MARYBOROUGH SAFETY NETWORK

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

2010 - 2013

Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

The Maryborough Safety Network was established in August 2008 to look at issues in the district.

In May 2010 the Safety Network decided to do some planning around issues within the community and develop a plan to enable them to work towards addressing some concerns within the community.

BACKGROUND

The Maryborough Safety Network consists of Councillors, Council Staff, Queensland Police and members of the community who feel that safety is an issue and want to be proactive in making it a safer place.

The Council provides secretariat duties for the committee which is chaired by a Councillor.

The role of the network is to identify concerns within the community that may relate to crime and public safety and where possible provide solutions that may address the issues either through the members of the network or by identifying other agencies that could help provide a collaborative solution.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Based on statistics used from the Office of Economic and Statistical Research derived using statistical local areas (2006) information.

Profile of Maryborough

Population	**2003**	**2004**	**2008**		
	25,979	27,371	27,593		
Age Profiles	**0-14**	**15-24**	**25-44**	**45-64**	**65+**
	5,358	3,230	6,438	7,613	4,954
Indigenous Population	**Aboriginal**	**Torres Strait Islander**	**Both**		
	704	94	64		
Family Composition	**Couple no children**	**Couple with children**	**One parent family**	**One parent family**	
	3,115	2,558	1,195	17.2%	
Socio-economic index of disadvantage	**Q1 (most disadvantaged)**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**Q5 (least disadvantaged)**
	63.3	24.4	3.5	8.8	0.0
Need of Assistance	**Number**	**%**			
	1,875	7.3			

Within the Fraser Coast Region Hervey Bay had the largest number of families followed by Maryborough. Maryborough recorded the highest number of one parent families.

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) measures the social and economic conditions of a geographic area. The SEIFA is made up of a number of indexes that are generated at the time that the ABS Census of Populations and Housing. The index concentrates on low income earners, relatively lower education attainment, high unemployment and dwellings without motor vehicles. A low index indicates the areas of the most disadvantage and high values represents areas of least disadvantage. Queensland overall has 20 per cent of the population in each quintile. The population of the Fraser Coast overall by comparison has 49.8% of the population in the most disadvantaged quintile.

VISION FOR MARYBOROUGH SAFETY NETWORK

To create a safer community for all.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Community Awareness

- That there is promotion of the Maryborough Safety Network and an awareness created.
- Need to say who the network consists of and what it actually does.

2. Youth Development

- That the agencies are identified that could assist in creating awareness or deliver programs within the area.
- Ability to provide skill enhancement and jobs in the area for young people to reduce the crime rate.
- That a funding base is identified for any funding progress
- Facilities are provided to keep young people positively engaged.
- Education programs to help young people address problems in the community.
- There is a need for greater parental support and supervision of young people.
- For Kahwun Wooga to be able to continue to provide night patrols to keep young people off the streets and offer support.

3. Infrastructure

- Make sure that all improvements to infrastructure are proactive by providing a safe environment based on the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

4. Positive Ticketing

- For the Positive Ticketing program to be introduced into the community on a 6 month trial basis and monitored for evaluation of continuation.

5. Funding Programs

- That sources of funding for various Crime Prevention programs are investigated and appropriate collaborative partnerships are formed to ensure that it is accessed by the community for improving Crime Prevention in the area.

Community Safety Action Plan – Project 1

Target Offence:	Anti-social behaviour, wilful damage including graffiti
Project:	"Youth in the Picture" Program
Rationale:	Youth in the Maryborough community are often seen as having a hand in some of the bad behaviour that is displayed through lack of respect for themselves and property. There is often a lack of places available for youth that are not involved in a sport and recreational program in the area. The Safety Network felt that if a program in the community is supported that will help in making positive decisions, that it will have a positive outcome.
Objective:	'Putting Youth in the Picture' is a unique educational program that has been developed in regional Queensland to help communities deal with issues confronting youth. This program uses a series of authentic but confronting movie scenarios to show how young people can become involved in life altering incidents as a result of poor decision making. The issues presented and discussed include sexual assault, a bar-room fight, use of illegal recreational drugs, binge drinking and underage drinking at a party featuring all of these behaviours. A group of concerned Youth agency members in Hervey Bay are looking at purchasing the program and establishing it in Hervey Bay. The objective of the Maryborough Network is to support these agencies and the program so it will be rolled out across the region.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Youth Network, Maryborough Safety Network,
Expected Outcome:	That an educational program is delivered across the region including Maryborough to reduce some of the anti-social behaviour and result in people feeling safer in the streets

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Maryborough Safety Network becomes a partner agency for the program in conjunction with the Youth Sector				
That Maryborough agencies are identified that could be educators of the program.				

