10
· Deal/Traffic Ecstasy	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Cultivating Cannabis	Not calculated	6	3	1	6	5
· Manufacture Drug	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Importing Drugs	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0
· Other Drug Offences	Not calculated	6	8	2	6	5

**Table 11:** Recorded Drug Offences in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023



## Uncategorised Offences

Offence Type	5 Year Trend	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Uncategorised Offences</b>	<b>Stable</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>66</b>
· Abduction & Kidnapping	Not calculated	0	0	1	0	1
· Arson	Not calculated	12	6	8	15	17
· Betting & Gaming Offences	Not calculated	0	0	0	1	0
· Blackmail & Extortion	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	5
· Intimidation, Stalking & Harassment	Up 6.9% per year	81	88	98	108	103
· Liquor Offences	Not calculated	3	18	15	8	15
· Other Offences Against the Person	Not calculated	3	2	0	2	1
· Pornography Offences	Not calculated	0	3	0	3	1
· Prohibited & Regulated Weapons Offences	Stable	71	56	43	41	40
· Prostitution Offences	Not calculated	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 12:** Recorded Uncategorised Offences in Narrabri from July 2018 to June 2023

## Domestic Violence-Related Offences

When certain crimes are recorded, the NSW Police Force can choose to flag the offence as domestic violence-related. Eligible offence types include assault, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, murder accessory/conspiracy, sexual offences, intimidation, stalking & and harassment, abduction/kidnapping and malicious damage to property (BOCSAR, 2023b).

**In Narrabri, there were no homicide-related offences recorded during the 2019-2023 period** and only 1 abduction/kidnapping offence which was not DV-related. During the 2019-2023 period in Narrabri, there were five offence types which had at least one DV-related incident: Assault (All), Malicious Damage to Property, Breach of AVO, Sexual Offences (All) and Intimidation, Stalking & Harassment. **Across these offence types, 1229 (56.1%) incidents were flagged as DV-related and 961 (43.9%) incidents were not flagged as DV-related.** These statistics are summarised below.

Offence Categories with DV-Related Flag	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Total	5 Year Total (%)
<b>Assault (All)</b>							
· DV-Related	81	94	107	120	101	503	58.8
· Not DV-Related	71	64	81	61	76	353	41.2
· <b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Breach of AVO</b>							
· DV-Related	49	65	39	83	74	310	98.1
· Not DV-Related	2	0	1	0	3	6	1.9
· <b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Intimidation, Stalking &amp; Harassment</b>							
· DV-Related	19	32	31	37	43	162	64.8
· Not DV-Related	19	9	13	30	17	88	35.2
· <b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Sexual Offences (All)</b>							
· DV-Related	14	20	22	10	13	79	45.9
· Not DV-Related	30	21	14	13	15	93	54.1
· <b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Malicious Damage to Property</b>							
· DV-Related	34	41	43	40	31	189	30.9
· Not DV-Related	85	73	82	90	93	423	69.1
· <b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 13:** Offence Categories with DV-Related Flag during 2019-2023

## Domestic Violence-Related Offences

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### Assault (Domestic)

- **58.8% of Assault offences in Narrabri during the 2019-2023 period were related to domestic violence.** Among these incidents, 52.9% were perpetrated by a male offender, 15.1% were perpetrated by a female offender and 32% did not record the gender of the offender
- **Alcohol was involved in 28.6% of DV-related assaults recorded during 2019-2023**, with 39.4% recorded as not involving alcohol and 32% of incidents with no record of whether or not alcohol was involved

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### Intimidation, Stalking & Harassment

- **64.8% of Intimidation, Stalking & Harassment offences recorded in Narrabri during the 2019-2023 period were related to domestic violence.** 82.7% of these incidents were perpetrated by a male offender, with 17.3% perpetrated by a female offender
- Alcohol was involved in 24.7% of Intimidation, Stalking & Harassment offences, with the remaining 75.3% not involving alcohol

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### Sexual Offences (All)

- **45.9% of Sexual Offences were related to domestic violence during the 2019-2023 period.** In 78.5% of these cases, women were recorded as the victims, with 21.5% of incidents recorded as involving male victims. This is consistent with the broader patterns of Sexual Offences (All) during this period, where 73.8% of incidents involved a female victim and 26.2% of incidents involved male victims, regardless of whether they were related to domestic violence

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### Malicious Damage to Property (Includes Graffiti)

- **30.9% of Malicious Damage to Property (Including Graffiti) was related to domestic violence during the 2019-2023 period.** Among these incidents, male offenders were involved in 60.3% of occurrences, female offenders were involved in 15.6% of occurrences and 24.1% of occurrences involved offenders whose gender was not recorded

## Rural / Farm Crime

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Data related to rural/farm crime for Narrabri is not readily available through BOCSAR. Instead, data from the [NSW Farm Crime Survey \(2021\)](#) and NSW responses from the [Australian Farm Crime Survey \(2023\)](#), conducted by the Centre for Rural Criminology (UNE), have been presented to estimate the prevalence of rural/farm crime in Outer Regional NSW. The farm crime surveys are victimisation surveys responded to by farmers. Therefore, unlike BOCSAR data, the farm crime surveys may reflect a number of incidents which are not reported to police.

In the 2021 NSW Farm Crime Survey, there were 456 farmers who completed the survey. **81% of respondents reported experiencing at least one crime on their farm in their lifetime.**

Repeat lifetime victimisation was common among farmers. **9 out of 10 farmers reported victimisation on two or more occasions, while nearly 2 out of 5 farmers had experienced farm crime seven or more times.**

The 2023 Australian Farm Crime Survey is ongoing. To date, there have been 326 responses from farmers living in NSW. Slightly higher rates of lifetime victimisation have been reported among NSW participants in the 2023 Australian Farm Crime Survey, with **92.6% of participants reporting at least one experience of victimisation on their farm. Repeat lifetime victimisation was also common, with 81.2% of participants experiencing crime on their farm on more than one occasion.**

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### Trespassing

In the 2021 NSW Farm Crime Survey, **50% of respondents had experienced trespassing at least once within their lifetime, with 19% of all respondents indicating that they had experienced trespass within the past 2 years.** Among the respondents who had experienced trespassing, just under half of the respondents said they had reported the incident on one or more occasions.

