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Victim Prevention and Safety Program for Seniors.

Crime and Violence
Prevention in Rural and
Regional Victoria
2002 Award.

Victim Prevention & Safety.



- The aim of the program is to provide a comprehensive victim prevention and safety program for seniors at risk or perceived risk of assault.

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- The program informs people of the risk factors and provide effective strategies to prevent personal victimisation.

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- The need for the program was identified by local senior community members after several assaults publicised in the state wide and local media in late 2001.



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- Research was undertaken to identify the actual statistical data, identifying senior victims of crime.
- Particularly seniors in rural communities.



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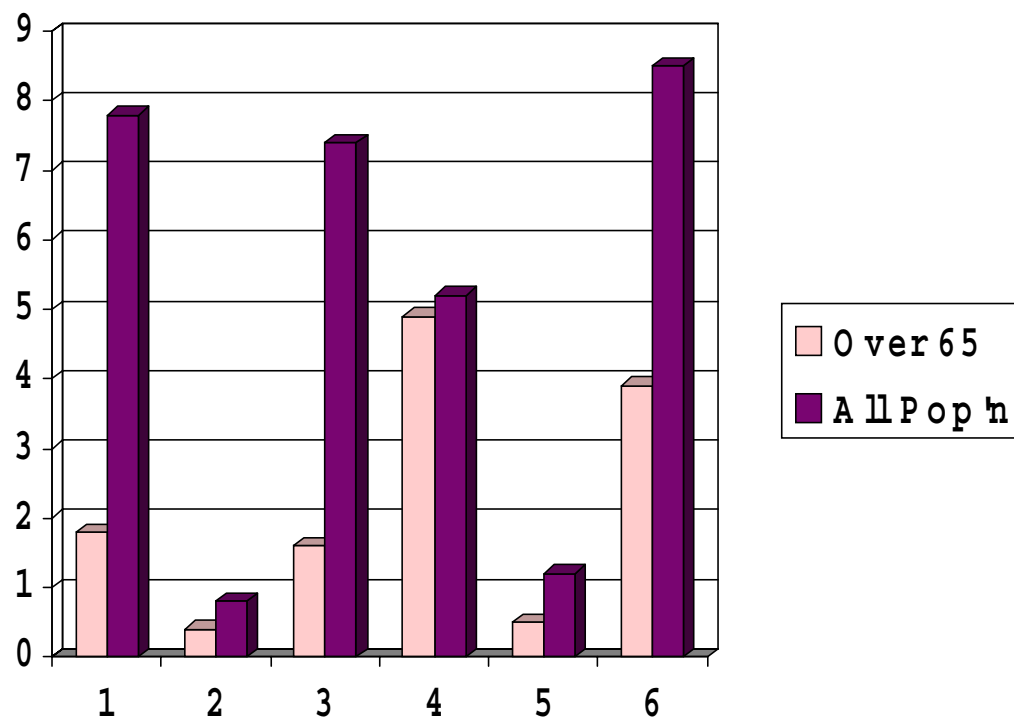


- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Victorian Police and Australian Institute of Criminology data all indicated that senior community members were the safest community group.

Victimisation rate remains lower for older Australians

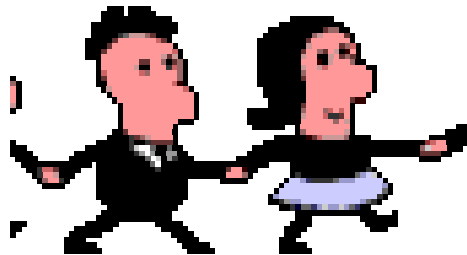
(Rate per 100)

1. Assault
 2. Robbery
 3. Personal theft
 4. Break/enter
 5. Car theft
 6. Personal Fraud
- (Carach, Graycar & Muscat 2001)

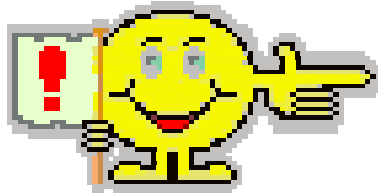


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- The program was developed to use as an inter-agency partnership approach, to provide community specific information and expertise to meet the needs of individual communities.



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- This program structure encouraged community connectedness with participants.
- To promote participation in the community and feel more comfortable in accessing services.

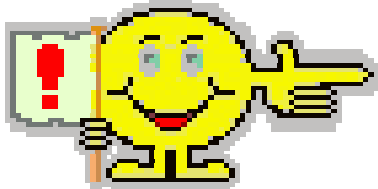


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Expertise was sought from:

- Victoria Police- Crime Prevention
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Alcohol and Drug Counsellors
- Assertiveness Counsellors
- PCCC

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The program was developed into six sessions.

