



George Town Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

Progressive/Prosperous/Proud¹

¹ George Town Strategic Plan

FOREWARD

This Community Safety Plan has been developed for the George Town Municipal area, aiming to deal with the community safety issues that affect the quality of life of people who live and work in the district.

The Plan will be delivered by the Community Safety Group Committee, which is made up of both statutory organisations, businesses and community groups, all with a joint aim to improve community safety in the municipal area.

The Plan lays out our strategic focus for the next four years between 2020 and 2023. As part of the process of putting together the Plan, we have reviewed the way that we work as a group. We believe that the revised membership and operating procedures, will lead to a stronger committee that is more able to identify and respond to emerging concerns, and better able to monitor safety issues and community safety programs.

We are very keen to encourage more community involvement in our work to improve community safety through participation in strategy reviews, community safety projects, and reporting safety concerns or crimes to the Police.

We hope that you will find this strategy an interesting and informative read.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barwick', with a small mark above the 'i'.

Councillor Heather Barwick JP
Chair of George Town Community Safety Group Advisory Committee

WHO WE ARE

We are a community committee that brings together the following groups to improve the safety of the George Town Municipality.

- George Town Council
- Department of Police, Fire Emergency Management
- Department of Health & Human Services
- George Town Chamber of Commerce
- Department of Education (HUB)
- Local Schools – Port Dalrymple, Star of the Sea and South George Town Primary School
- George Town Neighbourhood House
- Community and Progress Associations
- Neighbourhood Watches
- Other local agencies

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote safety and wellbeing in the George Town municipality.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Community Safety Group will:

- Develop long and short-term strategies to address local safety issues, focusing on prevention, education and early intervention.
- Actively engage the community and other key stakeholders on local community safety issues of concern.
- Improve dialogue and partnerships with non-government organisations, community organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Identify new initiatives and the capacity to source grant money to fund community safety initiatives.
- Develop and disseminate community safety material among the local and business community.
- Work collaboratively as a group and be actively involved in projects/activities identified by the group.

PRIORITIES

By consulting with residents and using statistical data, we have developed priority areas for the Community Safety Plan 2020 to 2023.

Our priority areas are:

1. Safe and Secure Communities
2. Road Safety – Safe Roads
3. Crime Reduction/Prevention
4. Health and Wellbeing

In order to address these priority areas, we will focus on;

- Community voice –opportunities for consultation, participation and engagement with community groups;
- Promotion of community safety messages;
- Safe access to and use of public spaces;
- Feedback and response fostering awareness of strategies and initiatives within the municipality.

1. SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES

AIM

Promote and advocate for safety and wellbeing of community members.

To support and promote awareness of, with relevant Agencies and Departments to:

- Reduce assault
- Reduce other crimes against the person
- Reduce the incidence of family violence

As a committee we will support strategies and raise awareness to address crime. The two major areas we will focus on are family violence and violence linked to night-life, which covers the potential for violence around licensed venues at closing times, often associated with the consumption of alcohol.

Monitor current trends and statistics.

Family Violence Strategies

- Raising awareness and of the services available to address the issues.

AIMS

To support initiatives to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour in an aim to:

- Reduce property damage.

- Reduce anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of acts and behaviours; it can mean different things to different people. It is not always necessarily criminal, but still has the potential to negatively impact the way that our citizens enjoy both public and private spaces throughout the municipality.

To give some clarity, we would suggest that anti-social behaviour can include; verbal abuse, property damage, vandalism, noise nuisance, graffiti, threatening behaviour, bullying and harassment, racial abuse, underage smoking or drinking and substance misuse and traffic offences.

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies

- Supporting the provision of services to address key anti-social behaviour problems.
- Collaborative approach to anti-social behaviour through a multi-agency problem response solving method.
- Promoting respect in our community, both in-person and electronic mediums.

2. CRIME REDUCTION/PREVENTION

AIM

To support a safe and secure community in promoting awareness campaigns to:

- Reduce home burglary
- Reduce business burglary
- Reduce vehicle crime
- Reduce shoplifting
- Vandalism

Property crime covers crimes such as burglary, theft from vehicles and businesses.

In particular, the plan aims to support strategies to reduce the incidence of burglary from homes, sheds, garages and motor vehicles, as well as reduce the incidence of motor vehicle stealing and shoplifting.

Burglary Strategies

- Raising awareness of the issue and promoting security advice to reduce incidents.
- Crime prevention through planning and environmental design.

Vehicle Crime Strategies

- Raising awareness of the issue and promoting security advice to reduce incidents.
- Crime prevention through planning and environmental design at vehicle parking locations.

Shoplifting Strategies

- Developing a scheme to address losses suffered by local retailers due to shoplifting.

To promote and raise awareness to create safe environments to have:

- All residents feel safe or very safe during the day and after dark.
- A community where residents feel safe.

Our consultation evidence suggests that in some areas, the fear of crime is actually greater than levels of crime. Where this is the case, the fear of crime can have a negative impact on people's everyday enjoyment of life in George Town municipality. For this reason, it is very important for us to address this priority.

We will aim to address local-level problems that increase fear of crime, improve the ability of local people to be involved in addressing crime, and raise awareness of the success of the work being done to address community safety problems across the district.

Fear of Crime Strategies

- Broadening the membership base of the George Town Community Safety Group Committee to ensure adequate community level representation.
- Improvement of street lighting in areas where it is most needed.
- Production of a community safety handbook to be distributed to all households giving contact numbers for reporting all community safety issues.
- Co-ordinated media strategy, to get key crime reduction messages across throughout the year.
- Promotion through community events.

3. ROAD SAFETY – SAFE ROADS

AIM

To work with the community, Council and Government to promote and improve travel safety by:

- Improved pedestrian access throughout the municipality.
- Improved road marking and posting throughout the municipality.

Road Safety Strategies

- To advocate for road safety through the Council to Government agencies.

4. HEALTH AND WELL BEING

AIM

To develop initiatives in line with National and State strategies and in partnership with state and regional networks, community groups and other agencies to promote safe and healthy communities in the George Town Municipality.²

The use of drugs and alcohol are a major precursor to the incidence of crime and public disorder. The misuse of drugs is nationally recognised as being a reason behind property crime; while alcohol is a major cause linked to violence, anti-social behaviour and road collisions.

In addition to the effects on crime, both drugs and alcohol can have serious impacts on personal safety and health.

In the George Town municipality we will focus on promoting drug and alcohol issues in line with the themes of the National and the State strategies.

RESOURCES

Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2013-2018

National Drug Strategy 2017-2026

² George Town Future Impact Group Unedited Outcomes