In the 2023 Australian Farm Crime Survey, 43.6% of NSW respondents indicated that they had experienced trespassing within the past 2 years. **This makes trespassing the most commonly experienced rural/farm crime within the past 2 years by NSW respondents to the National Australian Farm Crime Survey** and represents a 24.6% increase from the 2021 NSW Farm Crime Survey. In terms of reporting to police, only 32.8% of NSW participants in the Australian Farm Crime Survey who experienced trespassing reported their experience on the most recent occasion.

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### Illegal Hunting/ Shooting

In the 2021 NSW Farm Crime Survey, **41% of respondents said they had experienced illegal hunting/shooting on their farm, with 15% of all respondents having experienced illegal hunting/shooting on their farm within the past 2 years.**

In the 2023 Australian Farm Crime Survey, **29% of NSW participants reported experiencing illegal hunting/shooting in the past 2 years. This is an increase of 14% from the 2021 NSW Farm Crime Survey.**

Similar to trespassing, only 38.9% of NSW farmers in the 2023 Australian Farm Crime Survey who experienced illegal hunting/shooting on their property reported the incident on the most recent occasion it occurred.

## Reporting

As noted above, NSW respondents to the Australian Farm Crime Survey generally did not report trespassing or illegal hunting/shooting to the police on the most recent occasion.

**There are many reasons why farmers may not report their experiences to the police. Table 14 below summarises potential reasons for reluctant reporting.**

Response	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
The police could do nothing about it	155	47.5
There is a lack of proof/evidence	147	45.1
I discovered the crime too late	99	30.4
It may be difficult to tell if a crime has occurred	99	30.4
The crime is not serious enough to report	99	30.4
I worry about revenge or retaliation by the offender	73	22.4
The police lack knowledge/expertise	73	22.4
The perpetrator is known to me	41	12.6
The cost of loss is less than the insurance excess	36	11.0
I'm uncertain whether a crime has actually occurred	23	7.1
I will resolve the issue without police	22	6.7
I'd like to avoid the hassle of the legal process	19	5.8
I'm worried the media will get a hold of the story	10	3.1
I do not hold insurance	8	2.5

**Table 14:** Reasons offered by farmers for not reporting farm crime victimisation



## Community and Crime Analysis

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Generally, Narrabri exhibits similar characteristics to other towns within the Outer Regional Australia (NSW) area. Narrabri's community comprises high proportions of individuals born in Australia and whose parents were born in Australia (see Community Crime Profile), suggesting limited ethnic heterogeneity. The primary occupation in Narrabri is classified under the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (2021) agriculture, forestry and fishing category. These features of Narrabri may have varying impacts on the types of crime within the community, including domestic and family violence (DFV) and farm crime.

While the community survey, undertaken by the research team and outlined below, indicated that residents of Narrabri generally knew their neighbours and considered them friends, these relationships did not translate into action on behalf of shared interests. Narrabri residents can utilise their social cohesion to connect about issues that matter to them, including crime and safety. This could include creating community-led safety panels that connect and strategise regarding safety issues in Narrabri and surrounding areas.

## Crime in Narrabri

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Generally, most crimes in Narrabri occur infrequently, at a rate of less than 20 incidents per year. The infrequent rates of crime in Narrabri may be associated with its small population, limiting the ability to calculate trends within these offence types. Nevertheless, for 47 out of 66 specific offence types recorded by BOCSAR, there were fewer than 20 incidents in at least one year between 2019 and 2023 in Narrabri.

Among those crimes which occur with sufficient frequency to estimate a trend, most offences are estimated to have remained stable over the preceding 5 years in Narrabri. These offences are primarily property offences, including theft and malicious damage to property.

The statistical picture provided by BOCSAR data suggests nuances and patterns of crime that are important for community crime prevention. There is an increase in certain types of offences, particularly motor vehicle theft, fraud and domestic violence-related offences.

According to available statistical evidence, a primary crime concern in Narrabri is domestic violence (DV) and domestic violence-related crimes, such as intimidation, stalking and harassment and breaches of apprehended violence orders (AVO).

As outlined in the Crime Profile, several DV-related offences have trended upward over the past 5 years in Narrabri. There are several factors which may contribute to these trends, including changes in reporting behaviours among victim-survivors of DV, repeat offenders contributing higher rates of recorded offences and the absence of services for addressing DV in rural areas.

The rise in DV-related offences underscores the wider socio-cultural dimensions of crime which require policing efforts coupled with community-wide interventions focusing on awareness, education and support systems.





The average annual increase of 17.9% in motor vehicle theft incidents, predominantly in residential areas, highlights another area of concern. Such increases reflect wider crime patterns across NSW and Australia more broadly.

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Similarly, the average annual 10.4% rise in fraud offences aligns with national and global trends. It suggests an evolving crime landscape in which digital, cyber and financial crimes may be occurring with increasing prevalence, requiring focused crime prevention measures and public awareness campaigns.

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Victimisation surveys also suggest farm crime to be a significant issue in NSW. Given the geographic location of Narrabri, along with the fact that Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (18.4%) are the top employment industries, these crime issues likely impact Narrabri Shire more specifically.

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While some crime types show stability, their persistence is also noteworthy. For example, non-domestic assaults and property crimes continue to challenge community safety and security.

**Sources:** [Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research \(2023a\). NSW Crime Tool. New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research](#), [Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research \(2023b\). Glossary for the NSW Crime Tool. New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research](#), [Mulrooney, K.J.D. \(2021\). The NSW Farm Crime Survey. The Centre for Rural Criminology, University of New England.](#)



# Narrabri Community and Crime Analysis

## What YOU said about living in Narrabri

Overall, the atmosphere in Narrabri Shire was described positively. Participants described a strong sense of community and guardianship among community members.

“

*“I love it [Narrabri Shire] because this is a great, caring community full of people that really like what we’ve got and are deeply invested in preserving the greatness of this area. Genuinely.”*

High levels of social contact and support within the town were described positively.

