

Young People, Crime and Community Safety

The Geelong Night Watch Radio Program

Working with Nightclubs to reduce risk for young people

Background

- High number of venues concentrated in Central area
- High number of assaults with high level of media interest
- Interest of Local Safety Committee and recent Safety Forum
- History of working with venues – liquor accord since 1991

Stakeholders

- Police
- Council
- Venue operators
- Security industry
- Supplier

Stage one

- Establish a working party
- Establish parameters of trial
- Recruit interested parties
- Adopt a media strategy
- Develop one page overview of program
- Manage issues immediately

Successes

- Early identification of issues
- Assists the camera operator
- Builds goodwill between venues
- Can prevent groups being on streets for long periods
- Led to redevelopment of Accord
- Assists Police foot patrols

Challenges

- Equipment
- Costs – radios, training, base, repeater
- Building relationships
- Recruiting a ‘champion’
- Ongoing management of program
- Must work in with other strategies

Outcomes

- Improved communication between venues, police and camera operator
- Assisted in the reduction of assaults
- Has been the fore-runner to the introduction of ID scanners to a small number of venues
- Requires minimal maintenance
- Easy to replicate
- Involves range of stakeholders
- 3rd Party Policing

Evaluation

- Positive media response
- Venues continuing to get involved
- With a repeater radios could be used at suburban venues or events
- Program is ongoing
- Difficult to measure results as it is more a preventative tool