

Anti-social Behaviour and Transitional Aboriginal Homelessness Study Project



City of
Kalgoorlie
Boulder

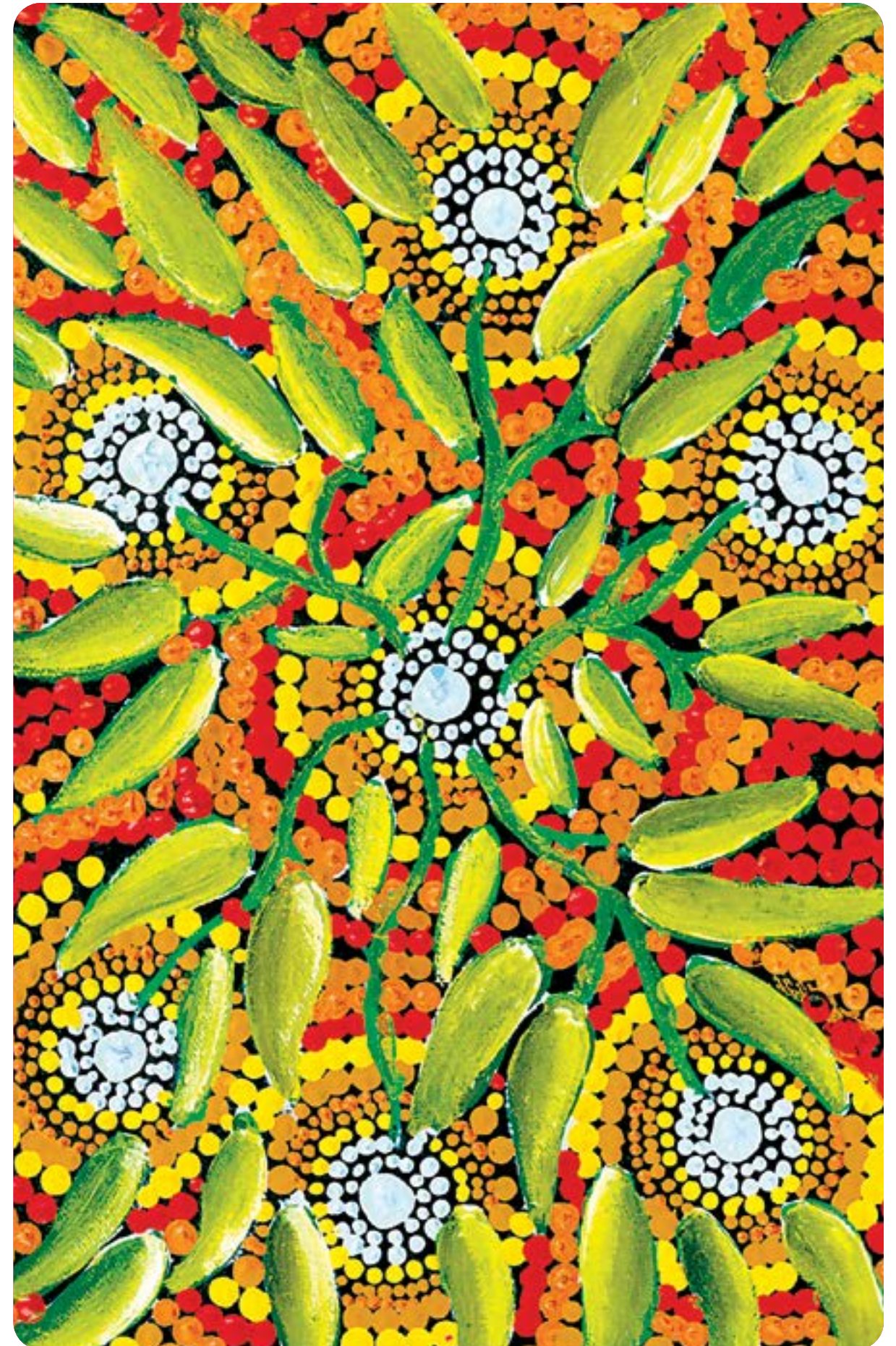
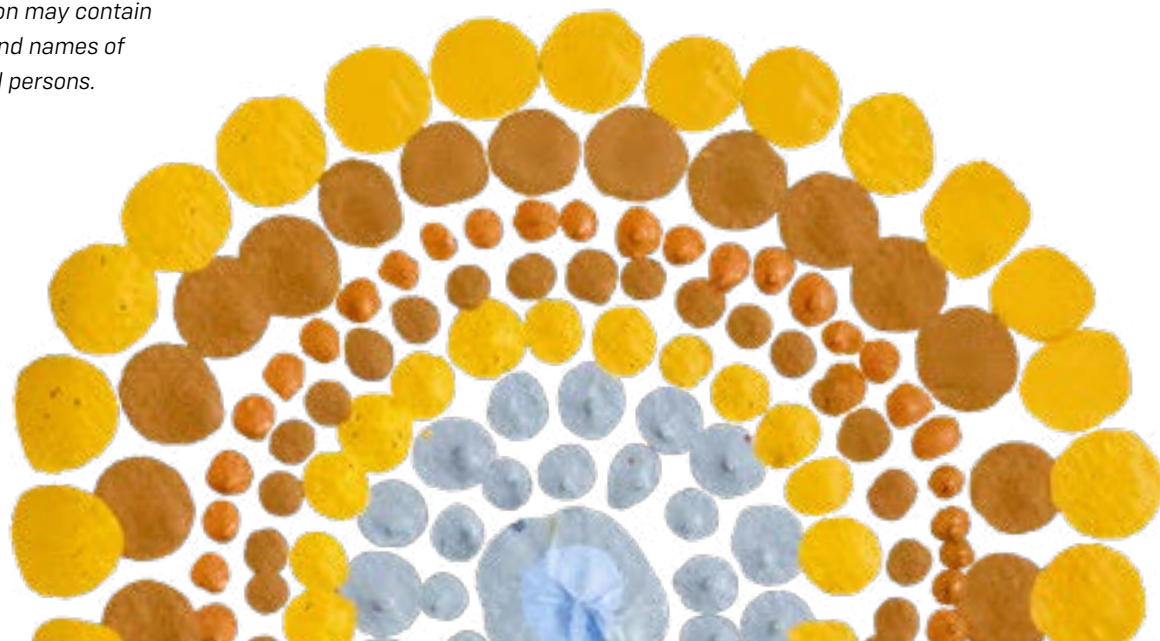
Report



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands across the Goldfields region and pays its respects to Elders past and present. We extend this respect to all First Nations peoples whose lands we visited and engaged with throughout this research project.

Disclaimer: First Nations people are advised that this publication may contain images and names of deceased persons.



Artwork: Karlkurla Tjukurrpa (Silky Pear Dreaming)
Artist: Regina Donaldson



Table of Contents

Message from Andrew Brien – CEO	10
Summary Statement	12
Methodology	13
Stakeholder Validation Process	14
Key Issues Reviewed	14
Expected Outcomes	14
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	18
Background	18
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	19
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community Perception Results	20
Homelessness	23
Rough Sleeping Statistics	23
Cashless Debit Card Program	24
Community Approach	25
Summer Response Strategy	25
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024 – 2028	26
Short-Stay Accommodation	27
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Crime Statistics	31
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Restrictions	32
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord	33
Broome Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	34
Background	34
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	34
Broome Community Perception Results	35

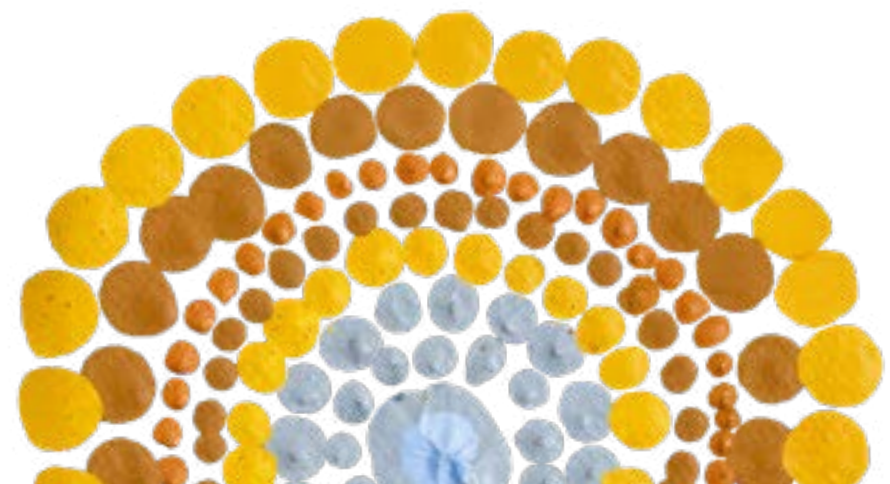
Community Approach	36
Community Safety Plan	36
Sobering Up Shelter – Broome	37
Kularri Patrol Services	37
Broome Crime Statistics	37
Broome Liquor Restrictions	38
Interviews	41
Shire of Broome Interview – 21 October 2024	41
WA Police (Broome) Interview – 21 October 2024	45
Port Hedland Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	48
Background	48
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	48
Port Hedland Community Perception Results	50
Community Approach	50
Community Safety Plan	50
Port Hedland Crime Statistics	51
Port Hedland Liquor Restrictions	51
Interviews	54
WA Police (Port Hedland) Interview – 22 October 2024	54
Karratha Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	60
Background	60
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	60
Karratha Community Survey Perception Results	61
Community Approach	62
Safer Communities Partnership Strategic Plan	62
Karratha Crime Statistics	62
Karratha Liquor Restrictions	63
Interviews	64
City of Karratha Interview – 23 October 2024	64
WA Police (Karratha) Interview – 23 October 2024	66
Carnarvon Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	68
Background	68
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	68
Carnarvon Community Perception Results	70





Community Approach.....	70
Intensive Family and Community Intervention 2022-2023	70
Carnarvon Crime Statistics	70
Carnarvon Liquor Restrictions	71
Interviews.....	74
Shire of Carnarvon Interview – 24 October 2024	74
WA Police (Carnarvon) Interview – 24 October 2024.....	76
Gascoyne Development Commission Interview – 24 October 2024	78
Geraldton Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour.....	80
Background	80
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	80
Community Perception Results	81
Community Approach.....	82
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2029	82
Geraldton Crime Statistics	82
Geraldton Liquor Restrictions	83
Interviews.....	83
City of Greater Geraldton Interview – 25 October 2024	83
Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation Interview – 25 October 2024	86
Centacare Geraldton Interview – 25 October 2024	88
Observations	90
Broome	90
Town of Port Hedland.....	91
Karratha	91
Carnarvon	91
Geraldton	92
Analysis	92
Ceduna Transitional Homelessness and High-risk Behaviour.....	94
Background	94
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	94
Ceduna Community Perception Results	95
Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation (PTAC).....	96

Community Approach.....	96
South Australia Community Paramedics	96
Ceduna Community Hub	97
Ceduna Community Bus.....	97
SA Housing Trust – Wangka Wilurarr Transitional Accommodation Centre (Ceduna)	98
Tank 18	99
Ceduna Crime Statistics	99
Ceduna Liquor Restrictions.....	100
Interviews.....	100
District Council of Ceduna Interview – 4 February 2025.....	100
Far West Community Partnerships Interview – 4 February 2025	102
South Australia Police, Ceduna Interview – 4 February 2025.....	110
Food Bank Interview – 5 February 2025	113
Ceduna Youth Hub Interview – 5 February 2025	114
Port Augusta Transitional Homelessness and High-risk Behaviour.....	116
Background	116
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	116
Port Augusta Community Perception Results.....	117
Community Approach	118
Community Safety Audit	118
Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan	118
Port Augusta Crime Statistics	118
Port Augusta Liquor Restrictions	119
Dry Area/Declared Public Precinct	119
Interviews.....	120
Port Augusta City Council Interview – 6 February 2025	120
Department of Human Services Interview – 6 February 2025	125
Observations	128
Ceduna	128
Port Augusta	129
Analysis.....	130