“

*“It’s that support network and you know your neighbours, they’re not strangers.”*

Many said the sense of community is one of the reasons Narrabri Shire is a great place to live.

“

*“There’s a lot of extended connections and whatever else amongst generations of people and the surrounding area, most of these people knew my grandparents or know my grandparents or great-grandparents or my mum and dad or some of the guys that I’ve grown up with and that kind of stuff. There’s a bit of a, I suppose, safety and familiarity, a bit of comfort in that kind of stuff as well...”*

The diversity of industry and growth in the region was noted as a key reason why Narrabri Shire is a great place to live.

“

*“We’ve got really exciting projects like Inland Rail, solar farms, the mines are developing, there’s so much industry and there’s a lot of jobs coming here that kind of made me think we are growing.”*

## Community Experiences of Crime

### General Victimization

- 28.6% of survey respondents reported being victims of crime in the past two years (**most of these incidents were related to property crime**)
- Among those victimised, the average number of times victimised was 4.4
- 20.6% reported these incidents to the police

### Break and Enter Victimization

- 15.1% experienced break-ins at their homes in the past two years
- Among those who experienced break-ins, the average was 1.6
- 11.3% reported these incidents to the police

### Violent Victimization

- 8.0% were victims of violence (e.g. being hit, shoved) in the last two years
- Those victimised by violence averaged 4.8 incidents
- 3.4% reported these incidents to the police

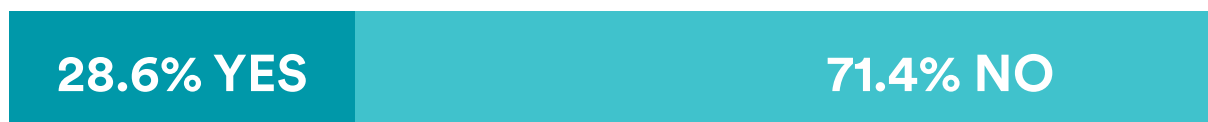


Figure 2: Victim of crime in the last two years

### Theft Victimization

- 26.5% reported theft from their property in the past two years
- The average number of thefts experienced was 2.6
- 10.9% reported these incidents to the police

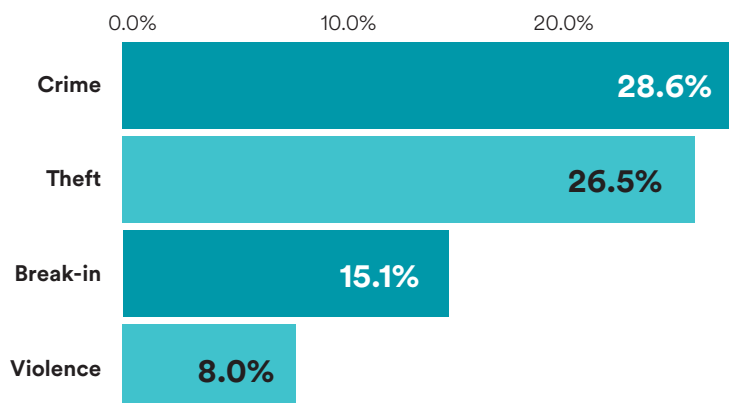


Figure 3: Victim of crime in the last two years by crime type

Victimisation surveys are an important way to identify crimes that go unreported. A low but notable number of residents experience crime victimisation, with varied frequency. Many choose not to report this to the police, often due to concerns about police effectiveness or the offence itself being perceived as unimportant. Violent crimes are rare but occur more frequently for those affected. Theft most often involves outdoor items.

## Community Perceptions of Crime and Safety

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### General Safety Perception

- Participants generally feel very safe in their neighbourhood. However, concerns are more pronounced regarding break-ins and vandalism
- Most participants feel safe during the day, but only about half feel safe at night.
- More than half of the participants feel that their neighbourhood is becoming more dangerous

“

*“Crime has been increasing steadily. Break-ins and cars being taken. For Narrabri it’s quite bad.”*

### Social Disorder

- Most participants did not report common indicators of social disorder as a frequent occurrence
- Where such disorder was noted, issues such as erratic driving, youth causing trouble and dogs creating a mess were noted to some extent

“

*“I feel safe in Narrabri, day or night. I haven’t had any reason to feel afraid.”*

### Physical Disorder

- Most participants indicated no significant issues with graffiti, broken windows, or abandoned buildings
- A notable concern was the need for better lighting in several areas

“

*“You definitely wouldn’t go through the parks or go down the streets that were further away from the main street where there’s less people, less lights.”*

## Other Safety Issues

- Participants expressed diverse concerns about crime issues impacting the community, including street safety, theft of and from motor vehicles, home invasion, drug-related activity and domestic violence
- Youth crime was a significant focus of concern for the community
- The perceived nature of some property crimes led people to feel unsafe. For example, theft from homes when the residents were present



*“I’m talking twelve-year-old to fifteen-year-olds stealing cars, wandering the streets.”*

## Causes of Crime

- Participants highlighted a number of factors they believe caused crime:
  - Inadequate job, education and entertainment options or young people in the area
  - Poor parental supervision or an unsafe home environment
  - A lack of personal responsibility and a sense of accountability by the offenders themselves
  - Access to drugs and social media
- Addressing these factors was seen as the best way to prevent crime:
  - Some called for stronger punitive responses to deter crime, though there was a dominant focus on ‘social interventions’ such as the provision of services, support and opportunities for young people



*“Disengaged, disenfranchised youth are definitely an issue but I also think it’s down to a lot of poor parenting for these kids. They’re not being encouraged to go to school, they’re not being supported.”*

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Despite perceptions that certain crimes are increasing and community concerns about specific crime types (e.g. youth crime), overall Narrabri Shire was described as a safe place to live.





