



COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2008 – 2013



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Safety is an issue that concerns everyone in the community. It is not just an issue for Council or the Police. It's about everyone taking responsibility to ensure their personal environment is as safe and secure as possible. It is also about people working together to create a community that is inclusive, fair, active and confident.

Ballarat is fortunate to have a dynamic Community Safety Advisory Committee which represents the city's key government, non-government and community organisations. We are a focused group of people, united in our desire to ensure that Ballarat, and its communities, are safe, happy and welcoming places to be.

We urge all members of the community to join us in making our city safer, and take this opportunity to invite you to read and embrace the Community Safety Action Plan 2008-2013 and its vision for making our community a premier, regional, safe city.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Community safety influences all aspects of daily life: where we live, recreate and socialise, learn, work and participate. It provides a foundation for our long term choices and decision-making processes at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Safety, along with shelter and food, is considered the basic pre-condition for health.” (1)

Dr Carolyn Whitzman, 2006, University of Melbourne

Our Safe Community

A safe community is one where people can go about their daily activities in an environment without fear, or risk of harm or injury. As a key contributor to health and wellbeing, community safety is an integral component to a liveable community. Community safety is achieved through;

- embracing a shared understanding of the factors which contribute to crime, injury prevention and disadvantage in our community;
- recognition of the responsibility that all levels of government, communities, individuals and partnerships play in promoting safety;
- demonstrating leadership;
- applying sound evidence based approaches; and
- focusing on governance which reduces social exclusion and adopts a health promotion approach to tackling crime and violence.(1)

Community Safety should be viewed as a long-term commitment to the promotion of health and wellbeing.

Talking Safety

Council adopted a best practice approach for consulting with our local community around community safety issues. A range of community engagement and participation opportunities were used to ensure that the community's concerns needs and values were incorporated in the Community Safety Action Plan. A range of innovative methods were used to increase community participation which included: bus stop surveys, listening posts at key community events, a key stakeholder 'summit', a web based survey, focus groups and experiential learning events.

Priority Areas for Action

Issues and priorities were identified through the synthesis of the information gathered from the community engagement process together with a review of current evidence and government policy. The result of this analysis was the identification of the following six priority areas:

- Partnerships
- Community strengthening
- Urban design for safe and healthy environments
- Safer roads, access and movement
- Alcohol related harm
- Family violence prevention

An action planning process was undertaken with key stakeholders to identify areas for collaboration and explore actions which could be applied across our community to improve safety. A settings-based framework has been adopted to implement the Community Safety Action Plan and includes the use of the following three settings under the broader community safety auspice:

- Home Safety
- Safer Streets and Neighbourhoods
- City and Activity Centres

Tracking our Success

A number of the actions outlined within the Community Safety Action Plan will be measured against a set of indicators developed by Community Indicators Victoria (CIV). The aim of CIV is to build healthy, just and sustainable communities through the use of community indicators of wellbeing. The impact of actions outlined in this Plan to improve long-term community health and wellbeing outcomes will be assessed by monitoring community indicators. These indicators refer to a broad range of measures designed to identify and communicate economic, social, environmental, democratic and cultural trends and outcomes. An example of the core indicators relevant to community safety and injury prevention include: perceptions of safety, family violence, road safety, incidence of crime, alcohol related harm and socio-economic disadvantage. The compilation of the initial data set occurred in 2007, with the next anticipated indicator set to be undertaken in 2009.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to provide Council with a framework to guide decision-making and determine its role in providing for the community safety needs of the community.

2.2 What is Community Safety?

A safe community is one where people can go about their daily activities in an environment without fear, or risk of harm or injury. ⁽¹⁾ Carolyn Whitzman has further described the importance of safety:

“Community safety influences all aspects of daily life: where we live, recreate and socialise, learn, work and participate. It provides a foundation for our long term choices and decision-making processes at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Safety, along with shelter and food, is considered the basic pre-condition for health”. Whitzman, 2006

As a key contributor to health and wellbeing, community safety is an integral component to a liveable community and is linked to a number of key Council and policies and strategies. These include the:

- Blueprint Ballarat, which outlines a vision for the municipality for the next 25 years designed to connect and build on long term community aspirations;
- Council Plan, which details Council’s role in meeting a diverse range of health and wellbeing needs of the community, including statutory obligations;
- Municipal Strategic Statement, which identifies key strategic planning objectives for land use, urban design and development for the municipality and the associated regulations outlined in the Ballarat Planning Scheme to achieve these objectives; and
- Municipal Public Health Plan (Health and Wellbeing Plan) which aims to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Ballarat by providing strategic direction to Council on health issues and priorities and needs of the Ballarat community and a plan to address and respond to those issues.

Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan 2007-2009 provides further explanation of a range of strategic plans which link to community safety and wellbeing objectives including:

- Positive Ageing Strategy
- Draft Youth Strategy
- Child and Family Friendly City
- Community Road Safety Strategy
- Pedestrian Wayfinding Strategy
- Ballarat Bicycle Strategy
- Municipal Early Years Plan

Strategic plans developed by community agencies also play a role in improving community safety and wellbeing, and have been considered during the development of the Community Safety Action Plan. These Plan's include, but are not limited to:

- Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership Community Health Plan;
- Central Highlands Drug and Alcohol Strategy;
- Central Highlands Regional Road Safety Strategy
- Victoria Police: The Way Ahead 2008-2013;
- Neighbourhood Renewal Community Plans; and
- Strengthening Generations Action Plan.

2.3 Partnerships & Achievements

Community Safety Advisory Committee and CitySafe Working Group

The Community Safety Advisory Committee was established in 1998 to identify and respond to local safety and crime issues. The City of Ballarat is committed to a partnership approach to community safety. The Ballarat Community Safety Advisory Committee brings together a cross section of people from a variety of organisations and backgrounds, all of whom have an interest in ensuring Ballarat and its communities remain safe. The partnerships which have been developed since 1998 are vital since no single agency can prevent crime, nor have a major impact on the many complex factors that influence community safety.

The CitySafe Working Group was established in 2007 by the Community Safety Advisory Committee with a mandate to improve safety and public amenity in the late-night entertainment precinct. The working group has a special focus on measures which improve safety for people using the precinct in addition to addressing issues associated with the amenity of the area. The CitySafe Working Group has been instrumental in achieving significant safety and amenity improvements within the late night entertainment precincts since its inception. In recent times the Working Group has included day time safety and perceptions of safety to its brief.

Some of the achievements of the Community Safety Advisory Committee and CitySafe Working Group have included:

- the continued successful operation of the CitySafe Taxi Rank;
- the delivery of the CitySafe Public Place CCTV Project;
- the provision of annual Community Safety Month activities;
- the delivery of the CitySafe Public Place Lighting Project;
- the provision of a Community Graffiti Removal Project;
- the work undertaken with our partners, residents and community stakeholders to promote White Ribbon Day, Neighbour Day and the BeSafe program for first year university students; and
- attracting funding from external sources for key community safety projects.

