

**From:** [Darren & Stacey Foster](#)  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Response to "Inquiry on Strategies to Prevent & Reduce Criminal Activity in Queensland"  
**Date:** Friday, 18 July 2014 10:28:07 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Good Morning,

Thank you for writing to the Maryborough Chamber of Commerce in reference to the above subject matter. Unfortunately your letter was delayed in reaching us due to an incorrect address so please allow me to clear that up. Our correct address is PO Box 282, Maryborough Qld 4650; if you could update your records accordingly would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we also welcome you to contact us via email at [secretary@maryboroughchamberqld.com.au](mailto:secretary@maryboroughchamberqld.com.au)

In formulating our response, some local demographics of our community should be noted i.e. we're situated within the highest unemployment zone of the State; we have the Maryborough Correctional Facility on the outskirts of town; the Median age of Maryborough as at 30 June 2012 was 44.6 years and our population continues to age; the strongest employment sector of our region is in Health Care and Social Assistance.

In relation to 'Strategies to Prevent Crime' we offer the following points for your consideration:-

- Increase Police numbers in Maryborough. Whilst the presence of RBT's and speed traps are visible and regular, this is not the perception for patrols. An increase in foot patrols in and around the CBD and in cars around the suburbs at night (in addition to current models) would be appreciated.
- The ability to have or obtain sufficient funding for a CCTV camera network that would cover the city centre and/or high traffic areas would be a proactive measure.
- A problem area is the Central Pub & Carlton Pub. Key issue is the low rent accommodation and inebriated low socioeconomic group being misguided and bored. This causes them to take out their frustrations on surrounding public and business people.
- Social Determinants are the Government model for Health & Community integration and Welfare.
- Social Gradient model is being under-utilised in this area.
- Social Determinants as listed need to be looked at in regaining Community safety and acceptable Social and Behavioural interaction.
  1. Unemployment and boredom are key factors in crime
  2. Stress
  3. Social exclusion- the people in low socioeconomic class need a voice and somewhere to get help. Eg. Health literacy, Alcoholism, Drugs, Nutrition & Community support.
- Social Capital is the Community spirit.
- Until the above issues in the low socio economic class - stress, unemployment & social exclusion are addressed in this Community it will remain an issue that will create Social injustices in our Community.
- Look at-
  1. Gap program model
  2. Health Literacy model
  3. Health belief Model

4. Behavioural Change model.

It's understood that these are all available through Government channels.

- We have a CBD Revitalisation Strategy Plan in place which is aimed at filling the currently vacant shopfronts and bringing some economic vibrancy back to the City hub. With a clean-up of crime and better sense of security around town, we would have a better chance of attracting tenants to shops. We are already liaising with the business owners and the local Council in an attempt to formulate rental/leasing or rate packages that might assist the situation also.

We again thank you for writing to us on this matter and appreciate the opportunity of submitting a response to same. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact us.

Regards,

**Stacey Foster**

**Secretary**



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