# Community Involvement and Social Integration

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## Neighbourhood Integration

- Over 60% of respondents agreed that people in their neighbourhood get along well
- Approximately 55% agreed that their neighbourhood is close-knit
- More than 9 in 10 agreed with the statement that people in their neighbourhood are generally friendly

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## Personal Connections

- 65% of respondents knew some of their neighbours by name
- On average, participants considered approximately 10 neighbours as friends
- Most participants spent time helping, visiting and chatting with neighbours

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## Willingness to Intervene

- Neighbours were most likely to intervene if someone was trying to break into a house, followed by intervening in “car shopping” (people trying car doors) and suspicious persons in the area
- The least likely interventions were in situations of illegal parking, loud music, or underage drinking

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## Neighbourhood Involvement

- Neighbourhood involvement was generally low, with less than 20% active involvement
- The most common involvement was speaking to a person causing problems. The least common was talking to religious or community leaders about improving the neighbourhood

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Community involvement and social cohesion are key protective factors against crime. The community displays a moderate level of social integration, with a friendly atmosphere and a willingness to intervene in certain situations. Active involvement in neighbourhood issues is low, yet there is a sense of readiness to address more practical local problems. Personal relationships among neighbours are common, but deeper social connections vary.

## Community Perspectives of Police and Courts

### Procedural Justice

- There is a strong adherence to the principles of law and procedural justice among the community

“

*“I’ve had no complaints about the way the police have acted. The only thing I’ve had to report was a car that was stolen from our property. They came and dealt with it and they were polite and prompt.”*

### Police Legitimacy

- Over 50% disagreed with the statements that police officers treat people with respect and fairly
- Participants believed the police were most effective in controlling drug activity

“

*“I can’t fault the cops from any interaction I’ve heard of around here.”*

### Police Presence and Complaints

- The majority of respondents never saw police walking around their neighbourhood
- On average, respondents saw 2.5 police cars per day driving around their neighborhood
- Filing complaints against the police is not common among the respondents.

“

*“They’re dealing with stuff I couldn’t fathom... hats off to them”*

### Police Effectiveness

- The majority of respondents held positive views of the police and felt they were doing a good job in combating crime in the community
- They also recognised several challenges faced by law enforcement, such as limited resources, inconsistent policing and prevalent youth and property crime issues

“

*“I think they’re short in a lot of places... in the towns when something happens there’s no one there.”*

## The Courts

- Overall courts were seen to be doing their job too. However, some residents felt that the courts didn't support police efforts by being too 'soft' on offenders

“

*“Police are very short staffed but I also think when police have tried and tried the court system lets them down as well.”*

*“Police can arrest them, then go to court and get a slap on the hand and that's it.”*

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Generally, participants indicated that the police were doing a good job of keeping the community safe but acknowledged a number of challenges faced by the police. These included a lack of resources, a lack of consistent police coverage and numerous issues with youth. Poor perceptions of police and the criminal justice system are often correlated with fear of crime and resident's willingness to report crimes to the police.



# Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Action Plan 2024-2028

## Focus: Delivering on the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028

This section acts as an umbrella for the Crime Prevention Plan in Narrabri Shire. Here we identify some of the key action items that will support and leverage other, more targeted, crime prevention action items and strategies. Key action items are numbered below. Rationales offer an explanation for the purpose of the action item as it relates to crime prevention. Strategies represent possible ways of achieving the action item. Measures of success are a means to evaluate the implementation and progress of the action item.

### 1. Adopt the new Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028; and embed into relevant Council strategies and plans

<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an implementation timeline for the Plan</li> <li>• Determine responsibility areas for actions items, strategies and measures of success</li> <li>• Responsible areas/individuals should develop specific, measurable, achievable,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relevant and time-bound goals to ensure delivery of the Plan (see <a href="#">SMART goals</a>)</li> <li>• Monitor and review the progress of the Plan through the facilitation of quarterly Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Measure of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of action items met</li> <li>• Total number of strategies implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes of measures of success</li> </ul>

### 2. Review the terms of reference and membership of the Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee

<b>Rationale</b>	<p><i>The Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee is a key driver of crime prevention in the Shire. As such, it is important that its terms of reference are relevant to current crime trends and needs and allow the Committee to act and respond accordingly.</i></p> <p><i>Reviewing membership can help identify gaps in stakeholder engagement, ensuring that membership includes active members and represents the needs of various segments of the community.</i></p>	
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the current terms of reference to ensure they align with the latest crime trends and community needs, using the Narrabri Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028 and supporting documentation as the basis for decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the current terms of reference to ensure they empower the Committee with the necessary authority and resources to address matters of crime prevention in the Shire</li> </ul>

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**Strategies (contin.)**

- Review the current terms of reference to ensure the decision-making process is efficient, transparent and inclusive
- Establish specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals for the Committee ([SMART](#))
- Modify objectives where necessary to reflect current priorities and challenges in crime prevention
- Define clear metrics to assess the effectiveness of the Committee's initiatives
- Review the current terms of reference to ensure clear definitions of roles, responsibilities and expectations for Committee members
- Review the membership of the Committee and determine if there are stakeholders or community segments not currently represented but who could provide valuable insights. If so, review the current terms of reference and revise accordingly
- Develop partnerships with local businesses, non-government organisations (NGOs), schools and other organisations that can support the Committee's initiatives
- Create opportunities for Committee members to network with external experts and other crime prevention bodies
- Consider offering formal training in Crime Prevention and Community Safety to Committee members (e.g. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, CPTED)
- Increase public awareness of the Committee's role and achievements through regular updates via traditional media, social media and community events

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**Measure of Success**

- Updated terms of reference
- Total number of goals and objectives met as set out by the Committee
- Creation of specific performance metrics for the Committee's activities
- Representation of different community groups, professions and demographics within the Committee
- Total networking opportunities created
- Completion of formal training in crime prevention
- Total number of new partnerships developed with key stakeholders
- Total number of Committee meetings held per year
- Regular attendance (more than 70% present) by members at Committee meetings
- Tracking and evaluation of public perspectives/commentary on communications/public contact (i.e. emails/phone calls) regarding the Committee's activities

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### 3. Publicly disseminate the 2024-2028 Narrabri Crime Prevention Plan to increase awareness of the actuality of crime in the Shire, the public perception of crime and Council's crime prevention strategy