2.4 Methodology

This Plan outlines action for the next five years that respond to the priority issues identified by the community and key stakeholders. The development of this Plan commenced with a review of the 2005-2007 Community Safety Plan followed by a comprehensive community engagement process (see Table 1). This process included key stakeholder engagement and a range of innovative community activities such as surveys and listening posts at bus stops and community events to determine community views and priorities. Priority issues were identified through analysis of survey data together with a review of literature, policy and evidence-based best practice. The second phase of community engagement involved the development and promotion of a user-friendly version of the draft Action Plan for the public and key stakeholders comment. Action planning occurred through a series of meetings with key stakeholders and Council staff.

Below: Launch of Community Safety Action Plan and celebration of National Neighbour Day, March 2009.
L-R Snr Cst Janine Walker, Stan Waller, Joy Waller and Cr Des Hudson



The community engagement and participation process is outlined in the table below.

Table 1: Community Engagement Matrix

Community Engagement Process	Target Group	When	Number of responses, attendance or activity	Level of Community Engagement
Community Safety Summit	Key community safety stakeholders from health and welfare, emergency services, education and business sectors	April 2008	50 participants	Inform/Consult/Involve
Open Survey	Whole of community (web based survey) Listening Posts at key community events: Neighbour Day, Trash and Trivia market, Bus stops.	March – May 2007	347 responses 30 participants	Consult Inform/ Consult
Experiential Learning	CitySafe Night Experience: Councillors, key community stakeholders and decision makers	May 2008 Follow-up action June 2008	20 participants	Inform Involve
Focus Groups	Neighbourhood Watch meetings (Divisional and Redan)	April and May 2008	30 participants	Inform/ Consult
Marketing and Promotion	Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Ballarat • Courier (feature article and Notice Board) 	March-April 2008 October 2008	Whole of community	Inform
Action Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Violence Prevention Network • Neighbourhood Watch • Liquor Accord • Neighbourhood Renewal • BeSafe • Community Safety Advisory Committee • CitySafe Working Group 	March – September 2008	5 Networks covering over 100 organisations representing government, business and community sectors	Inform/Consult/Involve

Community Engagement Process	Target Group	When	Number of responses, attendance or activity	Level of Community Engagement
Draft, Open for Public Comment	Community and key stakeholders	October 2008	1 response	Inform/Consult/Involve
Marketing and Promotion for community conversations around Draft Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Courier • Radio Ballarat • My Ballarat • Website • Community Safety Awards 	October 2008 (Community Safety Month)	No. of media exposures No. of responses to radio interviews	Inform/Consult/Involve
Synthesis of public and key stakeholder input	Community and Key stakeholders	November 2008	5 responses to Draft Action Plan 1 member of public 4 members of Community Safety Committee	Inform/Consult/Involve
Final draft Plan	Community Safety Advisory Committee	December	20 participants	Inform/Consult/Involve
Councillor briefing on Draft Action Plan	Councillors	February 2009	9	Inform/Consult/Involve
Finalisation of draft Plan and submission of draft Plan to Council for endorsement	Councillors and Senior Management	February 2009	18	Inform/Consult/Involve
Launch of Community Safety Action Plan	Community event in conjunction with key stakeholders	March 2009	Whole of community	Inform

3 COUNCIL'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY SAFETY

Council has a pivotal role in promoting and developing strategies which enhance community safety and wellbeing. Safety, along with shelter and food, is considered the basic pre-condition for health. As such, safety principles are critical in how Council manages land use, community assets, open space, social, recreation planning to influence the development of safe public spaces, facilities, activity centres, roads and neighbourhoods. Council's role in community safety includes a focus on service policy and planning, advocacy and leadership, service provision and management, facilitation and communication and organisational development.

3.1 Principles

The adoption of six key principles underpins Council's approach to tackling issues associated with crime and injury prevention within the municipality;

Safe and healthy places

Community safety has major implications for Ballarat's health, economic and social wellbeing. Good design, lighting and effective use of the environment can help reduce the opportunity for crime, as well as reduce fear of crime and increase feelings of safety.

Partnerships and community capacity building

A community building approach that emphasises the importance of social capital (social justice, trust, participation, sharing common values) is vital when working towards local safety solutions. (2)

Commitment of key stakeholders and community participation in decision making

Council is committed to promoting opportunities for community members and organisations to embrace safety in their every day activities and work. Stakeholders are encouraged to make a commitment to share responsibility for safety and contribute to decision making. (2)

Underlying causes of key community safety issues

Council endorses an approach to improving community safety which embraces the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing. Council supports an evidence-based approach to the development of strategic priorities and actions. (2) (3)

Collaboration, co-operation and connectedness

Fostering of a strong sense of community connectedness, where all members of the community are equally valued and respected is seen as creating a safer and healthier community. Council aims to ensure all members of the community feel safe and welcome and places emphasis on strategies to improve the connectedness of vulnerable groups.(2)

Harm minimisation

Council supports a harm minimisation approach to reduce the adverse social, economic and health consequences of alcohol and drug use to the individual and the broader community. It encompasses three main approaches which include supply, demand, and harm reduction. (3)

3.2 Approaches to enhancing Community Safety

Three accepted approaches are generally applied when seeking to improve community safety. This Plan includes strategies which address our local safety concerns through the use of these approaches.

Urban Design: Healthy by Design and Second Generation CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is regarded as an integral place-based strategy that supports the importance of design of the built environment to reduce crime and fear of crime and improve quality of life. CPTED can be applied at a variety of levels including the micro (building security), meso (street/neighbourhood) and macro (town/city). (4)

‘Healthy and Safer Design’ improves community safety and wellbeing by promoting good design that results in built environments that are more accessible, walkable, liveable and attractive. In doing so, it increases passive surveillance and improves peoples’ perceptions of and actual safety. (5)

Social Development Strategies

Social development strategies acknowledge the underlying complex social, economic and cultural processes that contribute to crime and victimisation. It achieves this by addressing the factors that contribute to crime and victimisation. This includes risk factors that contribute to involvement with crime, living conditions, family factors, individual personality and behaviour factors, peer association, school-related factors, community connections and lack of employment opportunities. (6)

Promotional Strategies

Promotional strategies are designed to educate, inform and develop partnerships. These can include the provision of community education about factors which contribute to personal injury, crime prevention and community participation, maximising opportunities to involve government, non-government, police, community groups and the wider community in initiatives. It can also include promotion of evidence-based practice through improving access to data and research, including crime and health statistics, community perceptions of safety, and the effectiveness of programs. (2)

3.3 Settings Orientated Framework

A settings orientated approach has been adopted as the framework to implement the public face of the Community Safety Action Plan. This approach is characterised by four integral components:

- a holistic view of safety;
- collaborative partnerships;
- structured planning approach; and
- community engagement. (7)

This Plan includes the use of three settings under the broader Community Safety auspice and incorporates aspects of the second generation Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approach. The relationship between the two can be viewed in the following way; (5)

Safety settings	2nd Generation CPTED
Home Safety	Micro (Home/Building Security)
Safer Streets and Neighbourhoods	Meso (Street/Neighbourhood)
City and Activity Centres	Macro (Town/City)

4 CITY OF BALLARAT PEOPLE & ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Physical Environment

The municipal district of the City of Ballarat is part of an area of land under the traditional custodianship of the Wathaurong people and comprises the central urban area of Ballarat and the townships of Learmonth, Buninyong, Miners Rest and Cardigan Village. The City of Ballarat, is one of Australia's largest inland cities and the third largest city in Victoria, (source: ABS, 2006). The City of Ballarat covers a land area of 740 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 88,437 (source: ABS, 2006). The City is located in western Victoria, surrounded by the neighbouring municipalities of the Shires of Hepburn, Pyrenees, Golden Plains and Moorabool. (9)

4.2 Demographic Profile

The population of the City of Ballarat in 2006 was 85,196, representing an increase of 6.7% from 2001 (79,794) (source: ABS 2006/2001 Census Quickstats Ballarat Local Government Area). It is forecast that the population will increase a further 21.9% (103,853) by 2021 (source: forecast.id – total Population Forecast Year City of Ballarat).

