

Community Safety Youth Survey

Background

Over April and May 2007 City Safe project officers attended a number of community youth events to publicise the City Safe Resource Centre's community partnership projects and initiatives undertaken to improve community safety and security in Rockingham. City Safe harnessed the opportunity to gather information and feedback regarding safety from the youth of Rockingham via a survey.

Method

The surveys were designed to gather as much information as possible in the shortest amount of time. Only ten questions were asked, three required a written response whilst the remaining responses were indicated by choosing boxes.

Surveys were provided on clipboards so participants could complete the surveys where they felt comfortable and there was an array of options including chairs, beanbags and desks.

Appropriate signage was displayed encouraging participation with the offer of a lucky dip on completion of the survey. Two City Safe project officers also approached youths to encourage participation.

Participation

111 surveys were completed, however nine surveys were omitted due to participants not being in the required age range. A total of **102** participants surveys were used to produce the data, statistics and report associated with the Community Safety Youth Survey.

Questions One

Gender

Of the 102 participants 61% were female and 39% were male.

Table One Gender

Male	Female
39%	61%

Question Two

Age

Over half (53%) of the participants surveyed were aged between twelve and fourteen years (12-14). 29% of participants were aged fifteen to seventeen (15-17), 12% were aged eighteen to twenty (18-20) and 6% were aged twenty-one to twenty-five (21-25).

Table Two Age

12 - 14	53%
15 - 17	29%
18 - 20	12%
21 - 25	6%

Question Three

Locality

Of the youth survey 27% resided in Secret Harbour, 20% in Rockingham, 11% in Port Kennedy, 10% in Safety Bay, 8% in Waikiki, 8% in Warnbro, 3% in Cooloongup and the remaining 13% of participants were from a mixture of localities.

Table Three Locality

Secret Harbour	27%
Rockingham	20%
Mixture of Suburbs	13%
Port Kennedy	11%
Safety Bay	10%
Waikiki	8%
Warnbro	8%
Cooloongup	3%

Question Four

Would you agree with the statement “Rockingham is a safe place for young people?”

In response participants were asked to tick one of the following: totally agree; mostly agree; partly agree; disagree. 10% of participants surveyed totally agreed, 22.5% mostly agreed with the statement and 54% partly agree. 10.5% of participants disagreed and there was no response recorded for 3% of participants.

Table Four Rockingham is a safe place for young people

Totally agree	10%
Mostly agree	22.5%
Partly agree	54%
Disagree	10.5%
No response	3%

Question Five

Which area/s do you think are unsafe for young people? (you may tick more than one box)

Participants could choose one or a combination of the following areas: Shopping centre; Rockingham Bus Port; Rockingham foreshore; Around pubs/clubs; None; Other_____. 30.5% of respondents indicated they felt unsafe at shopping centres, 49% thought the Rockingham Bus Port wasn't safe for youths, 24.5% said the foreshore was unsafe for young people and 62.5% of the young people surveyed felt areas around pubs and clubs were unsafe.

Table Five

Shopping centres	30.5%
Rockingham Bus Port	49%
Foreshore	24.5%
Pubs/clubs	62.5%

**Please note percentages do not equal 100 as participants could select more than one response.*

Question Six

What do you think are the main safety issues that affect young people living in Rockingham? (you may tick more than one box)

Those surveyed could choose one or a combination of the following: Stealing; Assaults/Violence; Intimidation (eg Gangs); Drug/Alcohol related; Driving related; Graffiti vandalism/Damage; Nothing; Other_____. 42% of those surveyed saw stealing as a main safety issue, 52% commented that assaults and violence are a main issue, 38% are concerned with intimidation and gangs; 64% believe safety is affected by drugs and or alcohol, 17.5% feel driving related matters affect young peoples safety and 58% believe graffiti is one of the main safety issues.

Table Six Main safety issues affecting young people

Stealing	42%
Assaults/Violence	52%
Intimidation (eg gangs)	38%
Drug/Alcohol related	64%
Driving related	17.5%
Graffiti vandalism/Damage	58%

**Please note percentages do not equal 100 as participants could select more than one response.*

Question Seven

Please rate how big an issue you think graffiti vandalism is in Rockingham

Participants were asked to choose one of the following: Very high; High; Medium; Low; Very low; No issue. 30.5% of the young people surveyed indicated that the issue of graffiti vandalism in Rockingham is very high, 34.5% said it was high, 21% regarded it as a medium issue, 5% said it is low, 1% indicated it very low, 3% stated it was no issue and 5% of participants didn't respond.

Table Seven Rate how big an issue graffiti vandalism is in Rockingham

Very high	30.5%
High	34.5%
Medium	21%
Low	5%
Very low	1%
No issue	3%
No response	5%

Question Eight (a)

Do you think more should be done to reduce the amount of graffiti vandalism in Rockingham?

Participant's options in response were yes or no. 85% of participants said yes, 10% said no and there was no response from 5% of those surveyed.