Alice Springs Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	132
Background	132
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	132
Alice Springs Community Perception Results.....	134
Alice Springs Crime Statistics	134
Community Approach	135
Alice Springs Liquor Restrictions	135
Interviews.....	136
Community Housing Central Australia Interview – 10 March 2025.....	136
Mission Australia Interview – 11 March 2025.....	138
Aboriginal Hostels Limited Interview – 11 March 2025.....	141
Northern Territory Police Interview – 11 March 2025.....	143
Town of Alice Springs Interview – 11 March 2025.....	146
Greater Darwin Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	148
Background – Darwin.....	148
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	148
Darwin Community Perception Report.....	150
Darwin Crime Statistics.....	150
Greater Darwin Liquor Restrictions	151
Banned Drinker Register – Northern Territory	152
Liquor Permitting on the Gove Peninsula and Nhulunbuy	153
Interviews.....	154
NT Shelter Interview – 12 March 2025	154
City of Darwin Interview – 12 March 2025	157
Territory Community Safety (NT Police) Interview – conducted via Teams on 27 March 2025.....	160
Palmerston Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour.....	162
Background – Palmerston.....	162
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).....	162
Palmerston Community Perception Report.....	163
Palmerston Crime Statistics.....	163
Interviews.....	164
City of Palmerston Interview – 12 March 2025	164

Kununurra Transitional Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour	168
Background	168
Community Approach	168
Proposed Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA) – Kununurra	168
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	170
Kununurra Community Perception Report	171
Kununurra Crime Statistics.....	171
Kununurra Liquor Restrictions	172
Interviews.....	174
Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation Interview – 13 March 2025	174
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Interview – 14 March 2025	176
Wunan Foundation Interview – 14 March 2025.....	177
Observations	180
Alice Springs.....	180
Darwin	181
Palmerston	181
Kununurra	182
Analysis	182
Learnings and Actions	184
Local Government Role	205
National Agreement on Closing the Gap	207
Summary	207
Recommendations	209
Attachment 1	214
Crime Statistics	214
Tables/Appendices.....	214
Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA Crime Statistics.....	214
Broome LGA Crime Statistics.....	216
Carnarvon LGA Crime Statistics	217
Karratha LGA Crime Statistics.....	218
Port Hedland LGA Crime Statistics	219
Geraldton LGA Crime Statistics.....	220
Kununurra LGA Crime Statistics	221
South Australian Crime Statistics	221
Northern Territory Crime Statistics.....	222
Apendices.....	222
Community Approach	222
Population/Demographics.....	223





Message from Andrew Brien CEO

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this research project and for the openness of all stakeholders interviewed who provided their honest feedback on issues and solutions relating to anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across Australia.

In addition, I am grateful for the support of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council in approving the research project, and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder staff who have assisted in coordinating meetings and researching background information, and for their assistance in finalising the drafting of this report. Without the support of all involved this report would not have been possible.

There is no one-size-fits-all to managing anti-social behaviour and street presence or transient homelessness, and the complex factors surrounding this whole-of-community issue.

In 2023 the number one priority requested by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to address was crime and community safety. By examining successful strategies and understanding challenges in other Local Government Areas (LGA),

we can collectively work towards more effective, targeted, and culturally sensitive solutions which will assist in addressing many of the issues being currently experienced in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

In the communities visited through this research project throughout Australia, the ones who reported the least amount of crime and anti-social behaviour had the following:

- Active local government leadership;
- Real-time CCTV solutions;
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisational-managed transport, accommodation and wrap-around services;
- Proactive and well-resourced policing; and
- Liquor restrictions backed by licensees and enforced by police.



L-R: CKB CEO Andrew Brien, City of Geraldton Deputy Mayor Natasha Colliver and Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation CEO Wayne McDonald

This research has led to the development of a range of actions and recommendations, informed by a comprehensive understanding of the challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness in each location, and identification of successful strategies that can be replicated.

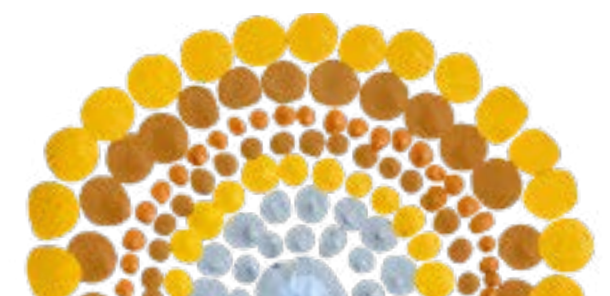
It is hoped this will result in improved collaboration and knowledge-sharing among government agencies, service providers, and community stakeholders.

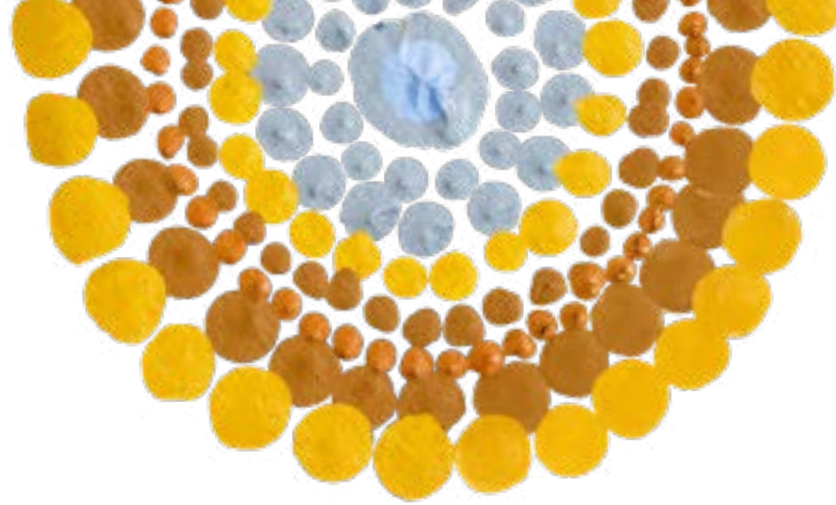
"The standard you walk past is the standard you accept."

This quote is reflective of the need for the whole community to be involved in the solution – when reviewing social media everyone looks to blame individual groups, e.g. Council, Police, Courts, State Government and the list goes on. Attempts have been made to address some of the contributing factors such as the implementation of the banned drinkers register.

It will take cooperation and commitment from everyone to make the change the community is seeking. We all know change is hard, but we all have to do our bit so the community benefits overall. Some of the recommendations may not be popular with the broader community, however in order to make a change, we will need to proactively deal with all of the contributing factors that lead to street presence, anti-social behaviour and the impacts that this has on our community.

¹. General David Hurley





Summary Statement

The main objective of this research project is to acquire insights into the challenges and successes in addressing issues related to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness from a local government perspective.

The emphasis will be on actively engaging with local and State Government agencies and First Nations organisations and leaders, as well as key service providers. The goal is to assess existing strategies, pinpoint gaps, and explore potential solutions that can contribute to the enhancement of current efforts in this regard.

The research project will cover multiple locations across Australia, each carefully chosen based on the prevalence of transitional Aboriginal homelessness issues and the diversity of strategies employed.

Western Australia – Phase 1

- ◆ Broome
- ◆ Port Hedland
- ◆ Karratha
- ◆ Carnarvon
- ◆ Geraldton

South Australia – Phase 2

- ◆ Ceduna
- ◆ Port Augusta

Northern Territory and Western Australia – Phase 3

- ◆ Kununurra
- ◆ Alice Springs
- ◆ Darwin
- ◆ Palmerston

Each of the identified locations was chosen as they are either regional centres facing similar issues to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder or have been recommended by other levels of government as having introduced appropriate programs or solutions to address anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness issues.

The City engaged with local and State Government agencies, key service providers, and First Nations organisations and leaders in each identified location.

OFFICER/ COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved By: Cr Deborah Botica
Seconded By: Mayor Glenn Wilson

That the Committee support the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the proposed study project focused on responses to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness.

CARRIED
(2 / 0)

OFFICER/ COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved By: Cr Nardia Turner
Seconded By: Cr Terrence Winner

That Council notes the Committee support the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the proposed study project focused on responses to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness.

CARRIED
(8 / 0)

Methodology

This research project was established following formal endorsement at the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 April 2024 (Item 14.1.2), which provided approval for the Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Brien, to undertake a study focused on responses to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness.

The initiative was intended to provide insight into both the challenges and successes experienced by local governments across Australia in addressing these complex issues, with a strong emphasis on collaboration with government agencies and service providers.

As part of his performance review, Andrew had requested the opportunity to pursue a meaningful community initiative – to lead this research project as a tangible contribution to the City and its regional partners, aligning with the City's broader strategic goals of community safety and cultural connection.

In addition, Andrew is the only representative from regional Western Australia on the State Advisory Group on Homelessness, with his appointment commencing in 2023. As a member of the Group, Andrew provides direct input into implementing the All-Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-30.

The research project involved a combination of formal interviews, site visits, and observational research. Scheduled meetings

were arranged with key stakeholders in each location, including local government officials, community leaders, Western Australia (WA) Police, South Australia Police (SAPOL) and Northern Territory (NT) Police, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and frontline service providers. The study was framed around a series of guiding questions designed to elicit practical insights and inform the City's strategic direction. These included:

1. What are some of your challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness?
2. What solutions have you implemented with service providers to address anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness?
3. Can you provide an overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers?
4. What do you see as the role of local government in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness?
5. What trials or programs have been implemented in your region to address homelessness?
6. (For police representatives) Of the crime statistics for your location, which offences do you believe are linked to homelessness?



Stakeholder Validation Process

As part of the preparation of this Study Report, all participating stakeholders were contacted and provided with a copy of the draft content specific to their respective interviews. This step was undertaken to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the report, and to support transparent and respectful representation of the perspectives shared.

Stakeholders were formally invited to review and provide feedback on the content pertaining to their interviews. This included the opportunity to request amendments or clarifications to ensure their views were accurately captured. All requested amendments received have now been incorporated into the final version of the Study Report.

This consultative validation process reflects the City's commitment to appropriate engagement and to accurately reflecting the views and insights of those who generously contributed to the research. It also supports the integrity of the findings and reinforces the collaborative foundation upon which the study has been developed.

Key Issues Reviewed

The study focused on a consistent set of key issues across all locations visited as follows:

- Evaluating the existing challenges and factors contributing to transitional Aboriginal homelessness in each location.

- The link between transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour, focusing on the role of service providers in mitigating such behaviour.
- Analysis of crime statistics, where available, and identifying offences perceived to be related to homelessness.
- Investigation of existing partnership models between government agencies, service providers, and community organisations to determine successful collaborative approaches.
- Understanding the distinct roles and responsibilities of each level of government in addressing homelessness within the selected municipalities.
- Exploration of the trials and programs that have been implemented to address homelessness, evaluating their success and scalability.

Expected Outcomes

The research conducted seeks to deliver the following outcomes:

- A comprehensive understanding of solutions implemented by local government agencies to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional Aboriginal homelessness.

- A comprehensive understanding of the challenges associated with transitional Aboriginal homelessness in each location.
- Identification of successful strategies and best practices that can be replicated or adapted by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- Recommendations for refining or implementing new programs based on the findings.
- Improved collaboration and knowledge sharing among government agencies, service providers, and community stakeholders.

Trip 1 – Western Australia

The first phase of the study was undertaken in October 2024 and included site visits to Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha, Carnarvon, and Geraldton. Appointments were scheduled in advance of the trip through a structured engagement process led by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

As part of the planning process, targeted desktop research was conducted to identify key stakeholders in each location. This research focused on local government contacts, WA Police representatives, ACCOs, and relevant service providers actively engaged in community safety, homelessness services, and interagency responses to anti-social behaviour, particularly those with experience addressing the needs of Aboriginal communities.

Following the identification of stakeholders, formal emails were sent to each organisation. These emails, issued by the City's Coordinator Strategic Grants and Administration, outlined the objectives of the research study.