The age structure of the City of Ballarat was notable in that there was a spread of population across more age groups. The largest age group in the region was the 15-24 year olds. There was quite an even spread across other age groups until the age of 60 years, where numbers begin to drop significantly. The age structure is often described as being an 'urban mix', with a range of different age groups in the population. The major differences in age structure between the City of Ballarat and the Central Highlands district includes a higher percentage of person ages 35-49 throughout the whole district, but generally the trends were similar. The most significant changes in age structure in the City of Ballarat between 2001 and 2006 were in the ages groups:

- 50-59 year olds (+ 1,852 persons)
- 60-69 year olds (+ 1,062 persons)
- 15-24 year olds (+ 806 persons)

The City of Ballarat experienced some changes in household types between 2001 and 2006 which included a decline in total number of couples with children, growth in couples without children and increase in one parent families.

The share of the population with different educational qualifications was indicative of a relatively skilled and educated workforce. About 32% of the population noted some form of educational qualification, with most significant being those people with vocational qualifications which may be related to the significant growth in construction or business service industries between 1996 and 2001.

In relation to population growth and trends it is expected that:

- The forecast population growth rates will be lower than household growth resulting in decreasing number of people per household;
- Young couples, young and maturing families will be attracted to the substantial new housing opportunities across the City of Ballarat, particularly in the major growth areas of Ballarat West and to a lesser degree to the South and North;

- The population will increase with home-leavers and tertiary students from neighbouring rural areas and small towns in their late teens and early twenties;
- Loss of young adults in their twenties leaving home is expected in many areas, as some will leave the City to find employment and educational opportunities; and
- Empty-nesters will also increase as will retirees from Melbourne, aided by the ageing of the population. (8)

4.3 Community Indicators

Community Indicators Victoria has been developed to present and report on the wellbeing of Victorians using an integrated set of community wellbeing indicators. These indicators refer to a broad range of measures designed to identify and communicate economic, social, environmental, democratic and cultural trends and outcomes. The aim of Community Indicators Victoria is to build healthy, just and sustainable communities. A number of these indicators are regarded as core community safety indicators, including crime, family violence, perceptions of safety, road injury, alcohol related harm and socio-economic disadvantage. Together with additional indicators detailed below, community indicators such as these provide a holistic and innovative mechanism to measure the success of a range of community building activities. A detailed account of the indicators outlined below can be viewed in Appendix 2. (9)

Dimension	Indicators
Social	Community Strength Perceptions of Safety Incidence of Crime Road Safety Family Violence Alcohol Related Harm Illicit Drug Use
Built/Natural Environment	Community Satisfaction of Appearance of Public Space Access to Areas of Open Space Transport Limitations Public Transport Patronage Kms of Dedicated Walking and Cycling trails
Cultural	Community Acceptance of Diverse Cultures Opportunities to Participate in Arts & Cultural Activities Opportunities to Participate in Sporting & Recreational Activities
Economic	Unemployment/employment rates Income Socio-economic Disadvantage (SEIFA), Index of Relative Disadvantage (IRSED) Housing Affordability
Democratic	Opportunity to Have a Say on Important Issues Participation in Citizen Engagement Membership of Local Community Organisations and Decision-Making Bodies

4.4 Summary of Findings from Community Engagement

The Community Safety Action Plan provides a rationale and evidence base for responding to priority issues identified through the use of local data and community needs and aspirations. A summary of the thematic analysis of findings from the community engagement and participation process resulted in the identification of the following areas (not in priority order).

Urban Design/Physical Environment	Personal Safety and Security (Fear of Crime/Perceptions of Safety)
Role of and Misuse of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs	Community Connections
Road Safety	Public Transport
Police Resourcing	Young People
Role of the media	Family Violence
Emergency Preparedness and Response	Anti-Social Behaviour
Community Attitudes and Values	Underlying Causes of Crime (unemployment, housing security, socio-economic disadvantage)
Mental Health	Children's Safety and Wellbeing

A number of these areas are being lead by other government agencies; for example police resourcing, and safety on public transport. Council may play a support role but they are not the primary focus of Council's role. Where possible, information regarding an issue has been forwarded to the appropriate Government or non-Government agency/organisation or business unit within Council for action. For instance the Department of Transport have been advised of community perceptions of safety on public transport, and issues identified around perceptions of young people have been useful in informing the development of Council's Youth Strategy.

5 VISIONS

The following vision was developed by the Community Safety Advisory Committee, 2008

Ballarat and its communities will be a safe, secure and inclusive community for people to live in, work in or visit. ⁽¹⁰⁾

The following six priority areas were identified by considering the results of the community engagement process and review of evidence. For each priority area, a vision was developed which incorporated community aspirations from the community engagement process.

Priority	Vision
Partnerships	<i>Strong, collaborative partnerships which promote a shared set of beliefs, attitudes and values that support crime and injury prevention.</i>
Community strengthening	<i>Social conditions which support the development of a confident, inclusive, safe and active community.</i>
Urban design of the built environment	<i>Safe physical environments which reduce risk of injury, increase perceptions of safety, promote access for all and which support active living.</i>
Safer roads, access and movement	<i>Safe movement of people and goods using sustainable transport options such as public transport, rail transport, walking and cycling. Improved community confidence and activity through the development of safer streets for public transport users, cyclists and pedestrians.</i>
Alcohol-related harm	<i>A community with minimal harm from the use of alcohol. Recognition of the impact of alcohol misuse, including the adoption of legislation and regulation that protects our community and encourages appropriate alcohol use.</i>
Family violence prevention	<i>A community that does not tolerate family violence. Recognition of the impact of violence against women and children and a community that promotes the full participation of women and children in community life.</i>

6 GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Partnerships

Goal: To develop and enhance partnerships and evidence-based practice that address local community safety priorities.

Objective One: To develop shared beliefs, values and attitudes and enhanced governance processes by community safety partners.

Objective Two: To enhance information and communication delivery by community safety partners that improves community awareness about safety.

Community Strengthening

Goal: To increase social capital by enhancing social participation in the community.

Objective One: Increase opportunities for social participation in neighbourhoods.

Objective Two: Strengthen volunteering opportunities and identify barriers to volunteering.

Urban Design for Safe and Healthy Environments

Goal: To create built and natural environments that promote health, have a high standard of amenity and safety, are welcoming and are well utilised by a diverse mix of community members.

Objective One: To improve Council staff, developer and key stakeholder awareness of 'safer and healthy by design' principles.