**Rationale**

*In order to build community engagement, residents need to know about crime in their local area and about the local strategies and plans to address it. By disseminating information about crime in the Shire and the Plan's approach to addressing the issue, Council can improve community buy-in.*

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<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the Plan via traditional and social media channels</li> <li>Promote the plan at municipal libraries and other community-centered spaces</li> <li>Prepare and disseminate fliers and posters for public display advising how to obtain a hard copy of the Plan or access <a href="#">online</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create infographic mailout with fridge magnets/other items with key contact details (Council, emergency services and so on) in partnership with Crime Stoppers or NSW Police and post out with rates notices or other similar municipal mailout</li> </ul>
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<b>Strategies Suggestion</b>	Implement these strategies separately and over time so that effectiveness of each strategy can be measured more meaningfully	
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<b>Measure of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure traffic to Council website (specifically the Crime Prevention Plan) pre/post marketing strategies to determine which methods are most effective</li> <li>Monitor any changes in crime and crime rates following the dissemination of the Plan to understand its effectiveness in</li> </ul>	<p>crime prevention. Note: this needs to be interpreted with caution (i.e. a higher rate of crime could indicate increased reporting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use perceptions of safety questions from baseline survey conducted in October 2023 again in 2026 to determine if there are improved feelings of safety</li> </ul>
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**4. Identify opportunities for the funding of crime prevention initiatives and apply for these where they may advance the Narrabri Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028 and crime prevention in the Shire more broadly**

<b>Rationale</b>	<i>Council led crime prevention efforts often receive little state and federal funding. With the other budgetary pressures facing Councils, it can be difficult to allocate funding to crime prevention initiatives. By seeking external funding, this can provide much needed supports and resources that may not be otherwise possible. Such funding will significantly aid in Councils ability to achieve the action items set out in this Plan.</i>	
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<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a grants officer or person responsible seek out and identify grants specific to crime prevention</li> <li>Consider important elements of crime prevention such as grants which may facilitate community events and social</li> </ul>	<p>cohesion through to those which fund lighting or the implementation of other CPTED tools and techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus efforts on funding areas which will aid in implementing the Narrabri Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of grants identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of grants applied to</li> </ul>
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## 5. Participate in relevant conferences and workshops and consider taking a leading role in crime prevention efforts by organising a conference dedicated to the prevention of crime in regional and rural areas.

**Rationale** *Attending and participating in conferences/workshops facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices in crime prevention, while also building valuable networks, enhancing collaboration and the sharing of resources. By taking a leading role, Council can proactively address crime issues and learn from others in the Region experiencing similar problems. Hosting a conference is also a good way to empower local community residents and stakeholders and demonstrate a public commitment to community safety.*

**Strategies**

- Identify conferences or workshops that will aid the council in the implementation of the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028.
- For the proposed conference organised by Narrabri Shire Council, consider the following:
  - Focus on the most pressing crime issues in regional and rural areas, such as property crime, drug-related issues, domestic violence, motor vehicle theft, fraud, rural crime and so on
  - Emphasise the important role that local governments play in crime prevention and consider how local policies, initiatives and community partnerships can effectively reduce crime
  - Ensure the event is outcome-focused, defining clear, achievable objectives at the outset. The content, discussions, presentations and activities at the event should be deliberately planned to steer towards achieving the set objectives
- Involve local law enforcement, community leaders, policymakers, academic experts and NGOs in the planning process: this collaboration ensures buy-in and a comprehensive approach to crime prevention
- Invite experts in various fields related to crime prevention, including law enforcement officials, criminologists, social workers and representatives from successful crime prevention programs
- Seek sponsors to support the event financially, especially from local businesses or organisations interested in crime prevention
- Follow a similar model to the [Crime Prevention & Community Safety Conference 23 - 24 Nov 2023 - Gunnedah](#)

**Measure of Success**

- Number of conferences or workshops attended
- Stakeholders, participants and contributors identified
- Funding for conference sourced
- Conference developed and delivered
- Total number of attendees
- Monitor the depth and relevance of discussions and presentations. Feedback from session moderators and participants can provide insights for the Shire's approach to crime prevention.
- Prepare a report on the workshop/conference attended and/or conference hosted that is outcome focussed and includes a number of action items based on the proceedings. Ideally, these action items should be specific and applied to the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028

## Focus: Community Engagement

This Action Area emphasises the importance of public awareness and involvement in crime prevention in Narrabri Shire. Strategies are outlined that aim to raise awareness and foster active participation from community members. A key focus is on creating a collaborative environment where citizens are informed and empowered to contribute to safety and security in their communities.

Innovative outreach methods, public education campaigns and community events are proposed to enhance engagement and build a shared responsibility towards preventing crime. This Action Area serves as the foundation for establishing a strong and cooperative relationship between the community, Council, law enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders.

### 6. Develop and disseminate public information and education strategies focused on the specific crime problems areas of: Domestic Violence; Motor Vehicle Theft; Fraud/Cybercrime

**Rationale** *There is an increase in certain types of offences, particularly motor vehicle theft, fraud and domestic violence-related offences. A public awareness and information strategy to encourage residents to reduce their risks is recommended.*

**Strategies**

- Create tailored messages for each crime type:
  - Example: for domestic violence, focus on recognising signs and offering support
  - Example: for motor vehicle theft, emphasise target hardening preventive measures (e.g. [‘how safe is your plate days’](#))
  - Example: for fraud, educate on common scams, cybercrime and protective strategies including e-safety and security
- To aid in community engagement and reduce cost/workload, utilise campaigns, information and materials developed by the [NSW Police Force](#) and [Crime Stoppers NSW](#)
- Distribute informative brochures and flyers in community centres, libraries, police stations, schools and other public places
- Develop a dedicated webpage specific to these strategies with comprehensive resources, tips and contacts
- Work with local stakeholders (e.g. car dealerships; financial institutions; libraries) to help co-fund and support these initiatives
- Use various media platforms –TV, radio, social media, newspapers – to reach a broader audience