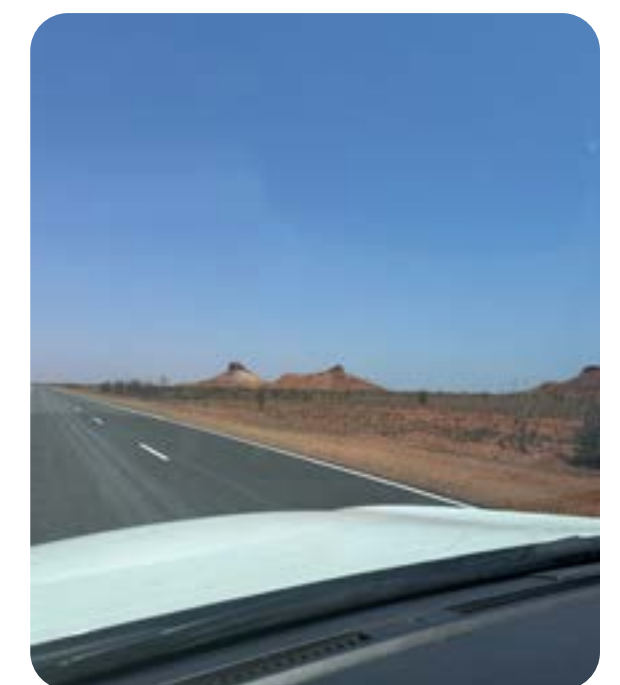
Communication explained that the City's CEO, Andrew Brien and Director of Advocacy and Strategy (formerly the Director of Community Development) Mia Hicks, would be conducting a study tour to explore local strategies in response to anti-social behaviour

and transitional Aboriginal homelessness. The correspondence detailed the focus of the study, requested meetings during the scheduled visit dates, and invited suggestions for additional individuals or organisations that would be valuable to meet during the trip.

To complement the email outreach, follow-up phone calls were made to each organisation to confirm receipt of the request, respond to any initial queries, and secure meeting times. In Carnarvon and Geraldton, officers from the local governments provided referrals to additional service providers and community organisations. These new contacts were approached, again using a combination of email and phone communications to arrange interviews.

Some difficulty was encountered in engaging with WA Police through standard communication channels. However, these challenges were overcome by leveraging contacts made during earlier meetings on the trip. Officers in other towns shared direct contact details for colleagues in upcoming locations, which enabled effective coordination and ensured police perspectives were included in the study.

The trip commenced with flights from Kalgoorlie to Perth and then on to Broome,



followed by travel by road through each of the subsequent towns, concluding in Geraldton. All interviews were conducted face-to-face, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussion and contextual understanding.

While time constraints limited the opportunity for extensive facility tours, the visit to Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation in Geraldton coincided with NAIDOC Week activities, allowing for some informal observation and community interaction.

This methodical and well-structured approach to stakeholder engagement ensured a comprehensive schedule of interviews and consultations. It enabled the City to gather meaningful insights from a range of agencies and community representatives across five key regional centres in Western Australia, laying a foundation for the broader national research effort.

Trip 2 – South Australia

The second part of the study took place in February 2025 and focused on the regional centres of Ceduna and Port Augusta. The team travelled from Kalgoorlie to Perth, then to Adelaide, before flying on to Ceduna. Upon completion of the Ceduna engagements, travel was by road to Port Augusta to conduct further meetings before returning to Adelaide.

In Ceduna, the research visit was facilitated by Patrick Sharpe, Partnerships and Research Manager at Far West Community Partnerships. Mr. Sharpe arranged all meetings and site visits, with the exception

of the meeting with the Town of Ceduna, which was organised directly by the City. The Far West Community Partnerships' support was instrumental in shaping the visit and providing access to a wide range of local service providers and community leaders.

These engagements were undertaken in collaboration with representatives from the Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation (PTAC), following earlier consultations regarding the Boulder Camp relocation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Ceduna's short-stay accommodation model had been highlighted by PTAC as a case study worth exploring, and as a result, Andrew Brien, the City's CEO and Mia Hicks, the City's Director of Advocacy and Strategy were accompanied by PTAC Board Member Debbie Hansen, Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation Advisor Ian Baird, and PTAC Strategic Consultant Kari Allen.

Unlike the first trip, which was largely interview-based, the Ceduna component of the study was predominantly site-focused, with much of the information gathered through observational research. Many meetings were held in conjunction with facility tours, providing practical, place-based insights into Ceduna's response to transitional homelessness and associated anti-social behaviours.

Following the Ceduna visit, the City's CEO Andrew Brien and Director of Advocacy and Strategy Mia Hicks travelled to Port Augusta to continue the study. The City arranged a meeting directly with the Port Augusta City Council, and Far West Community Partnerships provided assistance in securing a meeting with the South Australian Department of Human Services.



However, the City also experienced challenges in identifying and reaching appropriate organisations in Port Augusta for inclusion in the consultation schedule. In particular, attempts to engage with local police representatives were unsuccessful, as contact could not be established via general communication channels in the time available. Despite visiting the police station on the day, there were no police officers available for a meeting, due to a whole-of-police tactical response.

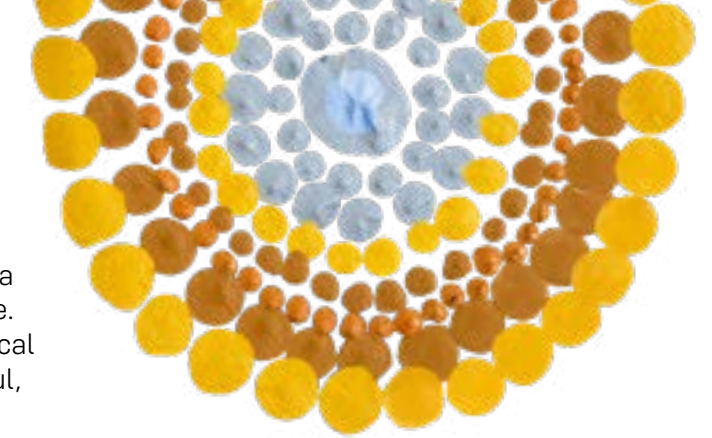
Despite these limitations, the trip to South Australia provided valuable insights, particularly regarding Ceduna's collaborative service models, which may inform the development of local responses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Trip 3 – Northern Territory and Western Australia

The third phase of the study took place in March 2025 and included site visits to Alice Springs, Darwin, Palmerston, and Kununurra. As with Trip 1, a structured engagement process was undertaken by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to coordinate appointments with key stakeholders across all locations.

The planning process mirrored that of Trip 1, beginning with targeted desktop research to identify relevant contacts within local government, police, and key service organisations involved in community safety, Aboriginal homelessness, and interagency collaboration. Formal emails were sent by the City's Coordinator Strategic Grants and Administration, outlining the study objectives and requesting meetings. These were followed by phone calls to confirm availability and finalise arrangements.

In addition to new outreach efforts, several existing connections assisted in facilitating meetings. Deanne Bear, Director of Frontline Services for Western Australia, South Australia, and Central Australia at Aboriginal Hostels Limited, initially introduced through Suzie Williams of the Goldfields Women's Refuge in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, had previously



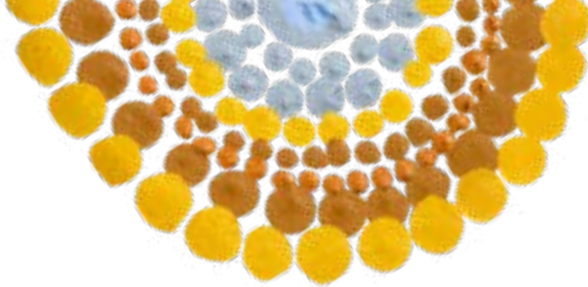
expressed interest in participating in the project and subsequently arranged to meet with the City's representatives in Alice Springs. In Palmerston, the City followed up on earlier communications between the City's CEO and the City of Palmerston's Mayor, Athina Pascoe-Bell, which led to a meeting and facility tour.

In Kununurra, contact was made with the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley, building on previous communication with their CEO in relation to non-related local government matters.

While overall engagement was strong, some difficulty was encountered in establishing contact with the police in Darwin and Kununurra. Despite these barriers, key stakeholder perspectives were still captured through other channels, and in Kununurra, a community barbecue provided an opportunity for informal discussions with WA Police.

Travel for this phase involved flights from Kalgoorlie to Alice Springs via Perth, then on to Darwin (including Palmerston) and Kununurra. All interviews were conducted face-to-face, in keeping with the approach used throughout the study. A full-day site tour was facilitated on 11 March 2025 by Aboriginal Hostels Limited and Mission Australia.

Trip 3 reinforced the consistency and effectiveness of the City's engagement methodology and allowed for comparative insights across jurisdictions. The experiences and strategies shared by stakeholders in the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia complemented those gathered in previous phases and contributed to a broader understanding of national responses to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness.



Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Key Points

- Strategic regional city
- Community desire for improved local safety outcomes
- Collaboration and communication key for projects and initiatives

The report has been developed to provide solutions to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and anti-social behaviour in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The following provides context on the current challenges and programs that are in place: since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA has significantly increased, rising from 4,508 offences in 2020 to 6,461 in 2024. In addition, in 2024, community sentiment recorded in the City's Community Perception Survey was that anti-social behaviour and safety was considered the number one priority for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to address.

Background

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a strategic regional city situated in the Goldfields region of Western Australia and 600km from Perth. As at the 2021 Census, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA had a population of 29,306 individuals. People identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander represent 9.5%

of the resident population of the broader Goldfields-Esperance region (5,222 people). People identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander represent 7.7% of the resident population of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (2,244 people), but this number increases significantly during the summer months².

The *Review of the Goldfields Summer Response Strategy, 2021* conducted by the Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia, provides important background and context regarding Kalgoorlie-Boulder, specifically that:

- Kalgoorlie-Boulder has traditionally been a meeting place for various Aboriginal communities, namely people from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Tjuntjuntjara. It has maintained this cultural standing and is a place where individuals meet during the summer months to conduct cultural business, socialise with family and friends, shop, and attend medical and other appointments.

². 2021 Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics

- During these months, temperatures are very high in the surrounding Aboriginal communities, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder offers relief from the heat and is the main social and holiday destination.
- This influx of visitors, whilst bringing social vibrancy to Kalgoorlie-Boulder and playing an important social and cultural role, also brings certain challenges that may affect the health and safety of visitors and residents alike.
- Some of the visitors stay with family and friends, in some cases in overcrowded conditions. Others set up camp in sites within the city or on the outskirts of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and are sleeping rough. Additionally, some visitors have a lack of experience living in larger towns; there have been instances of road traffic deaths. In 2019, there were three fatal accidents of this nature.
- The Department of Health outlines that drinking alcohol at risky levels by some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a matter of serious concern often precipitated by factors such as: trauma that extends across generations; family separation; insecure housing; negative experiences early in life; racism; difficulty finding work; and stress.
- Visitors to Kalgoorlie-Boulder may also be using alcohol to have fun, socialise and as part of taking a break from regular life in their communities. However, misuse of alcohol may be a result of their lack of experience in drinking. Many of the Aboriginal visitors coming to the city come from 'dry' communities where the sale (and consumption) of alcohol is banned.

- This has been occurring against a backdrop of social tension between the various community groups in Kalgoorlie-Boulder that has a long history dating to the early days of the establishment of the city.

One of the most recent examples occurred in 2016, where frustration and anger about widespread racism precipitated by the death of an Aboriginal teenager culminated in riots. The riots turned violent, and several police officers were injured, and arrests were made. For the people involved in the riots, it was about fighting the "ongoing endemic racism" towards Aboriginal people.³

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

SEIFA was used to provide context for each of the communities visited in terms of socio-economic advantage/disadvantage and relation to health factors.

SEIFA is a collection of four indexes, each summarising a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions in an area using different Census data.

This research report has used the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD), which summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households with an area. This index includes both relative advantage and disadvantage measures.

³. Kalgoorlie protest: Arrests made, officers injured in violent riot over teen's death – ABC News - 30 August 2016



Scores are standardised against a mean of 1000, with a standard deviation of 100. This means that the average SEIFA score will be 1000, and the middle two-thirds of SEIFA scores will fall between 900 and 1100 (approximately). A high score indicates a greater advantage in general, and a low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage. Research shows that a lower SEIFA score correlates with a lower health status with increased risk factors for ill health.

SEIFA scores are also ranked nationally out of the 544 LGA, with 544 being the highest ranking, and 1 being the lowest.

Where this report mentions a SEIFA score or rank, it is referring to the IRSAD index.

The current SEIFA scores for the major towns in the Goldfields region are –

- ♦ **Ngaanyatjarra Lands – 717**
- ♦ **Menzies – 858**
- ♦ **Laverton – 813**
- ♦ **Esperance – 960**
- ♦ **City Kalgoorlie-Boulder – 980**
- ♦ **Leonora – 924**
- ♦ **Coolgardie – 874**

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's current SEIFA score of 980 sits just below the national average of 1,000, indicating moderate socio-economic disadvantage. However, its national rank of 378 out of 544 LGA, positions it within the more advantaged half of councils across Australia.