Objective Two: To incorporate 'safer and healthy by design' principles into Council land use planning.

Objective Three: To incorporate 'safer and healthy by design' principles into Council urban design, implementation and management.

Safer Roads, Access and Movement

Goal: To provide safer environments which support active living, walkable communities, increased passive surveillance and improved public health.

Objective One: To improve the safety of the Central Business District and local neighbourhoods for pedestrians and cyclists.

Alcohol Related Harm

Goal: To reduce the individual, family and social harms associated with the misuse of alcohol by considering both alcohol supply and demand factors.

Objective One: To develop a local evidence base to inform land use planning and policy development that impacts upon the supply of alcohol (i.e outlet density, location and hours of operation)

Objective Two: Increase community engagement and discussion about evidenced-based strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm.

Objective Three: Support and enhance licensing, regulatory and policy measures which reduce alcohol-related harm.

Family Violence Prevention

Goal: To reduce the incidence of family violence by supporting partnerships which promote community awareness of family violence.

Objective One: Demonstrate community leadership in preventing family violence across the community.

Objective Two: Increase community awareness of family violence in the workplace and sporting clubs.

7 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The development of this Plan has highlighted the fundamental role that Council plays in creating a safe, secure and inclusive communities. The community engagement and participation process has revealed where Council can assist in strengthening and improving health and wellbeing outcomes including safety in the community. As a result future consideration should be given to:

Connection of people through creating vibrant, liveable spaces

Creation of vibrant, liveable spaces through urban design for safe and healthy environments including the incorporation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. (CPTED).

Creation of opportunities for social participation which fosters neighbourhood cohesion and capacity.

Reduction of harms, taking action on alcohol

Development of a safe and healthy community by influencing local drinking cultures and preventing the associated harms.

Incorporation of evidence based 'policy levers' to reduce alcohol related harm into policy development and planning, including, facilitation, advocacy and leadership, community development and engagement, land use and urban planning, workforce development and licensing and regulation.

Preventing violence in public and private spaces

Incorporation of current evidence-based practice to guide responses to violence prevention in public and private spaces; and

Ensuring that violence and fear of violence does not prevent the full participation of citizens, particularly women in community life and local decision –making processes.

8 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The Community Safety Action Plan has been developed to link to current Council plans and strategies for the community of Ballarat. It will also function as an important document to inform the development of future planning for the city. The Plan recognises that success relies upon building partnerships with key organisations, groups and individuals within the community and that each action must be carefully prioritised with respect to human, physical and monetary resources and community capacity. Community Strengthening and Services is the lead business unit in Council responsible for advocating for and facilitating the progression of this Plan. Each business unit across Council is responsible for the implementation and evaluation of impacts. Tracking and communicating the progress of the safety and wellbeing outcomes for the community will be through the use of the community indicators provided by Community Indicators Victoria.

The Community Safety Advisory Committee is integral in providing on-going input during the implementation of this Plan, it will also be responsible for prioritising actions and monitoring and reporting progress annually to Council.



9 ACTION PLAN 2008-2013

9.1 Partnerships

Goal: To develop and enhance partnerships and evidence-based practice that address local community safety priorities.

Objective One: To develop shared beliefs, values and attitudes and enhanced governance processes by community safety partners.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
1.	Improve governance procedures of the Community Safety Advisory Committee membership including broadening its representation	From within current resources	Year One	Community safety stakeholders, Community Safety Advisory Committee, CitySafe Working Group	Community Strengthening and Services, Governance	Advocacy and Leadership, Organisational Development, Information & Awareness	Development of Terms of Reference (TOR) and membership Adoption of TOR by Council and ratification of Advisory Committee status Completion of the VicHealth Partnership Analysis Tool (11)
2.	Establishment of a Community Safety and Health Planning Group within Council	From within current resources	Year One		Community Strengthening and Services, representation across Council directorates	Advocacy and Leadership, Organisational Development, Information and Awareness	Annual review of internal planning group, relevant membership and achievements around shared areas of action
3.	Monitor and report on community wellbeing indicators relevant to community safety	From within current resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	Community Safety Advisory Committee, CitySafe Working Group, CIV	Community Strengthening and Services, Community Safety and Health Planning Group	Advocacy and Leadership, Organisational Development, Information and awareness, Policy and Planning	Communication of community indicators relevant to Action Plan priorities to the Community Safety Advisory Committee and Council (9)
4.	Investigate the criteria for gaining International Safe Communities Accreditation	Possible budgetary implications following investigation	Year Two	Community Safety Advisory Committee, WHO Safe Communities	Community Strengthening and Services	Information and awareness	Report provided to Council which outlines the application, certification, designation process and associated costs (12)

Objective Two: To enhance information and communication delivery by community safety partners that improve community safety awareness.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
5.	Facilitate information exchange around emergency preparedness and awareness between partner agencies and the broader community	From within current resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	State Emergency Service, Country Fire Authority, Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Ambulance Victoria	Community Strengthening and Services, Regulatory Services, Marketing and Communications,	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Annual review of promotional opportunities provided to partners e.g. My Ballarat and website
6.	Facilitate the promotion of emergency services information for migrant and international students through existing networks	Subject to future budget	Year Two	University of Ballarat, Victoria Police (Cultural Diversity Unit) Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council	Community Strengthening and Services, Regulatory Services (MERO), Economic Development	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Review opportunities for emergency services information to be available in languages other than English for new residents. Inclusion of issue in the development of the Cultural Diversity Strategy
7.	Incorporate community safety messages into Council and partner activities and events (e.g. Cultural Diversity week, Ride to Work Day, White Ribbon Day, Seniors Festival, Youth Festival, Begonia Festival)	From within current resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	A range of community and government organisations	Community Strengthening and Services, Tourism, Family, Children's and Youth Services,	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Annual review of internal and external promotional activities (number, reach and quality of messages)
8.	Build partnerships and seek additional funding for evidence-based unintentional childhood injury interventions	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Kids Safe, CHPCP, Kids Foundation	Family, Youth and Children's Services, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Incorporation of actions into new Municipal Early Years Plan (13)

9.2 Community Strengthening

Goal: To increase social capital by enhancing opportunities for participation in the community.