**Strategies**

- Creation and dissemination of public information and education strategy for domestic violence
- Creation and dissemination of public information and education strategy for motor vehicle theft
- Creation and dissemination of public information and education strategy for fraud/cybercrime

<b>Measure of Success</b> (contin.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track the number of community members participating in crime prevention programs or initiatives following the knowledge translation efforts</li> <li>After disseminating crime prevention information, conduct surveys to assess the community's understanding and perception of the strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the reach, engagement and feedback on traditional and social media related to the crime prevention strategies</li> <li>Engage/monitor media coverage of crime prevention initiatives and strategies</li> </ul>
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## 7. Facilitate knowledge translation of additional crime prevention strategies with the community

**Rationale** *An informed community is often a safer community. Providing information about how to protect oneself and one's property can help reduce victimisation and improve community safety.*

<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and disseminate crime prevention toolkits, such as those available through external agencies (e.g. <a href="#">NSW Police Force</a>; <a href="#">Crime Stoppers NSW</a>) – leverage current materials that have already been created (e.g. <a href="#">farm crime</a>).</li> <li>Continue facilitating Crime Prevention Week once yearly</li> <li>Distribute crime prevention awareness material quarterly focusing on specific topics (e.g. domestic violence; motor vehicle theft; <a href="#">property crime</a>; <a href="#">online e-safety</a> and so on)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote crime prevention awareness material via traditional and social media channels</li> <li>Review and revise the dedicated crime prevention tab on the Council website, including providing links to existing resources such as those provided by Crime Stoppers, NSW Police, Government departments, Neighbourhood Watch and other public agencies / non-government organisations</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation and/or delivery of crime prevention toolkits</li> <li>The facilitation of Crime Prevention Week</li> <li>The total distribution of crime prevention awareness material</li> <li>Revisions completed on crime prevention section/tab of Narrabri Shire Council website</li> <li>Track the number of community members participating in crime prevention programs or initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>following the knowledge translation efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After disseminating crime prevention information, conduct surveys to assess the community's understanding and perception of the strategies</li> <li>Analyse the reach, engagement and feedback on traditional and social media related to the crime prevention strategies</li> <li>Engage/monitor media coverage of crime prevention initiatives and strategies</li> </ul>
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## 8. Consider developing a ‘Coffee with Council and Cops’ program of regular events

**Rationale** *Narrabri Shire Council and the NSW Police Force have a strong relationship. This can be leveraged to improve public awareness and engagement with local efforts in crime prevention. Coffee with Council and Cops is a similar approach to [Coffee with a Cop](#) that is designed to encourage improved relationships with police, improve reporting of crime and disorder and overall community reassurance.*

- Strategies**
- Hold events annually, alternating between the three main population centres of Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri so that each location is evenly serviced by such outreach
  - Events attended by a police officer, Council officer and possibly a Councillor (ideally those associated with the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Committee)
  - These events could be held for two hours on a Saturday (for example between 11am and 1pm) when people are likely to be active in the commercial areas of their local communities and pre-post Saturday sporting and other commitments
  - These events may also be used to disseminate crime prevention material
  - Source funding internally for refreshments to provide at each event

- Measure of Success**
- Track the number of attendees at each event
  - Use police legitimacy and crime reporting questions from baseline survey conducted in October 2023 again in 2026 to determine if there has been an increase in perception of police and in reporting to the police
  - Add additional questions specific to engagement and perceptions of ‘Coffee with Council and Cops’ to understand the impact of this particular program

## 9. Support the Narrabri Shire Youth Council in addressing crime issues which impact youth

**Rationale** *Enable youth input and develop ownership of crime problems.*

- Strategies**
- Engage the Narrabri Shire Youth Council to develop strategies to address crime and crime related problems faced by young people in the Shire
  - Report to the Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee

- Measure of Success**
- Total number and type of strategies developed
  - Crime Prevention Committee meeting minutes reflecting consideration and engagement with Narrabri Shire Youth Council proposals
  - Delivery of strategies to address crime and crime related problems faced by young people in the Shire

## 10. Establish new and/or maintain existing relationships with key stakeholders in community crime prevention, including the NSW Police Force, community representatives, organisation and groups

**Rationale** *Better collaboration between community safety stakeholders can lead to improved community safety outcomes*

- Strategies**
- Work collaboratively with government and local agencies to promote and support programs, including but not limited to: domestic violence (e.g. NDCAS); harm minimisation and the reduction of alcohol and other drug related problems (e.g. Vinnies, Sober in the Country); farm crime (e.g. NSWPF Rural Crime Investigator) etc.
  - For example; Develop and maintain an ongoing association and collaboration with the local member of the [New South Wales Police Force Rural Crime Prevention Team \(RCPT\)](#) (located in Gunnedah and Tamworth)
  - Establish a hub and spoke model for sharing information pertinent to community safety that may not have been otherwise shared
  - Collectively identify needs, goals or targets for community safety that are clear and measurable
  - Report to the Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee

- Measure of Success**
- Number of new collaborations between community safety stakeholders
  - Establishment of hub and spoke model and identification of key stakeholders included
  - Identify needs and issues of key stakeholders related to crime prevention (e.g. alcohol and other drugs)
  - Crime Prevention Committee meeting minutes reflecting consideration and engagement with stakeholder input

## Focus: Community Connectedness

This Action Area focuses on strategies aimed at building, strengthening and then maintaining community connections throughout the Shire. Collective efficacy – the community’s ability to act on behalf of their shared values and concerns – comprises high levels of trust and solidarity among residents and their willingness to provide informal social control. Communities with high levels of collective efficacy generally have correspondingly lower fear of crime and lower crime rates.

As such, levels of collective efficacy are considered to be the mediating factor between a neighbourhood’s structural characteristics and crime. This Action Area emphasises that networks of belonging of belonging that facilitate the creation of social cohesion are a necessary precondition for communities being able to form high levels of trust and social solidarity and a willingness to act in response to perceived social problems.