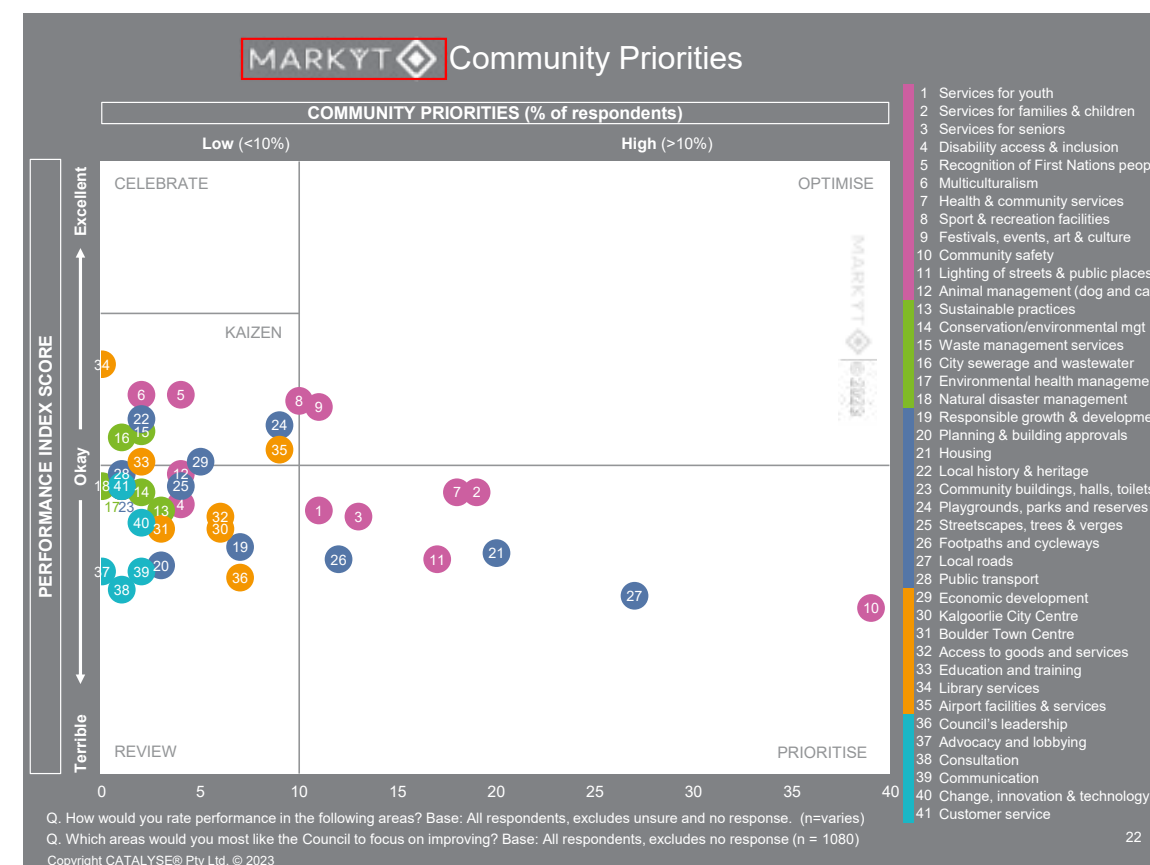
This apparent disparity, where a lower-than-average score corresponds with a relatively favourable rank, can be attributed to broader national patterns of socio-economic disadvantage. Many LGA across Australia, particularly in remote and regional settings, record significantly lower SEIFA scores. In this context, Kalgoorlie-Boulder's score of 980, while indicative of some disadvantage, still places it ahead of a substantial number of jurisdictions with more acute socio-economic challenges.

However, this comparative ranking should not obscure the fact that substantial pockets of disadvantage persist within Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Localised socio-economic stressors, particularly affecting vulnerable communities and low-income households, continue to contribute to poorer outcomes in areas such as health, education, housing, and employment. Addressing these internal disparities requires sustained, targeted intervention and investment that extends beyond high-level SEIFA rankings.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community Perception Results

In May 2023, the City asked the community to share feedback on what is important and where the City should focus its attention. The Community Perception Survey is an independent study, also called the MARKYT Scorecard, and is run by an external agency.

Over 1,300 people took part and shared what was important to them, giving their opinions on a range of issues related to living and working in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.



Community Perception Survey 2023 (Kalgoorlie-Boulder)

The Prioritise section – which is the lower performing services where the community would like the City to focus attention – included Community Safety⁴ listed as the number one priority.

Specifically, the Community Driven Actions recommended were –

- Lobby the State government to take a stronger stance on law enforcement and punishment.
- Advocate for a greater police presence with more patrols and faster response times to address crime.
- Provide more street patrols by security officers and Aboriginal wardens to address anti-social behaviour, loitering, begging, street drinking and drug usage.

- Provide improved lighting and CCTV cameras in streets, parks and known hotspots.
- Improve the management of transient people.
- Provide improved health and well-being support for those at risk, including social housing, education and rehabilitation services.
- Engage with at-risk youth by providing activities, counselling, training programs and safe spaces to gather.
- Consider introducing curfews for children.
- Support programs like Neighbourhood Watch and parenting programs.
- Clean up rubbish on the streets to improve the overall image of the area.

⁴. Number 10 is an identifying number for Community Safety

The Community voices (additional information provided by residents) for this section included statements as follows:

- “If you don’t address the increasing crime in the town the rest of it is irrelevant.”
 - “Greater police presence in problem areas and much harsher penalties for repeat offenders.”
 - “The safety and security in KBC is terrible. As a young female I don’t feel safe, ever. I believe we should have community safety officers separate to WAPOL.”
 - “I would suggest more security and cameras at skate park and parks.”
 - “Install CCTV cameras around more trouble spots and street lights.”
- “Lobby the governments (local/federal) to give more power to the courts and police to actually punish offenders.”
 - “This is a serious problem. Police do their job satisfactorily – the magistrates and / or judges fail, with light sentencing.”
 - “Less racist profiling and more positive action and inclusivity. Areas for mob to hang out and be left in peace and not harassed. Work with KBCC on youth engagement, move away from crime. Better drug rehabilitation supports. More mental health supports.”
 - “Programs to educate families. Programs to get some of our youth back on country to learn who they are, where they come from and different ways to deal with their trauma (educate rather than punish... the current way of doing things isn’t working). Look at what other countries are doing.”

- “Have programs to give youth better skills to deal with growing up poor, and breaking the cycle.”
- “Somewhere for our youth to spend their time and for them to sleep at night instead of wandering the street. If they are engaged in something that interests them it will keep them from looking for ‘something to do.’”

In terms of trend analysis, Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s performance in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention category has reached its lowest point since 2014, with a score of just 27 recorded in 2023. This represents a significant decline from previous years, including 2014 and 2015, when the score was 43. The downward trend reflects growing community concern and declining public confidence in local safety outcomes, as captured through the City’s Community Perception Survey.

Compared to the local government industry as a whole, the City is well below the performance index score of the industry average of 49, indicating that, despite Community Safety and Crime Prevention being a top priority for many local governments, the City is performing well below community expectations.

Homelessness

In 2023, a By Name List was being considered for implementation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder by the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO), the Goldfields Women’s Health Care Centre and the Goldfields Women’s Refuge. It is now being led by the Goldfields Women’s Refuge to implement.

The By Name List is a person-centred approach to ending rough sleeping. It is a process with a powerful impact: outreach workers go to meet each person sleeping rough in a community; they learn their name, who they are and what they need, and then bring services together to help them find permanent housing.



The By Name List has been implemented in several communities visited on the WA portion of the research project, with significant outcomes reported in Geraldton in terms of positive results and collaboration.

Rough Sleeping Statistics

An audit of rough sleepers was conducted by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s Safer Streets Patrol for the period 1 October 2023 to 3 January 2024. This identified a total of 25 individuals who were rough sleeping in Kalgoorlie-Boulder at any one time.

The Safer Streets Patrol also engaged with people on the streets and carried out a count of rough sleepers on 28 October 2024.

They determined there was a total of 53 individuals rough sleeping in Kalgoorlie-Boulder on that day, comprising the following individuals:

- Individuals from Remote Communities:
 - Tjuntjuntjarra: 14
 - Warburton: 33
 - Blackstone: 2



- **Other:**
 - Local residents: 1
 - Individuals from Perth: 3

Cashless Debit Card Program

The Cashless Debit Card (CDC) was first introduced in July 2017, when the Minderoo Foundation hosted community information sessions on the outcomes of the CDC trials in Ceduna, South Australia, and East Kimberly, Western Australia.

At the time, local community leaders and Aboriginal Elders were seeking a solution to an urgent need to address serious social issues relating to anti-social behaviour, crime, substance abuse and domestic violence, with concerns especially raised in relation to child neglect.

Prior to the rollout of the CDC, the Department of Social Services (DSS) met with community members, businesses, non-profit organisations, Aboriginal Elders, City staff and Elected Members. DSS also formed and facilitated a regional working group comprising Aboriginal Elders, Elected Members, community members, and non-profit service providers, which provided the terms of reference and information on the program as it became available.

A progressive rollout of the CDC commenced in the Goldfields region in March 2018, with the City establishing two shopfronts in Kalgoorlie-Boulder by April 2018. Despite the Goldfields region being the third CDC trial site, the program was not in place for Aboriginal visitors from communities, and they therefore had access to payments to spend upon their visits to the city.

The University of Adelaide’s CDC Baseline Data Collection: Qualitative Findings Report⁵, released in February 2019, reported the following anecdotal evidence on the CDC:

- Positive impacts on levels of alcohol use and associated behaviours;
- Early improvements to child welfare and well-being;
- Changes in spending on household items;
- Improvements to financial literacy and management; and
- Positive impacts on the prevalence and severity of crime, family violence and anti-social behaviour.

The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry released a *Cashless Debit Card Survey* in February 2019, with 82 business members completing the survey between 27 February and 1 March 2019. The survey results indicated that:

- 71.95% of respondents advised they had seen a decrease in anti-social behaviour in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder CBD since the CDC had been introduced;
- 86.59% of respondents advised, in their opinion, the CDC had made positive changes throughout the Goldfields; and
- 86.59% of respondents advised they would like to see the CDC trial continue.



In September 2022, the Australian Government passed the *Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Repeal of Cashless Debit Card and Other Measures) Act 2022* to abolish the CDC program. The Act required the DSS to prepare Local Services Plans for improving community services and addressing social issues in former CDC locations, including the Goldfields.

The Local Services Plans – Community-led Support Fund (LSP-CSF) is a funding opportunity which was established by the Australian Government in July 2023. It aims to improve community services and address social issues in former CDC locations, including Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shires of Laverton, Leonora, Menzies and Coolgardie.

The Goldfields region has been allocated funding of \$10 million over three financial years to be awarded to successful applicants that align their projects with the Goldfields Local Services Plan.

Community Approach

Summer Response Strategy

The Summer Response Strategy Working Group (WG) was established to facilitate active communication and collaboration between various organisations to achieve the broad objectives of helping vulnerable Aboriginal visitors as well as decreasing anti-social behaviour.

The Summer Response Strategy WG report to the District Leadership Group and currently comprises the following organisations: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Department of Communities, Hope Community Services, WA Primary Health Alliance, Department of Justice (Youth), National Indigenous Australians Agency, Red Cross, WA Police, Goldfields Women’s Healthcare Centre, Goldfields Women’s Refuge, Bega Garnbirringu Health Service, Shire of Leonora, Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO), Ngaanyatjarra Council Group, and PTAC.

In 2022, the WG no longer had access to any sustainable funding, and through the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s advocacy work with the Department of Social Services, the City obtained \$1 million in brokerage funding to support the Summer Support Hub and weekly bus transport from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Warburton.

Once funding was secured through DSS, GIHO established a weekly bus transport utilising the City’s 14-seater off-road bus from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Warburton. The bus is supported by a journey crew of First Nations people; each trip requires two drivers and a journey support officer. Funding for this program has also since been achieved through the Department of Communities. Prior to 2022, the WG trialled several transport models including a City-owned bus retrofitted for off-road travel that was driven by WG members on a monthly rotational basis.

The Summer Support Hub was a place for Aboriginal visitors and community members to engage in activities for social purposes in a culturally safe and supportive environment. The Hub, which is temporarily closed, acted as a linking agency that connected visitors to resources and services available within the community.