Objective One: Increase opportunities for social participation in neighbourhoods.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
9.	Facilitate neighbourhood activities which create confident, inclusive, safe and active neighbourhoods (e.g. "Walktober", Park Parties, Meet your Street, public art opportunities)	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Renewal programs, Ballarat Community Health Centre, Foothold on Safety, Central Highlands Sports Assembly, CHPCP	Community Strengthening and Services, Family, Youth and Children's Services, Recreation & Open Space Planning	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness,	Number/quality of neighbourhood activities
10.	Continue to provide and enhance Community Grants to build and strengthen communities (e.g. Men's Shed's Community Gardens, Homework Clubs, Community Choirs, Cultural Exchange)	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five		Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Develop case studies of innovative practice
11.	Explore innovative opportunities to promote neighbourhood wellbeing and safety messages on Council owned infrastructure (e.g. footpath stencils)	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Three	Neighbourhood Watch, Corrections Victoria	Community Strengthening and Services Infrastructure Operations, Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure Delivery, Marketing & Communications	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Best practice opportunities reviewed and presented to Council
12.	Enhance the annual Community Safety Awards event to celebrate the role of neighbours	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	Neighbourhood Watch, Community Safety Advisory Committee	Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Review number and diversity of nominations for Awards Review number/quality of media opportunities provided to promote Awards event

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
13.	Promote responsible pet ownership and the health and wellbeing benefits of pet ownership	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Neighbourhood Watch, RSPCA	Community Strengthening and Services, Regulatory Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Number, reach, quality of promotional opportunities provided (refer also Council's Domestic Animal Plan) (14)

Objective Two: Strengthen volunteering opportunities and identify barriers to volunteering.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
14.	Continue to enhance opportunities for volunteering in Council's Services	From within existing resources	Year One		Human Resources, Community Strengthening and Services,	Advocacy and Leadership, Policy and Planning, Service Provision, Organisational Development, Information and Awareness	Track and monitor Council volunteer data (number and type of volunteers, volunteer satisfaction) (15)
15.	Promote volunteer opportunities for young people and build community group's capacity to attract young people as volunteers	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Four	Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Service, Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch, St John's Ambulance	Family, Children's and Youth Services, Community Strengthening and Services,	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Barriers and opportunities identified. Number, reach, quality of promotional opportunities (e.g. Youth Services Training Calendar) (16)

9.3 Urban Design for Safe and Healthy Environments

Goal: To create built and natural environments that promote health, have a high standard of amenity and safety, are welcoming and are well utilised by a diverse mix of community members.

Objective One: To improve Council staff, developer and key stakeholder awareness of 'safer and healthy by design' principles.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
16.	Provide a professional development series for key Council staff to improve organisational understanding of 'Safer and Healthy by Design'	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	PIA, VicHealth, Heart Foundation, University of Melbourne, Developers, DPCD	Community Strengthening and Services , Infrastructure Development, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Open Space & Recreation Planning, Human Resources	Organisational Development, Information and Awareness	Provision of professional development series and increased knowledge of & awareness by participants
17.	Promote concept of 'Safer and healthy by Design' to developers and key stakeholders	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	DPCD	Strategic Planning	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Number, reach, quality of promotional opportunities provided

Objective Two: To incorporate 'safer and healthy by design principles into Council land use planning.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
18.	Incorporate 'Safer and Healthy by Design' principles and policy into the review of the Ballarat Planning Scheme including the Municipal Strategic Statement	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	DPCD, Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Community Strengthening and Services	Organisational Development, Policy and Planning, Advocacy and Leadership	Development and inclusion of principles into the Ballarat Planning Scheme (17)
19.	Incorporate 'Safer and healthy by design' principles into the Ballarat Central Business District Strategy	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	DPCD	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Community Strengthening & Services	Policy & Planning, Advocacy & Leadership, Organisational Development	Development and inclusion of principles into the CBD Strategy
20.	Develop guidelines that enhance young people's access to public spaces (refer Youth Strategy) (16)	From within existing resources	Year Three	Young people, Commerce Ballarat, Bridge Mall Traders, Department of Transport	Family, Youth and Children's Services, Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure Delivery, Strategic Planning	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Guidelines developed and used to inform community discussion
21.	Investigate innovative public art opportunities for reinvigorating public spaces, including laneways to increase passive surveillance (refer also draft Public Art Strategy)	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Four	Retail and commerce sector, community, University of Ballarat, CitySafe Working Group	Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure Delivery, Marketing and Communication	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Determine feasibility of creative opportunities and report to Community Safety Advisory Committee and CitySafe Working Group
22.	Investigate the feasibility of the provision of safe and accessible public toilets within the CBA for patrons of the late night entertainment and heritage/arts precincts	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Three	Retail and commerce sector, community, University of Ballarat, CitySafe Working Group, Victoria Police, Liquor Licensees	Infrastructure Operations, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development, Service Provision	Development of municipal Public Toilet Strategy which includes a feasibility study to assess existing and future sites for the provision of public toilets in the Central Business District Strategy
23.	Scope opportunities to target improvements of the built and natural environments in areas of need	From within existing resources	Year Two to Five	Department of Transport, VicTrack, VicRoads	Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure Operations	Organisational Development, Service Provision	Use of SEIFA data to identify areas of need

Objective Three: To incorporate 'safer and healthy by design' principles into Council urban design, implementation and management.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
24.	Continue streetscape maintenance and improvements which enhance our built and natural environments as safe and welcoming spaces	From within existing resources	Year One to Five	Department of Transport, VicTrack, VicRoads, Telstra, CHW, Powercor	Infrastructure Operations	Service Provision, Information and Awareness	Improved Perceptions of Safety, Satisfaction of appearance of public places (CIV)
25.	Improve sustainable lighting in activity areas and public transport hubs	Subject to future budget	Year One to Five	Department of Transport, V/Line, DPCD, VicRoads, Powercor	Community Strengthening and Services , Infrastructure Development and Delivery, Environmental Programs	Service Provision, Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Delivery in accordance with the Late Night Entertainment Precinct Lighting Study recommendations (18) (refer also Sustainable Lighting Strategy)
26.	Facilitate the infrastructure, governance and communication requirements for the implementation of Public Place CCTV in the late night entertainment precinct	Within existing resources	Year One to Five	Victoria Police, NCCPP	Community Strengthening and Services , Governance, Infrastructure Development and Delivery	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Service Provision	Delivery of infrastructure, development of Code of Practice, Standard Operating Procedures, MOU and community information package. Evaluation report to Council 2009/2010
27.	Promote and improve the CitySafe Taxi Rank (including the creation of second rank, construction of the pedestrian safety barrier)	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	Victoria Police Victorian Taxi Directorate, Ballarat Taxi Co-operative, M1 Security, Liquor Accord, AHA	Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Service Provision	Infrastructure delivered and MJARC evaluation report submitted to Community Safety Advisory Committee, CitySafe Working Group and Council 2009
28.	Establish a Hazard Hotline to identify environmental hazards in public places	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Disability Advisory Committee	Community Strengthening and Services , Customer Services	Service Provision, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Number of hazards reported and action taken
29.	Facilitate neighbourhood graffiti clean-ups in conjunction with Neighbourhood Renewal and in identified areas of need	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One to Five	Wendouree West Renewal, Delacombe Renewal, Neighbourhood Watch	Community Strengthening and Services , Infrastructure Operations	Information and Awareness, Organisational Development, Service Provision	Number of reports to the Graffiti Hotline and number of neighbourhood clean ups

9.4 Safer Roads, Access and Movement

Goal: To provide safer environments which support active living, walkable communities, increased passive surveillance and improved public health.

