

Designing for crime prevention

by Peta-Ann Wood, QPS Media and Public Relations Branch

The notion of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) goes beyond bolts on doors and locks on windows.

In the Year of the Built Environment it was timely for Brisbane to once again host the International CPTED Conference, showing that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement of the quality of life.

Accolades from throughout the international crime prevention through environmental design community have been streaming in over the Queensland Police Service's involvement in staging the 9th Annual International CPTED Conference (CPTED-2004) held in Brisbane during early September.

Normally held in North America, CPTED-2004 has further developed strong working partnerships between the Queensland Police Service (QPS), the International CPTED Association (ICA) and International Security Management and Crime Prevention Institute (ISM CPI).

CPTED aims to highlight how proper design and effective use of the environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence of crime and also of the fear of crime, thereby improving quality of life and the profitability for businesses.

Widely recognised as a leader in CPTED development in the Asia-Pacific region, ISM CPI's Executive Director Rick Draper said this year's conference, themed *People and Safer Communities: The CPTED Advantage*, recognised the wide range of professional disciplines from architecture to urban design that apply CPTED concepts.

"Regardless of the professional discipline, the goal to reduce fear and the incidence of crime is constant. However, as those who have worked in the field will attest, crime and behaviour problems are very rarely one-dimensional.

"CPTED is a concept which by its very nature invites multi-disciplinary approaches to crime prevention. Social planners, urban designers, community workers, administrators and managers, architects, landscape architects, criminologists, psychologists, law enforcement, security,

horticulturalists, developers, elected officials, and many others have roles to play in macro and micro application of CPTED principles," Mr Draper said.

ISM CPI, supported by the QPS, hosted the CPTED-2001 conference and through the provision of a fulltime QPS Project Manager, Inspector Tony Lake, QPS Office of the Commissioner, the ISM CPI were able to build on the firm foundations laid previously to ensure that the conference was an outstanding success.

Inspector Lake said that the QPS has gained a number of benefits from being involved in another successful CPTED conference.

"This included opportunities for networking with other agencies from Australia and internationally; opportunity to present QPS initiatives and experiences; valuable professional development; and drawing on the experiences of others in order to support the implementation of QPS crime prevention strategies.

"Benefits to the Service were not the only successful aspect of the Conference. Participant evaluations and anecdotal evidence heralded CPTED-2004 as a great success for reasons such as: the variety of papers presented and workshops offered; and the access to international expert advice through the open forums.

"For example, the variety of papers presented indicated the depth and breadth of applications where CPTED principles may be utilised and considered. Workshops then followed, which delved deeper into the practical application of CPTED in the built environment.

"This time round Ipswich City Council offered the River Heart development as the case study for the practical sessions held. Participants, including internationally recognised criminologists, Professors Ronald V. Clarke and Marcus Felson, from the USA along with

leading researchers and practitioners from around the globe were then able to inform ICC representatives of their views of the development, and offer suggestions for improvement.

"The QPS now has the opportunity to build on the positive momentum gained through CPTED-2004 to further establish the reputation of the Service as a frontrunner in CPTED promotion, training, application and advice," Inspector Lake said.

For many years the QPS has been committed to promoting the concepts and principles of CPTED. QPS Commissioner, Bob Atkinson commended the conference.

"This conference provided a forum for international and local authorities to discuss and explore issues relating to crime prevention," Mr Atkinson said.

"This year's conference highlighted the fact that other professional disciplines can play a crucial part in applying the concepts central to CPTED.

"It was a unique opportunity to bring together and hear from many of the leaders and innovators in CPTED. The program is designed to provide maximum benefit for delegates and speakers alike, with the perfect balance of learning, knowledge sharing and networking," he said.

Presented through the International Security Management and Crime Prevention Institute, this international event is supported by the QPS along with the Department of Communities, Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Rail, Crime and Misconduct Commission, Year of the Built Environment 2004, Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Local Government Association of Queensland and Cooltone Advanced Glass Coatings.