⁵. cdc_baseline_qualitative_data_collection_-_goldfields_region.pdf

Aboriginal visitors to Kalgoorlie-Boulder have no mainstream transport service they can rely on to reach the city and return back to their homes. Many visitors travel using a 'one-way car' and struggle to find transport back home.

There are several reasons why Aboriginal visitors can become stranded in the city. They may have:

- Missed flights or other pre-arranged transport home;
- Had vehicles that might have broken down, been stolen or impounded by the police;
- Been hospitalised or incarcerated and upon discharge had no way to return home; or
- Chosen to remain in Kalgoorlie-Boulder with family and then wished to return to their home but had no way to do so.

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024 – 2028

The City's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CSCPP) 2024-2028⁶ was endorsed by Council in December 2023, including a budget allocation to purchase the City's first CCTV mobile trailer.

The CSCPP was developed through extensive engagement including but not limited to:

- The 2023 perception survey findings;
- Thirteen key stakeholder engagements with local agencies and organisations;
- Consideration of seven existing community consultations in the Goldfields;

- The review of 14 existing local, regional, state and national strategies; and
- Data analysis (local crime statistics).

The Plan reaffirms the City's commitment to addressing issues associated with community safety and crime prevention.

The CSCPP 2024-28 aims to:

- Provide the City's Councillors, decision makers and technical officers with an overview of current local community safety issues.
- Enable the City to make informed decisions reflective of community safety priorities.
- Guide partnerships with stakeholders and the community.
- Improve the community's perception of safety through increased visibility and overarching presence within the community.
- Inform existing programs and services and support collaborative partnerships aimed at bridging gaps.
- Identify limitations and capacity building in relation to the efficient and effective management of local resources.
- Provide evidence which supports the application for alternative funding sources as they become available.
- Lead by example by aligning internal policies with community expectations.

The study of existing contextual planning documents and key statistics, together with stakeholder and community feedback, has provided an insight into the current needs of the city.

This has resulted in four community safety and crime prevention focus areas being identified. They are:

- Creating Safer Streets and Spaces in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- Supporting Families, Children and Young People in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- Reducing Crime in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- Strengthening Partnerships and Internal Capacity Strategies.

Short-Stay Accommodation

Trilby Cooper

The Trilby Cooper hostel operates under the umbrella of Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, a not-for-profit company wholly owned by the Australian Government that was established to ensure First Nations people can access culturally safe and affordable accommodation when away from home.

As at the 2023-24 financial year, AHL operates 42 hostels in six states and territories, supporting over 18,000 people. It is more than just an accommodation provider, being a gateway enabling residents to travel away from home to access a range of services, including crucial medical care, education, and employment opportunities.

AHL accommodation also assists people experiencing crisis or transitional homelessness, people escaping domestic and family violence, and people who are transitioning from prison or the out-of-home care system.

The Trilby Cooper facility in Kalgoorlie-Boulder has 24 units, each with two single beds. Two pairs of rooms have adjoining doors and can be used to house larger families, and four units are disability friendly. The hostel provides laundry facilities, a barbecue area, dining room, TV room and playground.

The nightly rates to stay in the hostel are as follows:

- \$38 per night single (shared room)
- \$52 per night single (sole occupancy)
- \$32 per night per person for both partners in one room
- \$30 per night tertiary education student
- \$10 per night children 2-20 years old
- Infant under 2 years of age no charge.

Kalgoorlie Aboriginal Short-stay Accommodation (KASSA)

KASSA (Boulder Short Stay) was established by the Department of Communities to provide safe, culturally appropriate, and affordable short-term accommodation for Aboriginal visitors to Kalgoorlie-Boulder, particularly those from remote communities like Tjuntjuntjara. The facility can typically provide accommodation for up to four weeks, with extensions considered on a case-by-case basis.



⁶ ckb.wa.gov.au/Profiles/ckb/Assets/ClientData/Documents/Our_City/News_and_Publications/2023-11_-_Community_Safety___Crime_Prevention_Plan_REV2.pdf

Booking Priorities:

KASSA is contracted to prioritise the following visitor groups:

- Aboriginal visitors from Tjuntjuntjara;
- Women with accompanying children;
- Individuals with health and disability issues; and
- Elderly individuals.

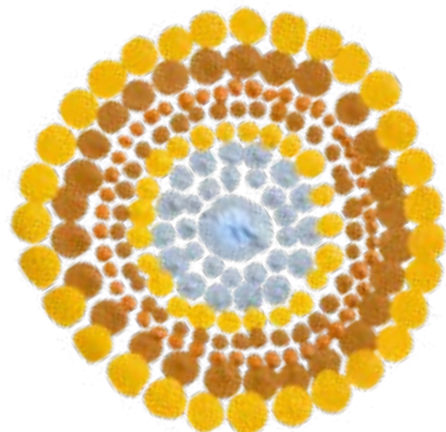
Booking decisions also consider:

- Previous stays and any related concerns; and
- Facility dynamics, including potential conflicts among guests.

KASSA has confirmed it is not a crisis accommodation service and therefore immediate accommodation may not always be available, with all bookings being assessed based on available space and individual needs.

The facility policies are as follows:

- Dry Facility: No alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia are permitted.
- Operating Hours: Open 24/7 with no curfew; security staff are present from 10:30pm to 8:30am daily.
- Amenities: Residents have access to free phone services, assistance with calls, meals, bedding, toiletries, and laundry facilities.



On 7 April 2025, the Department of Communities confirmed that the Australian Red Cross notified the Department it would not be renewing its contract beyond the current term, which concludes on 30 June 2025. To ensure continuity of service from 1 July 2025, Mercy Community Services Limited will act as an interim service provider.

Boulder Camp

Boulder Camp is a short stay camping area for Tjuntjuntjara visitors. It recently received minor upgrades funded by the State Government, including supply and installation of a skid mounted ablution block, plumbing and sewerage works, and provision of an open shelter and yarning area and solar area lighting. The City is presently working closely with PTAC to engage with their community on the relocation of Boulder Camp.

Bega Garnbirringu Health Services Inc. (Bega)

Bega provides sustainable, culturally appropriate and holistic health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the Goldfields region.

Services include clinical services, and free transport for Bega clients to see staff at the Bega clinic and attend medical appointments outside of Bega; and social support services, including a sobering up centre near the Kalgoorlie CBD that operates from 5:00pm to 8:30am Monday to Friday. Services also include a social and well-being program offering psychologist and counsellor support; and the Nindila Training Centre, a Registered Training Organisation that offers various qualifications.

In October 2024, the Western Australian Government announced \$2 million of funding for Bega to deliver a dedicated assertive outreach service, including brokerage to support and complement Safe Passage Home approaches and an expanded scope for their existing case management service. A two-year pilot will be trialled, including an enhanced outreach program and expanding current homelessness services through a case management focus.



Safer Streets Patrol

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Safer Streets Patrol was introduced in June 2018 to address anti-social behaviour in key city precincts. It works in partnership with police, businesses and other agencies to reduce disturbances and provides assistance to the community.

The service is funded by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and conducts regular patrols of the Kalgoorlie and Boulder CBDs, diffuses conflicts and disturbances, assists individuals with accessing transport services, and assists those who are rough sleeping. Safer streets vehicles are equipped with 360-degree camera surveillance, GPS location tracking, and specialised lighting systems.

In the 2024-25 financial year, the City expanded its Safer Streets Patrol Program on a trial basis and developed a base for the team in the Kalgoorlie CBD. As part of the expansion, the number of Officers increased from three to 11, with the hours of operation increasing to a total of 20 hours per day (6:00am to 2:00am) including weekends.

Street Chaplains

In 2024, local churches joined together under Street Chaplains WA to patrol Kalgoorlie-Boulder's streets every weekend to provide crisis and pastoral care to vulnerable people. Volunteers with Street Chaplains WA patrol streets every Friday and some Saturdays from 11pm until the early hours of the morning, with backpacks of supplies to assist people.

M25 Ministry (Church of Christ Kalgoorlie-Boulder)

The M25 Ministry provides a raft of services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, including clothes, meals, groceries, showers and clothes washing; church services; programs for youth, families and mothers; and hangout spaces. Spaces are open from 8:00am to 12:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and 7:30am to 9:30am on Sundays.

It is currently the departure centre for the weekly Safe Passage Home bus service that operates every Thursday.

Safe Passage Home Bus Service

Kalgoorlie-Boulder experiences a seasonal influx of visitors, particularly from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Tjuntjuntjara, due to a variety of reasons including extreme summer temperatures in remote communities. While this movement is part of cultural traditions and social connections, it presents challenges related to the lack of accommodation, service availability, transport and other support mechanisms in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

In 2022, the Summer Response Strategy Working Group secured funding from the Federal Government's Department of Social Services to support weekly bus transport from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Warburton. The Summer Response Safe Passage Home: Ngurrakutu Bus is operated by the ACCO Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO) and until March was using a City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder-owned bus to transport 15 people once a week.

GIHO has since procured its own bus through the Federal Government's Department of Social Services and provides a community-led, culturally appropriate solution through the provision of reliable transport for individuals seeking to return to their home communities.



In February 2025, the Cook Government made a pledge of \$830,000 for a second return to community service bus to be operated out of Kalgoorlie-Boulder by GIHO. The additional bus will enable GIHO to assist large families, including pets, and support more people to return to community including Tjuntjuntjara.

Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO)

GIHO provides housing and tenancy support services to Aboriginal people in urban centres and remote communities throughout the Goldfields region.

MEEDAC Bus Service

The Midwest Employment and Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation (MEEDAC) bus is a transport service for all vulnerable people in the community, providing transport for things such as medical appointments, school, training, job interviews, sports training, or games, etc.

The service can be booked ahead, and staff have had Working with Children's Checks so that a parent or guardian does not need to be on the bus. The service runs from 8:00am until 8:00pm Monday to Friday and 8:00am until 5:00pm on Saturdays.



CKB Community Facilities, Services, Events and Engagement

- The City has a variety of community directories available on its website that inform of services and assistance available in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- A range of programs is held at the William Grundt Memorial Library, which has free Wi-Fi internet access, a home delivery service, and disabled toilets.
- A range of public events is held by the City, aiming to promote access and inclusion and multiculturalism.
- The City's Job Support Hub, funded by the Federal Government's Department of Social Services, works with clients and local service providers to support job readiness. It works with Central Regional TAFE supporting clients to access short courses, nationally-recognised skill sets and long vocational courses. It also assists clients financially with the cost of tuition fees, resource and materials costs, and other course costs, such as personal protective or other equipment.
- The City's Eastern Goldfields Community Centre hosts a variety of events and programs, including those aimed at senior residents.
- The City is leading two major developments targeting youth, First Nations and vulnerable populations: a \$6 million almost-completed redevelopment of the Kingsbury Youth Precinct to provide a safe, modern environment for youth to engage in activities; and the proposed construction of a multi-use open air pavilion in the CBD to provide space for arts projects and events targeting First Nations artists, and programs targeting youth and vulnerable populations such as those experiencing homelessness.

- City engagement on all projects and initiatives is guided by frameworks in its Strategic Community Plan; Community Engagement Policy; and Reconciliation Plan.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Crime Statistics

Since 2019, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA has generally trended upward, despite an initial decline during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Offences fell from 5,158 in 2019 to 4,508 in 2020, a decrease of 650 offences (-12.6%), likely influenced by pandemic-related restrictions that reduced mobility and public activity. However, from 2020 onwards, offence rates have increased each year, reaching a total of 6,461 in 2024.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2019 to 2020
Offences decreased by 650 (-12.6%)

2020 to 2021
Offences increased by 733 (+16.3%)

2021 to 2022
Offences increased by 800 (+15.3%)

2022 to 2023
Offences increased by 383 (+6.3%)

2023 to 2024
Offences increased by 37 (+0.6%)

High-frequency offence categories in Kalgoorlie-Boulder include family-related assaults, non-family assaults, sexual offences, and stealing. The initial decline in

2020 likely reflects the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and reduced mobility across the region.

