



## Building a safer community through partnerships

Crime Prevention Week epitomises the Queensland Police Service's vision of working together with the community, business and other government departments to create a safer and more secure environment.

Prevent theft - it starts with you is the theme of this year's awareness week highlighting a variety of initiatives and projects designed to promote theft prevention. It reflects raising community awareness, getting involved and taking simple precautions to secure property and prevent theft.

In days gone by, there was greater trust within our community, householders left their doors unlocked - rates of offending and the associated fear of crime were low.

With changing times has come a change in cultures and values. The community looks to police officers for their safety and the protection of property.

While it is clearly the role of the Queensland Police Service to protect and serve the community, all members of our community have a role to play in upholding both the laws and the social expectations of the society in which we live.

We must all take personal responsibility for securing our safety, the safety of those around us, and the sanctity of our own homes.

Combating crime needs co-operation and commitment between the police and the community. The best problem solving solutions emerge from the police forming partnerships with their local community being involved in the community in the process, either from the outset in identifying the problem, or in devising and implementing strategies for overcoming it.

Preventing and solving crime can be enhanced by the efforts of police and the community working together.

That partnership reinforces the potential for issues and particularly local issues, to be clearly identified in terms of causal factors and effectively addressed.

In line with developing partnerships in crime prevention it is encouraging to see the commitment of Crime Prevention Week's major supporter NRMA Insurance towards preventing crime and reducing the risk in the community.

It is through partnerships such as those with NRMA Insurance and the Queensland Department of Communities that the QPS is able to embrace the whole of government approach towards building safer communities and the need to work closely with our communities in both crime detection and prevention.

Crime prevention is one of the three approaches the Queensland Police Service is adopting through the Operational Performance Review Program. The other two being traditional reactive investigative policing and problem solving.

Crime Prevention Week has also been designed to promote a range of initiatives and even small steps towards safety and security can make a big difference.

Each day of the week will focus on specific preventative strategies including motor and marine theft; property theft; fraud and identity theft; tourist oriented policing, personal safety in particular seniors and retail theft.

I extend my thanks to all members and our supporters who have or will be involved in planning and holding Crime Prevention Week and ask all members of the Service to be supportive of it.