### 11. Promote community engagement in matters of crime prevention through events focused on social cohesion

**Rationale** *Social cohesion building events are an important protective factor against crime and disorder in communities. They can make public education more interesting, fun and engaging, with the added benefit of building social cohesion.*

- Strategies**
- Organise and deliver social cohesion events to build local culture and community connection
    - Example: Establish participation in ‘[Neighbour Day](#)’ across the Shire as a whole or individually in the three main population centres of the Shire
    - Example: Support local [block parties](#) with small funding grants to encourage cohesion building and information sharing
    - Example: At community events, include “gratitude boards” where residents can use [post-it notes](#) to answer the statement “what I love most about my community is...”
    - Example: Support the formation of a “[Town Team](#)” to improve a particular area or place within the Shire either through the establishment of a new group of people; an existing group/sub-group within the Shire; or formed via representation of existing community organisations (it is suggested that Wee Waa be the specific initial focus of a Town Team)
  - Example: Consider [livability academies](#) that create engaged citizens through skills development related to safety, social cohesion and relationship building
  - Provide encouragement and support for the delivery of alcohol and drug-free family/community events within Narrabri Shire
  - Embed crime prevention education and messaging into ‘general’ community events; while not the focus, use these events to communicate evidenced based information of crime and public safety in Narrabri Shire in a positive social environment

- Measure of Success**
- Total events hosted and crime prevention material shared
  - Total attendance at events hosted
  - Measure new/improved social

<b>Measure of Success (cont.)</b>	connections (e.g. Ask participants at exit of events – did they meet anyone new, have they made any plans for the community together, have they connected with any local community leaders or service providers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use community involvement and social integration questions from baseline survey conducted in October 2023 again in 2026 to determine if there are improvements in measures of social cohesion</li> </ul>
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**12. Consider establishing a [community reference](#) group constituted of up to nine local residents to assist Council with provision of grass-roots crime prevention strategies and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits**

**Rationale** *Local community reference groups can add an important layer of engagement and ownership over community safety. They also add valuable contextual knowledge and expertise that may not otherwise be known.*

*Note: It is important that the community reference group be an external committee which is self-standing and embedded in the community, from which council may seek community input and engagement on matters of crime prevention.*

*Once the group has been established, it should determine its own agenda, actions and organisation. Council should not only engage with the ideas and strategies developed by this group, via the Crime Prevention Committee, but also utilise it as an important external body to aid in the delivery of the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan (2024-2028) and other matters of crime prevention ([CPTED](#) audits).*

<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use community engagement events to recruit potential local leaders and stakeholders, giving consideration to ensuring representation from across the Shire</li> <li>• Once set up this committee should consider training in crime prevention principles conducted by a tertiary institution or private consultancy. This can then translate into a train-the-trainer program, ensuring the community reference group is self-standing and able to self-organise.</li> <li>• This group should meet quarterly but can be called upon to support particular initiatives (e.g. CPTED audits)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint a Council officer to facilitate the sharing of information from this group back to the Narrabri Crime Prevention Committee</li> <li>• Work with group of nine to establish a vision for the community over the next 5-years and create an action plan to leverage local resources and services to develop safety strategies related to the Narrabri Shire Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2028</li> <li>• Have the community reference group identify and source funding for events/ programs which support community connection and/or crime prevention (e.g. <a href="#">Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal</a>)</li> </ul>
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<b>Measure of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a group of nine that is representative of the community (various age ranges, ethnicities, genders and work/life experience)</li> <li>• Total number of meetings</li> <li>• Training in crime prevention completed</li> <li>• Co-creation of an action plan to leverage local resources and services to develop safety strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of crime prevention initiatives supported</li> <li>• Total number of grants identified and applied for</li> <li>• Crime Prevention Committee meeting minutes reflecting consideration and engagement with the community reference group</li> </ul>
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## Focus: Planning, Infrastructure and Resourcing

This Action Area focuses on leveraging environmental design and infrastructure planning as tools for crime prevention in Narrabri Shire. It emphasises the role crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) in reducing crime opportunities and enhancing public safety and security. Strategies include improving street lighting, enhancing

visibility in public spaces, maintaining proper access control, improving image and maintenance and designing buildings and landscapes to deter criminal activities. By incorporating crime prevention principles into design of the community, this Action Area will create communities that are designed to be safer and less conducive to criminal behaviour.

### 13. Ensure Council related planning and developments consider crime prevention principles and practices (e.g. proper lighting)

**Rationale** *Environmental design can have a significant impact on the kinds of crime opportunities that are available to offenders. Using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles can help reduce these opportunities. By building crime prevention principles into planning and development, Council can reduce the need to retrofit these measures (and the associated costs and social harm). A key aim is to provide spaces which encourage prosocial activities.*

**Strategies**

- Consider creating an internal [CPTED review Committee](#), that reviews all potential development plans for crime issues related to design and planning
- Work with community reference group to reduce workload and ensure community input/engagement
- Review and audit public spaces in Narrabri Shire (specifically parks) to ensure they encourage public use and use crime prevention design where possible (such as lighting). Consider:
  - Infrastructure: e.g. play equipment, BBQs, playing courts etc
  - Repairs required to existing infrastructure
- Past infrastructure on the site
- Identify any potential opportunities to improve design (ex. better lighting, clearer sightlines, improved signage, etc.) and create a plan for implementation
- The audit should be published on the Council website in a dynamic nature indicating the status of each park.
- Use [CPTED](#) principles and [safety audits](#) to annually review public areas
- Connect with [CPTED community](#) for additional guidance and training in [CPTED](#) principles

**Measure of Success**

- Improved image and maintenance of public spaces measured through pre/post audits of specific sites
- Reduced crime-related incidents in these locations
- Use perceptions of safety questions from baseline survey conducted in October 2023 again in 2026 to determine if there are improved feelings of safety

## Focus: Youth Crime

This Action Area addresses the critical issue of youth crime in Narrabri Shire. It outlines a proactive approach to preventing youth crime by focusing on education and opportunities for pro-social engagement and expression. The strategies include developing youth-centric programs that offer education, mentorship and recreational activities.