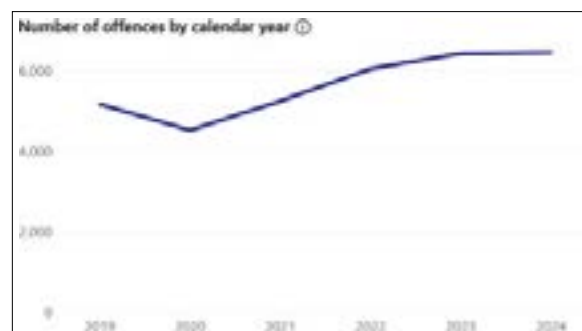
However, the consistent upward trend in subsequent years aligns with broader social and economic pressures including housing insecurity, strained support services, and the transient nature of some vulnerable populations – factors known to underpin transitional homelessness and associated anti-social behaviours.

The cessation of the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) program has also been associated with increased social challenges in the Goldfields region, which includes Kalgoorlie-Boulder. A Federal government report noted that the end of the CDC corresponded with rises in alcohol consumption, gambling, public intoxication, and alcohol-related violence in CDC trial sites.⁷

In January 2024, there was significant media attention on Kalgoorlie-Boulder relating to anti-social behaviour when a business owner was assaulted. This happened to occur during a multi-day blackout across the city when there were numerous media in Kalgoorlie-Boulder reporting on the blackout.

Although anti-social behaviour was acknowledged to already be an issue in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, commentary from several of the stakeholders interviewed during the research project was that reporting of this

⁷ Review of the Impact of the Cessation of the Cashless Debit Card Final Report



Number of offences per calendar year
(Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA)



Number of offences by calendar year and offence category (Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA)

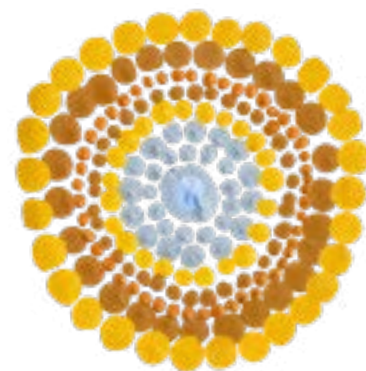
particular incident was opportunistic, due to the high media presence and attention on Kalgoorlie-Boulder because of the power outage.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Restrictions

The community remains highly intolerant of open alcohol consumption in public spaces, and even a single person seen with a bottle of alcohol can generate multiple calls to WA Police in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is subject to Section 64 of Western Australia's *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions, which are imposed by the Director of Liquor Licensing, where it is in the public interest. These restrictions:

- May limit or prohibit the sale of alcohol from licensed premises by imposing conditions on liquor licences; and
- Can be imposed on all licensed premises within a particular area of the state.



Consuming liquor on public roads and in private vehicles is an offence (except where a permit or licence applies). This includes drinking in a motor vehicle on any public road or street.

Consuming liquor in parks and other public places is an offence without the consent of the owner or controlling authority. This includes areas such as parks, reserves, beaches and so on.

Takeaway liquor may only be sold:

Liquor stores:

- Monday to Saturday 11:00am to 10:00pm
- ANZAC Day 12:00pm to 10:00pm (where ANZAC Day falls on a Monday to Saturday)
- On Sundays alcohol cannot be purchased

Hotels, taverns and clubs:

- Monday to Saturday 11:00am to midnight
- Sunday 11:00am to 10:00pm
- ANZAC Day 12:00pm to 10:00pm

Takeaway liquor may not be sold in the following quantities:

- In glass bottles of 750ml or more of beer (king browns)
- Fortified wine (i.e. port, sherry) in containers of more than one litre of alcohol
- In individual containers of more than two litres of liquor with an alcohol content of 6% or more (e.g. wine casks of more than two litres)

On 24 October 2024, the following additional restrictions were endorsed by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord for implementation:

- No packaged liquor sale of wine-based ready-to-drink (RTD) products in individual containers of one litre or greater.
- No walk-in service at drive-thru bottle shops, with exceptions for people who arrive in vehicles or known customers who reside in the immediate/nearby vicinity.
- No sale to people where it is believed they will unlawfully consume alcohol in public or commit a liquor-related offence.
- Check identification from all people in vehicles and groups entering venues together to purchase packaged liquor, ensuring Banned Drinkers Register compliance.
- No service to any person in vehicles attending drive-thru bottle shops, when intoxicated people are inside the vehicles.
- Actively use WhatsApp social media chat created – "Bottle Shop Chat Group".
- Post information regarding prolific offenders, safety issues, identification of frequent repeat customers, requests for bulk purchases, potential secondary suppliers, and sly grogging.

The following recommendations resolved by the Liquor Accord's packaged liquor subgroup in November 2024 were as follows:

- No fortified wine sales after 4:00pm.
- Section 115 licensee banning of people, distribute through the accord group – banned from one, banned from all.
- Commonsense approach to bulk purchases with restrictions implemented when required. A more focused approach between high-risk periods, including from 1 December to 28 February each year.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord

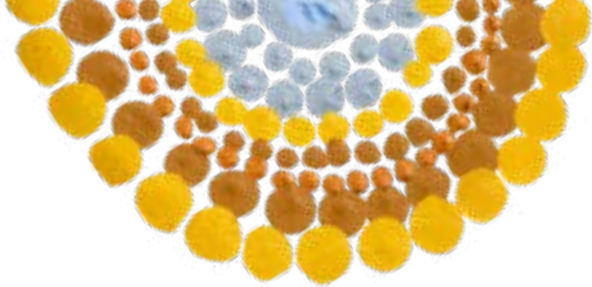
The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord was reactivated in January 2024 in response to increasing concerns about anti-social behaviour.

The Accord is a co-operative arrangement aimed at developing safe and well managed environments in and around licensed premises in a local context, with a focus on harm minimisation. It is Chaired by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor, administered by the CKB, and comprises representatives from the WA Police, liquor licensees, key government agencies, and other stakeholders.

Since its reactivation the Accord has developed a series of recommendations, specifically targeting street drinking, including further liquor restrictions and ID checks.

Packaged Liquor Sub-Group

The Packaged Liquor Sub-Group is a sub-group of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord. It is also Chaired by the Mayor and administrated by the CKB. The sub-group is comprised of all the Liquor Accord members who sell packaged liquor. The sub-group discusses issues and makes recommendations relating to packaged liquor, and these recommendations are then taken to the Liquor Accord group.



Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour

Broome

Key Points

- ACCO-led initiatives contribute significantly to well-being
- Significant police presence contributes to heightened sense of security
- Mix of initiatives is what provides the greatest impact

Trip observations Page 90

Background

The Shire of Broome is located in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and serves as a key regional centre in the state's north. With a usual resident population of approximately 16,959 people, Broome is known for its natural beauty, tourism appeal, and cultural diversity.

The town has a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 4,847 individuals identifying as Indigenous in the 2021 Census, representing 29.9% of the total population. This is substantially higher than the national baseline of around 3.2%, highlighting the cultural importance and demographic strength of Broome's First Nations community.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Broome's socio-economic profile is reflected in its score of 983. This places the Shire

slightly below the national baseline of 1,000, suggesting some degree of socio-economic disadvantage in comparison to other Australian LGA. However, in national rankings, Broome is positioned 391 out of 544 LGAs, placing it within the more advantaged half of LGA across Australia. This comparatively favourable ranking indicates that, despite a modestly lower score, Broome maintains a stronger socio-economic position relative to many regional and remote communities.

Challenges in Broome include persistent issues around anti-social behaviour, which are often linked to transitional homelessness and housing insecurity. The town attracts many people from remote communities seeking access to services, family, and community support. However, limited housing availability and inadequate short-term accommodation options can lead to overcrowding and temporary homelessness, which in turn contributes to public safety concerns and visible social issues in public spaces.

Despite these challenges, Broome remains a vital hub for the broader Kimberley region, playing a central role in service delivery, economic activity, and cultural identity. Ongoing investment in social infrastructure and targeted support programs is key to addressing the town's unique socio-economic needs and supporting long-term community well-being.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) scores for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shire of Broome are closely aligned, with Kalgoorlie-Boulder recording a score of 980 and a national rank of 378 out of 544 LGA, and Broome recording a score of 983 with a rank of 391. These results place both LGA just below the national baseline of 1,000, indicating moderate socio-economic disadvantage and a broadly comparable socio-economic profile.

The minimal difference between the two scores and ranks suggests that both communities face similar challenges across key indicators such as education, income, employment, and housing. While Broome holds a slightly higher rank nationally, the variance is not statistically significant and likely reflects marginal differences in the

underlying data rather than a meaningful divergence in overall socio-economic conditions.

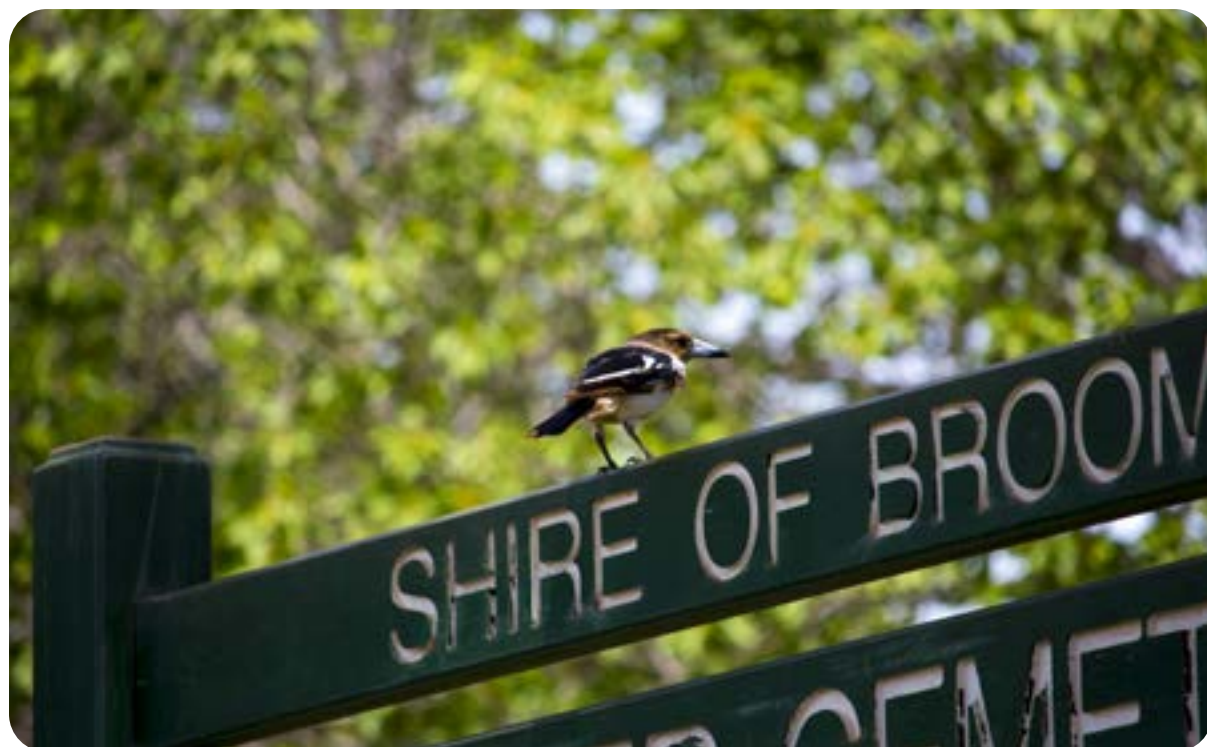
This close alignment reinforces the need for nuanced, place-based approaches in both jurisdictions. Despite their relative economic strengths and roles as regional service hubs, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Broome each contend with persistent disadvantage among specific population groups. In particular, both towns have substantial Aboriginal populations who face disproportionate barriers to health, housing, and employment, underscoring the importance of sustained, targeted intervention to address localised disadvantage and promote long-term community wellbeing.

Broome Community Perception Results

The most significant results of all the local governments researched was the community priorities for Broome, which indicated a significant perception of issues with Safety and Crime Prevention. The results demonstrate that the only priority the community clearly wants the Council to prioritise is Safety and Crime Prevention, with Housing being the second priority.