Objective One: To improve the safety of the Central Business District and local neighbourhoods for pedestrians and cyclists.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
30.	Reduce vehicle speed in the CBA to 40kms (refer to Councils Community Road Safety Strategy)	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Road Safety Advisory Committee	Infrastructure Development	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness,	Reduced incidence of road traffic injuries, improved perceptions of safety, improved walkability, pedestrian and cyclist safety and increased mixed use of precinct
31.	Support walking as an active mode of transport in the CBA through the implementation of the Pedestrian Wayfinding Strategy (19)	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	DOT, CHPCP, BREAZE	Environmental Programs, Infrastructure Development, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Reduced incidence of road traffic injuries, improved perceptions of safety, improved walkability, pedestrian and cyclist safety and increased mixed use of precinct
32.	Support cycling as an active mode of transport by progressive implementation of the principle bicycle network outlined in the Ballarat Bicycle Strategy 2008 (20)	From within existing resources and seek external funding	Year Two to Five	Bicycle Users Group	Open Space & Recreation Planning, Infrastructure Development, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Increased cycling, reduced incidence of cycling injuries, improved perceptions of safety, cyclist safety and increased mixed use of precinct
33	Support the implementation of the Travel Smart project	From within existing resources and seek external funding	Year One to Three	University of Ballarat, DOT, VicRoads	Open Space & Recreation, Environmental Programs, Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure Development	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Service Provision	Increased cycling/walking, reduced incidence of cycling/pedestrian injuries, improved perceptions of safety, actual safety in Canadian Valley
34.	Further support sustainable transport planning for activity centres including, cycling, walking and use of public transport	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	DOT, BREAZE, DPCD	Infrastructure Development, Environmental Programs, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Increased cycling/walking, public transport use, reduced incidence of cycling/pedestrian injuries, improved perceptions of safety, actual safety

Priority Area Five:
Alcohol Harm

9.5 Alcohol Related Harm

Goal: To reduce the individual, family and social harms associated with the misuse of alcohol by considering both alcohol supply and demand factors.

Objective One: To develop a local evidence base to inform land use planning and policy development that impacts upon the supply of alcohol (i.e outlet density, location and hours of operation).

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
35.	Undertake the "Mapping alcohol supply, demand and harm" project to provide an overview of evidence relating to the supply of, demand for and harm associated with alcohol consumption within the municipality of Ballarat	From within existing resources	Year One	Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, Community Safety Advisory Committee, CitySafe Working Group, SSMART Network,	Community Strengthening & Services, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Information Services	Policy and Planning, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Evidence compiled and communicated in a user friendly, understandable and spatial format to decision makers (i.e. Council, CitySafe Working Group, Community Safety Advisory Committee, wider community)
36.	Incorporate health & wellbeing principles into future reviews of the Ballarat Planning Scheme including reducing harm to communities from alcohol misuse	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One - Four	Department of Community Planning and Development, Department of Human Services	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Community Strengthening & Services	Policy and Planning, Organisational Development	Incorporation of health & wellbeing principles into new Municipal Strategic Statement (21)
37.	Consider the inclusion of alcohol outlet density guidelines in precinct planning (in particular the Central Business District and other activity centres)	Subject to future budget	Year Two -Five	Department of Community Planning and Development, VicPol	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Community Strengthening & Services	Policy and Planning, Advocacy and Leadership, Organisational Development	Use of evidence (Action 35) to inform precinct planning and alcohol outlet density caps
38.	Encourage mixed-use precinct planning that stimulates a diversity of recreational and cultural activities in the Central Business District	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One - Three	Department of Community Planning and Development, Department of Human Services Ballarat, general community	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Community Strengthening & Services, Economic Development, Tourism	Policy & Planning, Advocacy and Leadership, Organisational Development	Increased diversity of recreational and cultural activities, increased passive surveillance, increased perceptions of safety

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
39.	Improve pedestrian & property safety in the late night entertainment precinct by mapping high risk locations and advising of CPTED solutions	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year Two - five	VicPol, local businesses, Commerce Ballarat, Licensees, Security guards, community members, University Ballarat	Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure, Development, Infrastructure Delivery	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness, Organisational Development	Communication of mapping exercise and identification of CPTED interventions to CitySafe Working Group, Community Safety Advisory Committee and Council

Objective Two: Increase community engagement and discussion about evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
40.	Support and extend the BeSafe social marketing campaign for first year university students to include evidence-based strategies	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One -Five	University of Ballarat, Australian Catholic University, BeSafe Committee	Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Inclusion of additional safety messages in BeSafe program (pedestrian road safety/victim of assault)
41.	Support the facilitation of a "Designated Drivers" program through the Ballarat Liquor Accord	Within existing resources and contribution from participating Liquor Accord members	Year One	Liquor Accord Road Safety Advisory Committee, VicPol, AHA, University of Ballarat, Central Highlands Regional Road Safety Council, CitySafe	Community Strengthening and Services, Family, Youth and Children's Services, Infrastructure Development	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Facilitate implementation and develop mechanism for ensuring on-going sustainability
42.	Advocate for evidence-based strategies to be considered by the Ballarat Liquor Accord	From within existing resources	Year One-Five	Liquor Accord Members	Community Strengthening & Services	Advocacy and Leadership,	Annual review of participation
43	Challenge cultural stereotypes of high risk drinking patterns through promotion of evidence-based research	From within existing resources, Funding submission to VicHealth	Year One-Five	SSMART Network, CitySafe Working Group, University of Ballarat, education sector	Community Strengthening & Services, Family Youth & Children's Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Level of community engagement and participation (e.g. SSMART ANSWERS Conference). Monitor indicators of alcohol related behaviour (e.g CIV)

Objective Three: Support and enhance licensing, regulatory and policy measures which reduce alcohol-related harm.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
44.	Promote Local Law 15 regarding the consumption of liquor in public places (consider signage in key locations)	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One-Five	Victoria Police	Regulatory Services, Community Strengthening and Services, Customer Services, Marketing and Communications	Advocacy and Leadership, Information and Awareness	Number, reach, quality of promotional activities. Monitor number of infringement notices issued
45.	Use precinct plans to guide the assessment of licensed premises planning permits (see action 37)	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year Two-Five	Department of Planning and Community Development	Statutory Planning, Strategic Planning, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy & Leadership, Policy & Planning, Organisational Development	Number of planning permits issued in line with precinct plans
46.	Encourage membership of the Good Sports Program (22) and progressive levels of attainment through Council's lease agreements for sporting clubs	Subject to future budget	Year Two	Central Highlands Sports Assembly	Open Space & Recreation Planning, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Policy and Planning, Information and Awareness	Lease agreements updated. Percentage of sporting groups achieving progressive levels of attainment
47.	Develop a Council policy which encourages the responsible use of alcohol in Council facilities (recreational clubs and community halls.)	Subject to future budget	Year Two	Central Highlands Sports Assembly, community members	Community Strengthening and Services, Infrastructure Operations, Open Space & Recreation Planning	Advocacy and Leadership, Policy and Planning, Information and Awareness	Review of and amendment of existing Conditions of Hire of Council leased facilities to include, RSA and registration with Victoria Polices' Party Safe Program
48.	Review Council's Alcohol & Drug Policy to demonstrate organisational leadership and include good practice	Subject to future budget	Year Two	City of Ballarat employees	Human Resources, Community Strengthening and Services	Advocacy and Leadership, Policy and Planning	Review of policy and incorporation of good practice

9.6 Family Violence Prevention

Goal: To reduce the incidence of family violence by supporting partnerships which promote community awareness of family violence.