Community Safety Action Plan – Project 2

Target Offence:	Anti-social behaviour
Project:	Positive Ticketing
Rationale:	That youth with some encouragement will change their habits to display positive behaviours. This project is based on a program that was originated in the summer of 2001 in Canada. Richmond RCMP and the City of Richmond began a concerted effort to target disconnected and "at risk" youth in the community. These youth ranged in age from 13-17 and the type of issues that placed them at risk is common in communities throughout Canada regardless of size. With this was born the concept of handing out vouchers for positive behaviour and it was also a way for police officers to engage with youth in the community. Youth in the area will be encouraged to continue to display positive behaviour in areas such as: Examples of positive behaviour could include: • Holding a door open or helping an elderly person; • Using designated recreation facilities ie: skateboard park instead of public footpaths; • Helping the police with their enquiries; • Volunteer work; • Fundraising.
Objective:	Youth are offered a reward (voucher) when they are 'caught' doing good deeds.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Hervey Bay Safety Network in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service and Fraser Coast Regional Council
Expected Outcome:	That youth in the area will form positive habits and interact with Police and Council's compliance staff in a way that give them a better understanding of these people in the community.

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
That the project be trialled in Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Tiaro	Evaluation at the end of the trial period	December 2010		All tickets are successfully given out with a noticeable change in overall behaviour
If a successful trial, then a program is put in place to continue to be rolled out across the Fraser Coast				

Community Safety Action Plan – Project 3

Target Offence:	Assaults, Anti-Social behaviour, Wilful Damage
Project:	Lighting – area of CBD
Rationale:	That improved lighting in areas of the CBD will reduce the rate of misdemeanours in the area.
Objective:	To identify areas within the CBD of Maryborough and in conjunction with Council negotiate to roll out a program that will improve lighting to areas that are considered to be 'blackspots' and attract anti-social behaviour.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Fraser Coast Regional Council in conjunction with the Safety Network
Expected Outcome:	That over a period of time the lighting in the CBD will be replaced/upgraded to provide better visibility and reduce the number of areas that are poorly lit.

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Identify areas within the CBD that may require better lighting	That an audit of areas is carried out and identified			
In conjunction with FCRC staff develop a plan that will address the issues and enable Council to consider in budget deliberations	For a plan to be developed that will inform Council of area that need upgrading or developed			

Community Safety Action Plan – Project 4

Target Offence:	Anti-social behaviour
Project:	Night Patrol
Rationale:	That the general public will feel safe walking through areas of the CBD without being accosted by persons that may be utilising public spaces to gather for the purpose of drinking.
Objective:	To ensure that those that utilise public spaces for drinking are monitored and if appropriate ensure that they are conveyed safely home. Provide an culturally appropriate service that enables people to have the support and resources to ensure their personal safety and that of the community.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Kahwun Wooga Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation in conjunction with members of the Safety Network
Expected Outcome:	That funding is secured to re-establish the Night Patrol program.

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
Secure funding to be able to re-instate the Night Patrol Program				

Community Safety Action Plan – Project 5

Target Offence:	All Offences
Project:	Promotion of Maryborough Safety Network
Rationale:	To give the Safety Network a higher profile in the community.
Objective:	Develop a suite of promotional material that will inform the general community about the Safety Network and its operations in the Maryborough area. Provide the community with information about projects that are relevant to keeping it a safer place.
Lead Agency & Partners:	Fraser Coast Regional Council and members of the committee
Expected Outcome:	That the profile of the work and the committee is well publicised.

Action	Performance Measures	Time Frames	Funding required	Milestones
To develop a brochure that gives an overview of the committee and safety plan for the community	Brochure developed and distributed			
A series of fact sheets are developed that address specific issues are distributed and made available on Council's website	Fact sheets developed and distributed			