Summary of geographic variances													
	Total	Boulder	Broadwood	Hannans / Karikuria	Kalgoorlie	Lamington	Mullingar*	Piccadilly	Somerville	South Boulder	South Kalgoorlie	Viduary Heights	West Lamington
PLACE													
Responsible growth and development	37	37	41	34	37	37	33	38	40	37	37	33	30
Planning and building approvals	34	33	33	31	35	35	31	33	37	42	33	37	33
Housing	36	35	39	32	38	37	32	38	39	37	34	40	23
Local history and heritage	58	54	66	60	62	57	49	57	60	48	60	45	58
Community buildings, halls and toilets	47	46	46	47	49	45	43	50	47	48	49	41	40
Playgrounds, parks and reserves	57	53	54	55	64	57	58	57	56	55	59	47	55
Streetscapes, trees and verges	47	46	49	46	46	50	46	51	49	46	48	49	39
Footpaths and cycleways	35	37	31	37	36	33	43	32	37	30	35	28	29
Local roads	29	28	26	32	31	29	31	31	33	26	28	27	14
Public transport	49	48	49	50	50	53	41	50	49	48	48	47	41
PROSPERITY													
Place to work or operate a business	65	61	75	67	62	66	73	65	66	58	62	62	68
Economic development and job creation	51	48	62	47	50	53	41	52	54	42	52	51	54
Kalgoorlie City Centre: development / activation	40	39	41	41	41	39	35	41	43	46	39	46	37
Boulder Town Centre: development / activation	40	35	42	43	45	43	39	43	44	39	36	44	38
Access to goods and services in the local area	42	39	44	45	42	41	37	41	43	41	41	40	40
Education, training and personal development	51	50	57	51	53	50	53	49	50	47	54	48	48
Library services	67	63	76	64	69	71	64	70	67	62	68	70	64
Place to visit	50	50	50	46	51	55	59	50	53	45	49	44	41
Airport facilities and services	53	55	51	51	50	50	56	50	53	55	54	62	49

Community Perception Results (Broome)



Community Approach

Community Safety Plan

The Shire of Broome's Community Safety Plan 2021–2025 is a strategic document designed to enhance public safety and address key social issues affecting the community.

Developed through collaboration with local stakeholders, community members, and government agencies, the plan provides a framework to reduce crime, mitigate anti-social behaviour, and improve the overall sense of safety and well-being for residents and visitors.

Key focus areas of the plan include:

1. Reducing crimes such as property damage, theft, and anti-social behaviour through coordinated efforts between law enforcement, local authorities, and community groups. Strategies include enhancing public lighting, installing CCTV, and improving police presence in crime hotspots.
2. Engaging residents in safety initiatives, promoting programs such as Neighbourhood Watch, and encouraging local businesses to participate in community safety efforts. This approach fosters a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining safety.
3. Recognising that young people are vulnerable to both engaging in and being affected by anti-social behaviour, the plan promotes youth-focused programs. These include recreational activities, mentoring, and education initiatives to divert young people from criminal activities and provide them with positive life opportunities.
4. Strategies to reduce the negative impact of alcohol and drug use on the community. These efforts range from stricter enforcement of alcohol-related laws to providing access to addiction support services and education programs on substance abuse.

5. Providing services and resources for homeless individuals, Aboriginal people, and others at risk of falling into cycles of disadvantage or experiencing hardship. This includes partnerships with local Indigenous organisations to provide culturally appropriate solutions, housing services, and mental health support.

6. The need for coordinated efforts between the Shire of Broome, WA Police, government agencies, and local organisations, noting collaboration is critical in addressing complex social issues, including homelessness, alcohol-related harm, and youth disengagement.

The Broome Community Safety Plan 2021–2025 aims to create a safer, more cohesive community by addressing both immediate safety concerns and underlying social issues. It focuses on long-term prevention strategies, collaboration between stakeholders, and a proactive approach to maintaining public safety and well-being.

Sobering Up Shelter – Broome

The Sobering Up Shelter is managed by the Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation, which also operates a 12-seater van to transport individuals from the town to the shelter in the afternoon. The bus has a Perspex screen separating the driver from passengers.

The shelter accommodates up to 17 people each night, providing them with access to a shower and breakfast the next morning. However, no food is offered during the night. Residents are typically woken at 5:00am and transported back into town, with some individuals also making connections to catch the Greyhound bus.



If a person expresses a desire to go home, the shelter staff will arrange transportation via the Kularri bus service, or they may respond to requests from the bus service to pick people up. The service is highly organised and demonstrates efficient management in caring for individuals during their stay.

Kularri Patrol Services⁸

Kularri Patrol Services is operated by ACCO (Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation). Its main objective is to divert Indigenous people from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system by picking them up and taking them to a safe place. The program has primarily focused on the provision of safe transportation for intoxicated people, including transport home or to a designated safe place.

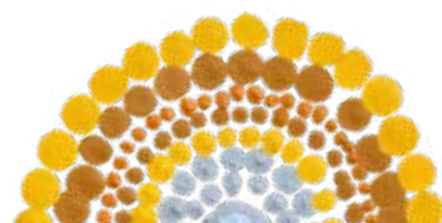
The mobile patrol team is comprised of permanent and casual staff that operate both day and night patrols, seven days a week, including public holidays.

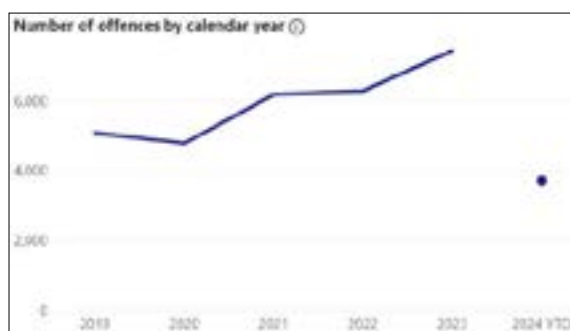
The Patrol is a non-discriminatory service but does not have the authority to enforce move on notices, has no powers of arrest, nor can it order people to use the service. Use of the Kularri Patrol service is based on people's individual choice. Kularri Patrol reserves the right to refuse entry on the bus to any person(s) who may be disruptive, abusive, threatening, or for any reason is deemed unfit to use their service.

Broome Crime Statistics

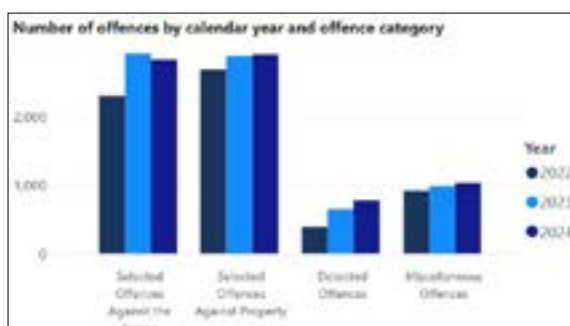
Since 2019, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Broome LGA has

⁸. Kularri Patrol Services – Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation





Number of Offences by Calendar Year (Broome LGA)



Number of Offences by Calendar Year and Offence Category (Broome)

shown a marked upward trajectory, despite an initial decline in 2020. Offences fell from 5,078 in 2019 to 4,779 in 2020, a reduction of 299 offences (-5.9%), likely influenced by COVID-19 restrictions on movement and activity.

However, from 2020 onwards, recorded offences have increased significantly each year, reaching 7,549 in 2024.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2019 to 2020

Offences decreased by 299 (-5.9%)

2020 to 2021

Offences increased by 1,401 (+29.3%)

2021 to 2022

Offences increased by 104 (+1.7%)

2022 to 2023

Offences increased by 1,158 (+18.4%)

2023 to 2024

Offences increased by 107 (+1.4%)



High-frequency offence categories in Broome include family-related assaults, non-family assaults, sexual offences, and stealing. The slight reduction in 2020 may be attributed to the pandemic's temporary impact on movement and activity in the community. The significant increases in the following years highlight the growing impact of housing pressure, limited access to services, and the high mobility of vulnerable populations.

Broome Liquor Restrictions

The Shire of Broome is subject to Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions.

The following restrictions have applied to takeaway alcohol in the town of Broome since 15 July 2024:

- The sale and supply of packaged liquor is only authorised on permitted days between the hours of 12:00pm to 8:00pm.

- The licensee must not sell packaged liquor in excess of the following quantities per customer per permitted trading day (i.e. daily quantity restrictions):
 - 11.25 litres of beer, cider, or pre-mixed spirits (e.g. one carton or a combination of each kind of liquor up to 11.25 litres) where the alcohol content does not exceed 6%; or
 - 3.75 litres of beer, cider or pre-mix spirits (or a combination of each kind up to 3.75 litres) where the alcohol content exceeds 6%; or
 - up to 1.5 litres of wine (e.g. two 750ml bottles or one 1.5 litre cask); or
 - 1 litre of spirits; or
 - 1 litre of fortified wine; or
 - a combination of:
 - 5.6 litres of beer, cider, or pre-mixed spirits (e.g. half a carton or a combination of each kind of liquor up to 5.6 litres) where the alcohol content does not exceed 6%; or
 - 1.87 litres of beer, cider or pre-mix spirits (or a combination of each kind up to 1.87 litres) where the alcohol content exceeds 6%; and
 - 1.5 litres of wine (e.g. 2 bottles or 1.5 litre cask).
- The licensee must scan identification for all customers purchasing packaged liquor for compliance with the Banned Drinkers Register and Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS).
- The sale of packaged liquor is not subject to the daily quantity restrictions where the sale is to a liquor merchant.
- Where a packaged liquor product is available in Australia in a non-glass container, the licensee is prohibited from selling the product in a glass container, except where the sale is to a liquor merchant.
- The sale of liquor is not subject to the daily quantity restrictions where a customer pre-orders liquor at least 72 hours in advance of pickup or delivery and:
 - the customer has completed a Bulk Purchase Order form; and
 - the Bulk Purchase Order form contains the following information—
 - name, address and licence number of relevant licence and signature of licensee or employee;
 - name, address, phone number of customer;
 - address where the liquor is being taken or delivered; and
 - description and quantity of liquor ordered and the reason for the bulk purchase;





- iii. a copy of the Bulk Purchase Order form is:
 - provided to the Officer in Charge of the local police station within 24 hours of the order being received by the licensee; and
 - provided to the customer; and
 - retained by the licensee and made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer.

Register of exempt sales

- a. Licensees must maintain on the licensed premises, a register of purchases made by a tourist, seafarer, station owner, pastoralist or a person operating or employed at a remote work site.
- b. The register must be made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer and must contain:
 - i. name, address and phone number of the purchaser, including the residential address of a tourist; and
 - ii. address or other area where the liquor is being taken or delivered; and

- iii. description and quantity of liquor purchased; and
- iv. where available, vehicle registration of the purchaser.

Record of liquor transactions

- a. The licensee is required to submit a return of liquor purchased from liquor merchants in Western Australia and elsewhere, by product type and quantity, to the Director of Liquor Licensing for each financial year by 31 July. The return must contain the following information:
 - i. Total amount paid or payable to the licensee and the quantity supplied in respect of:
 - 1. low alcohol liquor (2.7% ethanol by volume or less), e.g. light beer;
 - 2. mid strength alcohol liquor (2.8% to 3.5% ethanol by volume); and
 - 3. full strength alcohol liquor (3.6% ethanol by volume or more).

- ii. The information is to be provided under the headings of the following product types:
 - 1. wine, beer, and spirits (as defined in section 3 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*); and
 - 2. pre-packaged pre-mixed alcohol beverages generally known as 'ready-to-drinks (RTDs)'; and
 - 3. where the relevant licence authorises the sale of:
 - a. liquor on the premises for consumption on the premises; and
 - b. packaged liquor on and from the premises, then each of the above categories of liquor must also differentiate between liquor purchased to be sold for consumption on the licensed premises and as packaged liquor for consumption off the premises.

Other restrictions

Consuming liquor on public roads and in private vehicles is an offence (except where a permit or licence applies). This includes drinking in a motor vehicle on any public road or street.

Consuming liquor in parks and other public places is an offence without the consent of the owner or controlling authority. This includes areas such as parks, reserves, beaches and so on.

Takeaway liquor may not be sold, with the exception of wine, which can be sold in 1.5 litres casks as follows:

- in individual containers of more than one litre of liquor with an alcohol content of 6% or more
- in glass bottles of 400ml or more of beer.

Interviews

Shire of Broome Interview – 21 October 2024

Attendees –

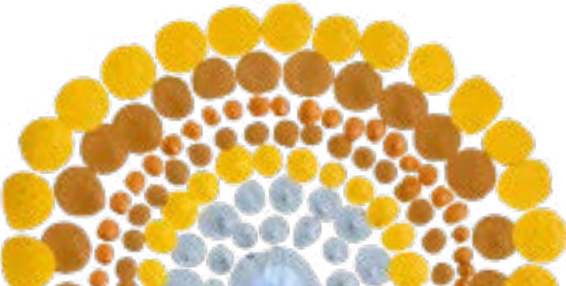
- Shire President – Chris Mitchell
- Chief Executive Officer – Sam Mastrolembro
- Manager – Place Activation and Engagement Coordinator – Cherry Lawton

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The Shire of Broome faces a range of challenges associated with transitional Aboriginal homelessness, which is heavily influenced by social, economic, and administrative factors. Notably, approximately 30% of all housing in the area is social housing. Despite this, Broome's average rates revenue per residential property is the second highest in Western Australia.