Objective One: Demonstrate community leadership in preventing family violence across the community.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
49.	Improve awareness and demonstrate community and organisational leadership of family violence issues	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One-Five	Family Violence Prevention Network, Victoria Police	Community Strengthening and Services, Marketing and Communications	Organisational Development, Information and Awareness, Advocacy and Leadership	Support and participation in the annual White Ribbon Day event
50.	Improve reporting between Family Violence Prevention Network and Community Safety Advisory Committee	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year One-Five	Family Violence Prevention Network, Victoria Police	Community Strengthening and Services	Information and Awareness, Advocacy and Leadership	Review of Community Safety Advisory Committee delegate participation to Family Violence Prevention Network
51.	Support initiatives that strengthen families	From within existing resources	Year One	Strengthening Generations Core Group, Family Violence Prevention Network	Community Strengthening and Services	Information and Awareness, Advocacy and Leadership	Type and number of promotional activities undertaken

Objective Two: Increase community awareness of family violence in the workplace and sporting clubs.

No.	Action	Resources	Year	Partners	Lead Council Business Unit/s	Council's Role	Performance Measure
52.	Improve workplace awareness of family violence issues	Subject to future budget	Year Two to Five	Family Violence Prevention Network	Community Strengthening and Services, Human Resources	Organisational Awareness, Information and Awareness, Advocacy and Leadership	Review relationship between workplaces and Family Violence Prevention Network with view to disseminating information across workplace sites
53.	Improve sporting club/organisation awareness of family violence issues across local sporting clubs through the Central Highlands Sports Assembly	From within existing resources and subject to future budget	Year Three to Five	Family Violence Prevention Network, Central Highlands Sports Assembly	Community Strengthening and Services	Information and Awareness, Advocacy and Leadership	Number, reach, quality of promotional opportunities provided

10 ACRONYMS

AHA	Australian Hoteliers Association
ASSK	Alcohol and Substance Survival Knowledge
BREAZE	Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions
BRMC	Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council
BVRC	Ballarat Volunteer Resource Centre
CBD	Central Business District
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CHPCP	Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership
CHSA	Central Highlands Sports Assembly
CHW	Central Highlands Water
CIV	Community Indicators Victoria
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CS&S	Community Strengthening and Services
DAC	Disability Advisory Committee
DPCD	Department of Planning and Community Development
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOT	Department of Transport
DVC	Department of Victorian Communities
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
LGA	Local Government Area
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MERO	Municipal Emergency Recovery Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUARC	Monash University Accident Research Centre
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
NCCPP	National Community Crime Prevention Programme
PIA	Planning Institute of Victoria
RSA	Responsible Serving of Alcohol
SES	State Emergency Service
VicPol	Victoria Police

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13 APPENDICES

13.1 Appendix 1 Schedule of Community Engagement and Participation

The schedule of engagement and participation includes key community stakeholder involvement in the following aspects of the development of the Community Safety Action Plan 2008-2013, Community Safety Summit, CitySafe Experiential Learning activity and Action Planning.

Ballarat Police Service Area	Ballarat Taxi Co-operative
University of Ballarat	Neighbourhood Watch (Divisional)
Wendouree West Community Renewal	M1 Security
Ballarat Health Services	Radio Ballarat
Centrelink	Cr Des Hudson
Family Violence Prevention Network	Cr John Phillips
Department of Justice	Cr Craig Fletcher
Delacombe Civic Pride	Cr Peter Innes
State Emergency Service	Central Highland Regional Road Safety Council
St George Bank	V/Line
City of Ballarat	Centacare
Department of Infrastructure	Youth Headquarters
Commerce Ballarat	Disability Advisory Committee
Wendouree Renewal	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Women's Health Grampians	Department of Education & Early Childhood Development
Neighbourhood Watch	BeSafe Program
Splinta Youth Council	Ballarat Liquor Accord
Central Highlands Community Legal Centre	St John of God Hospital
VicRoads	Department of Planning & Community Development - Grampians Local team
Bridge Mall Traders	

13.2 Appendix 2 Community Indicators

Social Indicators

Community Strength

The indicators examine Victorian's ability to get help when needed, their participation in a range of community activities (such as volunteering and parental participation in schools) and community attitudes around life in their local area (such as safety and tolerance). Strong communities have a sustainable mix of assets (economic, human, natural, cultural), and strong governance that maximizes the equitable use of those assets. (Department of Victorian Communities, 2006).

Perceptions of Safety

Neighbourhoods which are perceived as safe, foster community participation, encourage physical activity, community connectedness and add to the health and well-being of local residents and visitors. Neighbourhood safety can only be achieved through the development and support of partnerships, within local communities, with business, residents, community groups, police, agencies and councils, which identify local solutions to local issues.

The built environment and the way neighbourhoods are designed and maintained, impact greatly on perceptions of safety and are critical factors in any strategy for improving safety in neighbourhoods. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Incidence of Crime

Crime impacts negatively on the community in terms of personal security, the attractiveness of an area for recreation and on general amenity. The incidence of crime is both a cause and symptom of low quality of life and is associated with poverty, exclusion and the need for support services. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Crime statistics are produced annually by Victoria Police. Summaries of offences are reported per 100,000 population to enable comparisons across different areas. In Ballarat, there were 1058 recorded crimes against the person per 100,000 population in 2006-07 compared to 865 in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 822. In Ballarat, there were 6649 recorded crimes against property per 100,000 population in 2006-07, compared to 4734 in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 5482. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Road Safety

Family Violence

Many studies have shown that people who are abused in family relationships are "more likely to experience low self esteem, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and post traumatic stress disorder" (Doherty, 2002). "People who experience family violence are at greater risk of mental health disorders and problems. Moreover, their general health and wellbeing are likely to be affected in both the short and long term. They may be injured, maimed or neglected. They may adopt negative coping techniques that contribute to or worsen medical conditions" (Doherty, 2002).

Children suffer when exposed to family violence, irrespective of whether they are witnesses of parental abuse or direct victims of abuse. In a survey of children living with family violence, Laing

(2000) found that children are more aware of the situation than what is perceived by their carers. “Violence affects children’s views of the world and of themselves, their ideas about the meaning and purpose of life, their expectations for future happiness, and their moral development” (Laing, 2000). (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Alcohol Related Harm

Regular excessive consumption of alcohol places people at increased risk of chronic ill health and premature death and episodes of heavy drinking may place the person (and others) at risk of injury or death. In the short term, intoxication and acute alcohol-related problems include violence, risky behaviour, road trauma and injury. The significant psychosocial and economic consequences that arise from such patterns of drinking affect not only the individuals concerned but also their families and the wider community. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Ballarat has a significantly higher rate of licensed premises per 10,000 residents than Victoria (The Victorian Alcohol Statistics Handbook). Licensed premises include hotels and bars, bottle shops, clubs, on-premises and BYO licenses. The rates of alcohol-related assaults and family incidents in Ballarat were significantly higher than the Victorian rates. The rate of alcohol-related assault across the City of Ballarat is significantly higher than the Victorian rate for the 18-24 year age group as is alcohol-related family violence incidents involving young people aged 18-24 years.