The topics include :

- ☐ Personal Safety
- ☐ Home Safety
- ☐ Neighbourhood Watch & Crime Stoppers
- ☐ Assertiveness and Safety
- ☐ Drug and Alcohol - Associated Risks
- ☐ Personal protection – Situation Management

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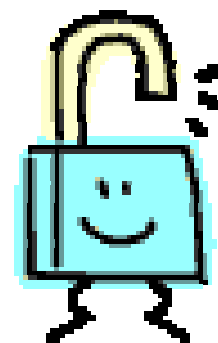
Session 1: Personal Safety

- Co-facilitator: Crime Prevention Officer Victorian Police
- Promotes an awareness of Personal Safety
- Dispels the myth that seniors have an increased vulnerability of assault, and therefore promotes personal safety strategies.

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Session 2. Home Safety and Security.

- Co-facilitator Crime Prevention Officer Victorian Police
- Provides participants with practical information and strategies to identify areas of compromised home security, to enhance the personal safety within the home.



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Session 3: Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers.

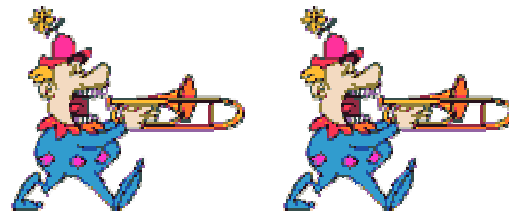
- Co-facilitator: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.
- To improve community life within neighbourhoods by prevention and minimising preventable crime.



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Session 4: Assertiveness and Safety.

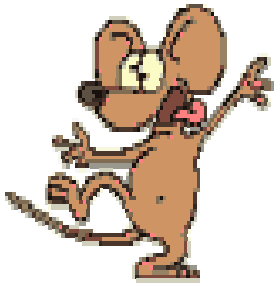
- Co-Facilitator: Assertiveness Counsellor.
- To provide information and strategies to identify the relationship between assertiveness and enhancement of personal safety.



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Session 5: Drug & Alcohol – Associated Risks

- Co-facilitator : Drug & Alcohol Counsellor
- To enhance knowledge of Alcohol & Drugs and their effects.
- To identify the increased risk factors to victims under the influence and discuss the effects on offender behaviour





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Session 6: Personal Protection: Situation Management

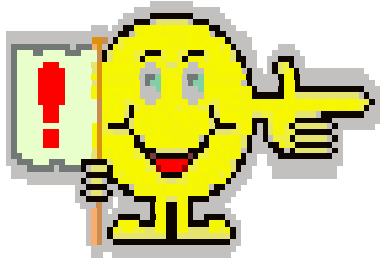
- Co-facilitator: Victim Prevention Officer
Victorian Police
- To provide practical strategies to prevent victimisation, and deal effectively with a situation at hand.

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- The program involves extensive evaluation with all participants given the opportunity, to provide information and feed back before the program commences, and after each session.

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- The program received Positive Ageing Community Sponsorship Grant, to provide program access to Rural communities.

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- We have presented the program to Swan Hill, and Robinvale senior groups.
- Arrangements are currently being made to promote it in Ouyen and Merbein.





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- The program is also being viewed by the Elders from the Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-op.
- The aim is to adapt the program to meet the needs of the Robinvale Aboriginal community.

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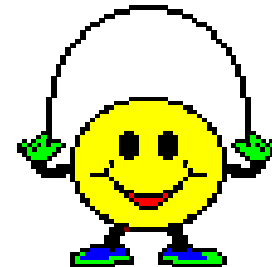
The program has been printed and copies have been distributed to:

- **Victims Assistance Programs throughout the state.**
- **To other agencies providing co-facilitators for the program.**



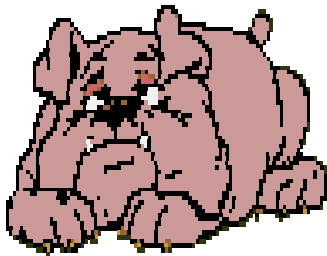
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- In conclusion, the program was developed to prioritise safety of seniors in the community, to prevent the incidence of assault and provide effective strategies to prevent victimisation.



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- Some copies of the program are available to persons interested in promoting the program.
- Prior to issue, a brief in-service is provided to the proposed facilitator.





News Flash !!!!!

- Australian Crime and Violence Awards
2003

'Certificate of Merit'



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The End

Jill Gleeson

Sunraysia Community Health Services

