



POSITION PAPER COMMUNITY SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION

JULY 2024

ABOUT THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Kimberley Shires, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collaboratively the group seeks to drive positive impact across the region through improved social, economic and cultural outcomes. This paper is designed to highlight the issues as known to Local Government at the time of writing and the potential pathways that are supported.

CONTEXT

- Deep-seeded social issues such as inter-generational trauma and entrenched poverty are underlying causes to offending¹.
- Police crime statistics indicate that in 2023 the most common offences across the Kimberley were assault (family), stealing, property damage, burglary, assault (non-family) and breach of violence restraining orders².
- Police crime statistics show an increasing trend of offending across the Kimberley³.
- A strong, local police response is critical to preventing and addressing community safety and crime issues.
- Local Government plays a key role in crime prevention and community safety through the provision of Community Safety Plans and investment in infrastructure and services including safer streets through improved street lighting, graffiti management, installation of CCTV cameras, rangers working in partnership with police and community services, funding and support for non-government community-based programs.
- The Kimberley has the highest rates of FDV offences across Western Australia, with family violence rates up almost 50 per cent in five years⁴.

OBJECTIVE

- » **Crime is reduced across the region and by location.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles should inform community safety and crime prevention in the Kimberley:

- An integrated strategy that has a balance between a 'tough on crime' and personal accountability whilst addressing systemic local issues that lead to offending.
- Engagement with local government.
- A focus on prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration.
- Local services that are culturally informed and culturally led.
- Rights based approach.
- Restorative action model.
- Place based responses.

POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Whole of government and community response

- 1.1 A Kimberley Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy is developed, including support and new investment for local government Community Safety Plans and initiatives.
- 1.2 Greater investment into the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy with increased investment into culturally informed and led early intervention, prevention and diversionary programs for young people across the region.
- 1.3 A Kimberley Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Strategy is developed and resourced.

2. A focus on crime prevention

- 2.1 A Kimberley Local Government community safety fund to enable Shires to plan and implement a crime prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) approach and invest in infrastructure such as well-planned and well-designed public spaces, security patrols, CCTVs, and improved LED street lighting.
- 2.2 An expansion of social justice reinvestment programs across the Kimberley, including increased investment into diversionary activities.

3. Increased investment in Kimberley services and facilities

- 3.1 Adequate police resources in all Kimberley towns and communities.
- 3.2 Provision of night patrols, crisis accommodation and safe houses in all Kimberley towns and communities including safe night places.
- 3.3 Increased investment to prevent and to respond to family and domestic violence.
- 3.4 Increased investment in legal services to provide support for people to meet the conditions of bail and court orders.
- 3.5 Bail houses located at Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Wyndham.
- 3.6 Appropriate custodial facilities in the Kimberley.
- 3.7 Increased investment in Kimberley based diversionary programs and On Country alternatives to detention.
- 3.8 Structured support programs for people returning from detention.
- 3.9 Investment in to build the skills of Kimberley community safety and crime prevention staff and services.

ENDNOTES

1. <https://www.socialreinvestmentwa.org.au/the-issue>.
2. <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/crime/crimestatistics#>.
3. <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/crime/crimestatistics#>.
4. <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/CrimeStatistics>