The Victorian Alcohol Statistics Handbook

Illicit Drug Use

Addiction and substance misuse are social determinants of health. Alcohol dependence and misuse, illicit drug use and tobacco smoking are markers of disadvantage in burden of disease studies and are the biggest contributors to early mortality and morbidity (Keleher & Murphy, 2001). Risk factors that determine the demand for drug use are manifold. They include poverty, low attachment to the community, community disorganisation, detachment from school or the workplace, parental alcohol and drug use, family conflict, inconsistent parenting, marital instability and friends engaging in problem behaviours. The more of these risk factors that are present, the more individuals and communities are likely to use drugs such as marijuana and alcohol harmfully. (Moodie, 2001).

Factors that protect against drug use include a culture of cooperation and tolerance among individuals and between institutions and diverse groups in society, a sense of belonging to family, to school, to the workplace and to the community, good relationships with family and friends, positive achievements, stability and security (Moodie, 2001). The risk and protective factors are not easily addressed since they relate to the bigger picture about what level of investment we are prepared to make in our social, educational and economic infrastructure. They fundamentally relate to what sort of society we want to be (Moodie, 2001). (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Built/Natural Indicators

Appearance of Public Space

Satisfaction with the built environment contributes to overall feelings of well-being. The amount and type of open space is a key element of urban design and impacts on people’s perceptions of ‘neighbourliness’ and safety. The type of open space also determines the range of recreation

and leisure opportunities. Open space is often centred around areas of specific importance such as historic buildings, cultural centres, icons, parks and gardens. Open space acts to cement relationships within our communities and with the natural world. The amenity value of open space can be seen in the high price real estate commands in areas with views, ocean outlooks or surrounding parks and gardens. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Safer Design principles applied to public spaces, developments and major projects

Healthy and Safer Design improves community safety and wellbeing by promoting good design to make the environment more liveable and attractive, improve community safety and encourage neighbourhood design that makes people feel safe and promotes excellent neighbourhood design to create attractive, walkable and diverse communities.

Effective safer design can be used to reduce crime opportunities, reduce vulnerability to crime and fear of crime and improve the built environment so that:

- Potential offenders think they might be detected, challenged or possibly caught;
- The time and energy required to commit crime increases; and
- Crime opportunities are minimised, concealed or removed.

Transport Accessibility

Transport Limitations

Access to both public or private transportation is essential for citizens to contribute to their community and reach their potential. Safe, reliable affordable transport is a key determinant of people's opportunities to access health services and programs, education and secure employment. It is especially important for the elderly to have access to public transportation. Limitation in regards to transport is related to social isolation and also has a relationship with sedentary lifestyles.

Public Transport Patronage

Public transport is seen as a key sustainability indicator as it has wide-ranging impacts on the environment, employment options and access to services. Adequate public transport is particularly important for the young, elderly or disadvantaged who are often without a car and have difficulty accessing services, facilities and social networks. For a transport network to be a viable alternative to the car, pedestrian and cycle paths need to be integrated with public transport systems (The Australia Institute and Newcastle City Council, 2000).

Transport networks have the additional benefit of increasing physical activity. Increasing physical activity improves physical and mental well-being, encourages social interaction and lowers the risk of heart, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Escalating petrol prices are encouraging more people to use public transport and leave the car at home. However, not all communities have adequate infrastructure or public transport services. People's perceptions of practical non-car transport opportunities are important in determining whether the transport network is effective. Increased public transport has significant potential to reduce road accidents, traffic congestion, and air pollution (Austin et al., 2001).

Dedicated Walking and Cycling Trails

For a transport network to be a viable alternative to the car, pedestrian and cycle paths need to be integrated with public transport systems (The Australia Institute and Newcastle City Council, 2000). Transport networks have the additional benefit of increasing physical activity. Increasing physical activity improves physical and mental well-being, encourages social interaction and lowers the risk of heart, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

Cultural

Community acceptance of diverse cultures-racism/discrimination

For more than two centuries, the combined effort of immigrants and those born in Australia have helped make our nation one of the worlds most successfully diverse societies. Harmony has been a cornerstone of Australia's development as an economically strong and peaceful nation. Migrants have been crucial to building Australia's strong and robust economy, helping to create its national infrastructure; contributing new ideas and technology; and fostering local knowledge of other cultures, languages, foods and lifestyles. (Community Indicators Victoria, 2007).

Economic

Socio-economic disadvantage – Underlying Causes

In 2001 Ballarat was ranked 24 out of 79 local government authorities (LGA) in Victoria on the index of relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSED) with 1 being the most disadvantaged. The index is derived from Census attributes believed to reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and proportion of workforce in relatively unskilled occupations. Within the municipality there are geographic areas(neighbourhoods) of marked and entrenched disadvantage including Wendouree West and Sebastopol/Delacombe. A recent report has identified Sebastopol/Delacombe as on of the 40 most disadvantaged postcodes in Victoria.

Factors associated with inter-generational poverty in these disadvantaged areas include: long term unemployment, low income, early school leaving, limited computer and internet access, physical and mental disability, prison admissions and confirmed child maltreatment.

The index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variable that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage.

SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

City of Ballarat's small areas (ranked from greatest to least disadvantage)	2006 SEIFA index of disadvantage
Wendouree	887.4
Sebastopol	897.0
Redan	913.1
Ballarat East – Brown Hill	943.9
Delacombe	967.8
Golden Point – Mount Pleasant - Canadian	973.0
City of Ballarat	982.7
Soldiers Hill – Black Hill - Nerrina	995.7
Ballarat Central	1004.2
Ballarat North – Invermay Park	1016.4
Rural West	1030.2
Miners Rest - Mitchell Park	1036.8
Mount Clear - Mount Helen	1049.9
Alfredton	1050.3
Buninyong – Rural South	1063.4
Lake Wendouree – Newington – Lake Gardens	1065.1
Rural East	1068.5

Democratic

Community strength indicators such as membership to groups

Strong personal and social networks have also been found to be associated with better physical and mental health, higher educational achievement, better employment outcomes, lower crime rates, decrease in maltreatment of children and an increased capacity for communities to work together and solve their own problems.

Evidence shows that social participation such as volunteering or group membership creates positive outcomes for the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. This could include such things as skill development, better educational and employment outcomes, increased tolerance, social integration, reduced crime and increasing community involvement in local governance. (Department of Victorian Communities, 2006).

13.3 Appendix 3 Summary of Local Findings

Role of and use and misuse of alcohol	Marketing/Advertising, misuse and binge drinking, licensing and regulation, supply of and density of licensed premises, amenity, enforcement of RSA(Responsible Serving of Alcohol), security services
Family Violence	Family Violence Prevention – workplace and sporting clubs/groups
Safer Roads, Access and Movement	Accessible and safe public transport Road Safety
Partnerships	Unintentional Childhood Injury Enhance governance procedures of the Community Safety Working Group World Health Organisation – Safer Cities Accreditation Emergency Preparedness and Response
Community Strengthening	Community connections promoting social connections and shared interest Falls Prevention – Physical Activity Improve perceptions of Safety/Fear of Crime/Role of the media Building Community Strength
Urban Design for Safe and Healthy Environments	Streetscape maintenance including neighbourhood graffiti removal Falls Prevention - in the home - through environmental hazard identification Personal Safety and Security Safer and Healthy by Design