By targeting the root causes of youth crime, such as lack of opportunities and positive modelling, this Action Area aims to provide constructive alternatives and support to young people, helping them make positive life choices and strengthen their ties to the community.

### 14. Investigate starting a Police Citizen Youth Club ([PCYC](#)) in Narrabri Shire.

**Rationale** *There is clearly a desire for a PCYC in Narrabri Shire and a need to support youth activities in healthy and pro-social ways. Research has shown that pro-social activities, including sport and club involvement, can help keep youth out of trouble and acts as a protective factor against issues in the home or at school.*

**Strategies**

- Identify potential community sites for a PCYC to be located
- Identify funding opportunities and apply for funding for the creation of a PCYC– a co-sponsorship of this between Council and a commercial enterprise/service club could be investigated; alternatively, government or philanthropic grants can be identified and applied for
- Interim strategy: identify current infrastructure and create initial pilot of PCYC programming to determine level of interest and desired programming in the community

**Measure of Success**

- Location for potential PCYC identified
- Business case for PCYC developed
- Funding application for PCYC submitted
- Initial pilot programming started (identify participant numbers at start and over time).
- Creation of implementation plan
- PCYC established in Narrabri Shire

### 15. Investigate funding opportunities to join programs such as [BackTrack](#) to service Narrabri and surrounding areas.

**Rationale** *BackTrack is a recognised national leader and advocate for disengaged and at-risk young people. This unique program has also shown significant success in other rural communities. As noted above, youth-centric programs that offer education, mentorship and recreational activities can help keep youth out of trouble and act as a protective factor against engagement in criminal behaviour*

**Strategies**

- Identify interest in establishing a BackTrack program locally, including potential leaders (local champion) and volunteers and sources of funding.
- [Contact](#) the BackTrack organisation for details on funding and necessary requirements (e.g. resources)
- Create a business case and plan for support and implementation

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| <b>Measure of Success</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact made with BackTrack</li> <li>• Results of survey of community need/interest</li> <li>• Creation of business case</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of community champions/volunteers</li> <li>• Sources of funding identified and secured</li> <li>• Creation of implementation plan</li> </ul> |
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## 16. Investigate and create local programs for youth.

**Rationale** *A lack of activities for youth was identified as one of the major issues correlating with youth crime. This is consistent with research that demonstrates when youth do not have access to pro-social activities, they are more likely to engage in problematic behaviours. A reliable adult or mentor is one of the best protective factors for at-risk youth and adolescents.*

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| <b>Strategies</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example: Collaborate with schools to implement updated educational programs, such as <a href="#">Youth Frontiers</a>, focused on pro-social engagement</li> <li>• Example: Consider a parental support program based upon the <a href="#">Triple P Positive Parenting Program</a></li> <li>• Example: Investigate other youth programs including the <a href="#">Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program</a> or an Adopt a Grandparent program</li> <li>• Example: Another potential is <a href="#">Fourth R</a> which focuses on healthy relationships and self-management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential avenues for a <a href="#">youth hub</a>, or mobile youth activities, across the municipality, that will allow all youth to be involved (regardless of distance): as an alternative to a bricks and mortar location, a mobile ‘youth resource centre’ in the form of branded minibus or towable caravan which can be driven to existing buildings with other uses to be set up</li> <li>• Identify avenues for funding to support and sustain these activities</li> <li>• Identify potential volunteers and employees for these programs</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Measure of Success</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for youth programs and activities secured</li> <li>• Volunteers for youth programs and activities mobilised</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections developed with key stakeholders to support program development and delivery</li> <li>• Creation and delivery of specific youth mentoring/education program or school program</li> </ul> |
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## Focus: Domestic and Family Violence

This Action Area tackles the critical issue of domestic and family violence. It proposes a comprehensive and holistic approach to prevent and respond to such incidents within the community. The strategies include increasing public awareness, providing support services to victims and fostering a broader culture of non-

tolerance towards domestic violence. This Action Area also emphasises the importance of collaboration with local organisations and law enforcement to effectively address and reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence, ensuring a safer environment for all community members.

### 17. Allocate resources to enrol Council officers in DV [training programs](#)

**Rationale** *Domestic violence is a significant issue that is often misunderstood. Training is, therefore, necessary for Council members to effectively partner with community providers and support local strategies for domestic violence prevention.*

**Strategies**

- Enrol two Council officers in DV training program during the next offering 2024-26
- Consult the [NSW Legal Assistance Forum \(NLAFF\)](#) for list of members and programs on offer

**Measure of Success**

- Completion of program by two Council officers

### 18. Following the previous recommendation, support local domestic/family violence strategies for the Shire, that consider the rural geography of Narrabri Shire and the needs of the community.

**Rationale** *While Council will not necessarily be able to impact directly the root causes of domestic and family violence, new knowledge can improve Council's ability to facilitate and support local strategies for the treatment and protection of victims.*

**Strategies**

- Identify opportunities for addressing domestic and family violence at the local level
- Identify specific needs in Narrabri (shelters, offender treatment, police training, social work supports, safety planning)
- Discuss strategies with local service providers including social workers and case managers
- Collaborate with local organisations (e.g. [NDCAS](#)) to promote existing domestic violence support services
- Support activities that raise general public awareness through participation in and promotion of community events (such as [White Ribbon Day](#) etc)

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**Measure of Success**

- The development of a local domestic/family violence strategy
  - After developing and disseminating the domestic/family violence strategy, conduct surveys to assess the community's understanding and perception of this strategy
  - Analyse the reach, engagement and feedback on traditional and social media related to the crime prevention strategies
  - Engage/monitor media coverage of crime prevention initiatives and strategies
  - Monitor the usage rates of local shelters, social work supports and domestic violence support services. NOTE: an increase in the use of these services can indicate higher community engagement and awareness.
  - Monitor and evaluate the reach and impact of public awareness campaigns (e.g. White Ribbon Day), website traffic to domestic violence resource pages and the distribution of educational materials
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**Narrabri Shire**  
**Crime Prevention Plan**  
**2024 – 2028**



**Centre for Rural  
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