Table Eight Should more be done to reduce graffiti vandalism

Yes	85%
No	10%
No response	5%

Question Eight (b)

What do you think should be done to reduce the amount of graffiti vandalism in Rockingham

Participants were asked to respond in the form of a written statement. 17% suggested tougher/stronger penalties, 17% suggested more Police and security in Rockingham, 12% thought the use of camera would help deter graffiti vandalism.

Comments relating to tougher/stronger penalties included:

“When caught graffiting on a bus they should be banned from all buses for one year” and “stop selling spray cans to young people without a list of details of purchase.”

Comments relating to more Police and security patrols included:

“More guards and Police on the street,” “More ransom Police checks,” “Police patrols at night” and “More Police and security.”

Comments relating to community based projects included:

“Community based projects which involve the youth and make surfaces less graffitiable.”

Comments suggesting nothing be done to reduce graffiti included:

Through to “Its only graffiti, no-one is dying from it, focus on other issues”

Question Nine

City Safe is the community safety division within the City Of Rockingham. Can you list any community safety programs run by City Safe?

Only 15% of those surveyed offered any response for this question. The answers included “Adopt A Bus Shelter and CCTV,” “School visits and free stuff,” “Safety houses,” “Rangers” and “Constable Care.”

Question Ten

What programs/activities do you think should occur to increase safety for young people in Rockingham?

Over a third of those surveyed, 34% suggested more activities, youth centres, events and projects to increase safety. 11% suggested more Police and/or security patrols and 10% suggested more education programmes and visits to schools.

Comments regarding youth events and activities included:

“Youth Centre parties,” “Underage nightclubs,” “More underage events,” “More things like this,” “Sports programs that show people how to stick up for themselves,” “Better stranger danger programs” and “Circus, graffiti, didgeridoo, drum, music courses.”

Comments regarding more Police and security included:

“More Police talks at schools and Police talking to you on the street,” “Police patrols every night around the streets” and “security patrols.”

Comments regarding education programmes and visits to schools included:

“Police people to go to schools,” “Safety awareness programmes,” “Constable Care and Safety House,” “Education at schools” and “Better stranger danger programmes.”

Discussion

Over half of the young people surveyed partly agreed that Rockingham is a safe place for young people and ten point five percent said they disagreed with the statement. Together this indicates that nearly two thirds of respondents are concerned about their safety and security.

Ten percent of respondents totally agreed that Rockingham is a safe place for young people and twenty two point five percent of respondents mostly agreed. This suggests that almost a third of those surveyed do feel safe in Rockingham.

Nearly two thirds of respondents indicated they felt unsafe around pubs and clubs and nearly half responded to feeling unsafe at the Rockingham Bus Port. Shopping centres created a fear of crime and safety with thirty point five percent of the young people surveyed feeling unsafe whilst at or around shopping centres. Nearly one quarter of the respondents indicated they felt unsafe on the foreshore and in surrounding areas. *When asked to provide an opinion of the areas with the highest incidence of crime in the Community Safety Survey, the beachfront/Rockingham Foreshore elicited thirty responses and around pubs and clubs elicited twenty responses.*

The three highest ranking responses in relation to the main safety issues affecting young people living in Rockingham were drug and alcohol related issues for nearly two thirds or sixty four percent of respondents, fifty eight percent believe graffiti vandalism and damage and assaults and violence are a concern for fifty two percent of respondents. *Community Safety Survey results indicate that respondents from all suburbs reported that graffiti vandalism and antisocial behaviour made them feel unsafe at eighty two and sixty six percent respectively.*

Other high areas of concern for young people were stealing eliciting a response from forty two percent and intimidation proving an issue for thirty eight percent of respondents.

Nearly two thirds of the youth surveyed indicated that graffiti vandalism in Rockingham is of high or very high concern. Only a small percentage of respondents, nine percent rated the issue as of low, very low or no concern. *This is mirrored in the Community Safety Survey where eighty two percent of respondents stated that graffiti vandalism makes them feel unsafe in the suburb in which they live.*

An overwhelming majority of respondents, eighty five percent, responded that more should be done to reduce graffiti vandalism in Rockingham. Responses as to how to reduce graffiti vandalism included tougher, stronger penalties, more Police and security and more use of CCTV systems. *Results from the Community Safety Survey list harsher penalties, offenders removing graffiti, naming and shaming and increased CCTV surveillance as the top four recommendations from respondents to reduce graffiti vandalism.*

A third of the young people surveyed suggested that by increasing activities for them to participate in their safety would be increased. This indicates that boredom and a lack of legitimate avenues are creating safety concerns.

Outcomes

Feedback from the surveys reveals that there are a number of initiatives and actions that can be made to improve the communities perception of safety and security in Rockingham and to increase awareness of existing programs and services offered by City Safe and the City of Rockingham.

Promote and educate in the areas of:

- Reporting graffiti on Council property to the Graffiti Hotline (phone or web)
- Reporting graffiti on Private property to Police on 131 444
- Target crime issues regarding drugs and alcohol, graffiti vandalism and assaults and violence
- Promote community based partnership projects which encourage communities to take ownership
- Increased promotion of City Safe, the resource centre and services and programmes offered.