The challenges in Broome are compounded by an itinerant population that fluctuates regularly, driven in part by people coming from areas like Fitzroy and Halls Creek where alcohol restrictions are stricter. This has led to a reluctance to return to those areas, with many preferring to stay in Broome.

Efforts to manage this situation include initiatives like the Kularri Patrol, which helps with transporting people back to their homes within Broome's boundaries. Additionally, people released from prison who are supposed to return to their communities are often left without support, as funding for the "Return to Country" service was cut.



Street drinking remains a persistent issue, with the sight of public drinking and anti-social behaviour confronting visitors to the area. Joint patrols with the WA Police aim to address this issue by targeting hotspots of street drinking, a strategy that has only been in place over the past five years.

Meetings with various departments, such as housing and police, occur regularly to coordinate efforts. However, issues with staffing continuity, such as the frequent changes of Officers in Charge (OIC) of local police, hinder progress.

The relationship between the Shire and the police is largely influenced by the Superintendent, with the Shire President regularly meeting with WA Police to maintain cooperation. Further, there is a level of expectation on the Shire Rangers to issue permits within their authority, which is futile in many cases due to the inability of people to pay the infringements.

Another challenge has been the introduction of liquor restrictions across the Kimberley region, which led to an influx of people into Broome seeking more lenient conditions. The Shire is looking at working with other areas to create consistent liquor restrictions across the Kimberley.

The Kimberley Regional Group, which includes Broome, has been involved in discussions with the Minister for Police (at the time, Hon. Paul Papalia) through initiatives like Operation Regional Shield. However, there has been disappointment with the allocation of policing resources, as police officers have been shared across the entire state, rather than the concentrated effort initially proposed. This has left local

stakeholders frustrated as they continue to struggle with high levels of street drinking, homelessness, and the associated social and economic impacts.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The Shire of Broome has worked closely with service providers and relevant authorities to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness, which are compounded by alcohol and drug misuse. Several strategies have been implemented to mitigate these challenges, though the situation remains complex.

Littering is a constant issue, with the Shire allocating over \$800,000 per year towards litter collection. For theft, A-frame signs warning of theft on beaches further reflect the broader challenges in Broome.

One significant solution has been the introduction and enforcement of recent liquor restrictions. The restrictions, which include limiting the sale of heavy spirits and imposing a cap of two bottles of wine or one litre of alcohol per person per day, were put into place to reduce the availability of takeaway alcohol.

In addition to this, the Shire of Broome is also subject to Takeaway Alcohol Management (TAMS), which is designed to limit opportunities for people to purchase quantities of liquor, above what is mandated. This is used in conjunction with the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR), which is a register of people prohibited from purchasing and possessing packaged liquor in Western Australia.

Although these measures have faced resistance from some businesses, the restrictions were rolled out with the cooperation of major retailers such as Coles and Woolworths.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Western Australia was placed under Section 31 liquor restrictions, which were then lifted in November 2022, with the Shire confirming that these restrictions were beneficial to the community in terms of the reduction of anti-social behaviour. There is strong advocacy for the reimplementation of tighter controls, such as the introduction of a cashless debit card system similar to the one in Kununurra, which has been suggested as a potential game-changer for Broome in managing alcohol-related issues.

In response to the rise in anti-social behaviour, particularly due to sly grogging (illegal alcohol sales), the Shire and its partners have intensified their efforts to address the associated challenges. Sly grogging has become a major issue, and liquor restrictions have inadvertently led to an increase in drug use.

Methamphetamines have become more prevalent and are an accessible alternative to alcohol, with reports indicating that methamphetamines can be obtained for as little as \$10 per needle, exacerbating the public health crisis. This shift in substance use has resulted in a rise in needle-stick injuries, which has prompted the Health Department to implement harm-reduction strategies such as needle exchange programs.

Another key challenge the Shire has tackled is child welfare. Many children are not receiving adequate nutrition due to the socio-economic conditions tied to homelessness and substance abuse within the community. In response, initiatives like 'Feed the Little Children'⁹ have been established, continuously fundraising to provide food for children in need. This Community-led effort addresses one of the most immediate and visible impacts of transitional homelessness.

While significant steps have been taken to address anti-social behaviour linked to transitional homelessness, the challenges



persist due to the complexity of substance abuse, community compliance with liquor restrictions, and the emerging issues of drug use and child welfare.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The Shire of Broome has established several partnership models with government agencies and service providers aimed at addressing homelessness and associated anti-social behaviour. However, these partnerships face significant challenges, particularly when it comes to the coordination and delivery of support services.

A key partnership model that has seen success is the collaboration between the Shire and the Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation, particularly in the operation of the Kularri Patrol. The Shire provides financial support for this program, contributing \$20,000 from its annual budget. The Kularri Patrol operates a bus service that helps transport individuals to safer locations, mitigating anti-social behaviour, until 9:00pm weekdays and 7:00pm on weekends.

⁹. Feed the Little Children – Serving food, sparking hope, seeing change



In addition to managing public behaviour, the Shire has partnered with the Department of Housing to address issues of overcrowding and housing shortages, both of which contribute to homelessness. The Department works closely with the Shire by providing advance notice of evictions and property shutdowns, allowing the Shire to better anticipate potential increases in homelessness.

The Department of Housing has implemented policies to encourage responsible tenancy, including restrictions on alcohol consumption in housing units. Tenants are prohibited from drinking alcohol within their homes, which has had some success in maintaining order within these properties. However, the ongoing housing shortage and the challenges of managing transient populations mean that overcrowding and related social issues persist.

Anti-social behaviour related to shoplifting has also been a major concern, particularly

for local businesses. Law enforcement agencies address repeat offenders through newly implemented legislation. The “three strikes” rule targets individuals who are repeatedly caught shoplifting, ensuring that repeat offenders face jail time after multiple offences.

While these partnership models demonstrate a coordinated effort to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour, the unique challenges faced by Broome, such as a transient population and limited housing resources, mean that solutions require ongoing collaboration and adaptability.

Additionally, the issues seen in regional areas like Broome are not mirrored in metropolitan areas, highlighting the need for region-specific approaches to tackling homelessness.

Local government’s role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Local government plays a critical role in addressing anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness, particularly through collaborative efforts with state agencies and law enforcement.

In Broome, the Shire works closely with the WA Police and other stakeholders to implement community safety initiatives. These efforts focus on addressing hot spots of anti-social behaviour, especially in areas where homelessness is prevalent. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives can be undermined when other agencies, such as the Department of Communities, provide temporary solutions like tents and sleeping bags, which may inadvertently encourage longer-term street presence.

The Shire has observed that itinerant populations increase significantly before the Christmas period and during the wet season. This influx puts added pressure on local services and increases instances of anti-social behaviour. For example, the Broome

Visitor Centre, which is located near an area where people congregate at night, had to install a fence around its premises to prevent people accessing the facility.

Affordable housing is another area where local government has a role in advocacy. The shortage of housing, coupled with the lack of air-conditioned accommodation provided by the Department of Communities, exacerbates the challenges faced by vulnerable groups, including seniors.

Community safety and crime prevention are top concerns for Broome, as reflected in the community perception scorecard in 2020, 2022 and 2024. The Shire continues to work closely with local police to develop a targeted approach to reducing anti-social behaviour in identified hot spots. However, 80% of the 111 CCTV cameras installed across the town to monitor these areas have been vandalised or have reached end of life and are no longer operational. The Shire believes the State government should provide ongoing funding and maintenance to ensure this essential infrastructure remains functional and effective.

Additional liquor restrictions across the Kimberley region including Broome have been suggested as another measure to address anti-social behaviour, with the Shire expressing strong support for such restrictions. Local government sees this as an effective strategy to curb alcohol-related incidents, which are a major driver of transitional homelessness and associated social issues.

Trials and programs implemented to address homelessness in your Shire

Several trials and programs have been implemented in the Shire of Broome to address homelessness, though the challenges remain significant.

One of the notable efforts has been the revitalisation of Chinatown. The Shire upgraded this key area, improving lighting and public spaces. Whilst there was an initial concern that these improvements

might inadvertently attract homeless individuals to sleep in the area, the increased lighting has deterred this.

WA Police (Broome) Interview – 21 October 2024

Attendees –

- Superintendent Steve Thompson

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Broome Police have highlighted several challenges associated with transitional Aboriginal homelessness and anti-social behaviour, drawing comparisons with other areas such as Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Kununurra, and Derby. Each area employs a range of strategies to manage these issues, particularly through liquor control and police engagement, offering valuable insights for Broome’s ongoing efforts.

Broome takes a highly structured approach to managing anti-social behaviour, particularly around alcohol consumption. The Broome Police proactively target known areas of harm resulting from alcohol, to enforce the *Liquor Control Act 1988*. The result of this is a reduction of street drinking, with people moving into homes to continue drinking. It has also changed the public perception in Broome about street drinking, which is being raised less often with the WA Police.

Broome lacks camping areas such as Boulder Camp, with people forced to sleep in public spaces such as parks and other open spaces such as sporting ovals. There are also incidents of disturbances in homes which force people to sleep on the streets as well.





Youth Offending and Anti-social Behaviour

Youth offending remains a significant challenge in Broome, with offenders as young as 13 engaging in anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, and car theft. This is younger than the offending cohort typically seen in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, where offenders are usually in the 16 to 17-year old range. Despite numerous youth services, complex issues at home, including alcohol-related problems, continue to drive youth crime in Broome.

Programs like the SAFE SPACE or Ngurra Buru initiative provide a safe house for vulnerable children and have been promising.¹⁰ However, more support is needed, particularly in terms of funding for food and other basic needs for these children.

Methamphetamine Use and Public Health Concerns

Broome has prevalent methamphetamine use, although it remains less widespread than in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The use of needles for drug consumption is an escalating public health concern, with the local health department advocating for needle exchange programs and better education on safe disposal.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Broome Police have implemented a range of strategies to address transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour. High-visibility policing has been particularly effective, with officers engaging groups early in the day, before alcohol consumption escalates.

The use of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to work alongside the Kullarri Patrol has also proven to be beneficial. These CLOs engage with community members, helping to prevent issues before they arise. Broome's CLOs will soon be increasing from one to four officers. The Kullarri Patrol is effective for the WA Police as Officers can call for pickups when required to take people home.

Broome has recently implemented liquor restrictions through conditions imposed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) on local liquor outlet licences. These restrictions limit the supply of alcohol by enforcing a later start and earlier finish to trading hours (midday to 8:00pm) and placing caps on purchases (e.g. two bottles of wine per

person). While these measures help reduce overall alcohol availability, they have limited impact on point of sale intervention (POSI) operations conducted by police.

POSI operations involve police officers being stationed at bottle shops to verify identification and assess individuals' criminal histories before they are permitted to purchase alcohol. These checks are not limited to family violence history but extend to any relevant criminal background that may trigger action under Section 115 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*. This provision allows officers to refuse entry to licensed premises to individuals convicted of offences involving unlawful drugs or violence that are punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding three years, as well as to those with histories of theft or prostitution.

In response to periods of significant anti-social behaviour in Broome, police may implement POSI operations to help stabilise the situation and provide respite for frontline officers. These operations are extremely resource-intensive and are typically reserved for times when multiple policing issues are occurring simultaneously, not solely in response to family violence incidents. While POSI powers have been used in cases involving domestic violence to address the strong correlation between alcohol and harm, their broader application is guided by the overall demand on policing resources and the scale of community disruption.

Cooperation from bottle shops has been strong and the Broome police believe there is a direct correlation between liquor consumption and anti-social behaviour. Tourists are permitted additional alcohol if they can demonstrate they are leaving town.

Both Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Broome have leveraged technology to aid in managing anti-social behaviour. According to the Broome Police, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has one of the best CCTV systems in regional Western Australia, offering crucial support for both real-time crime prevention and post-incident investigations.

CCTV and Policing Technology

In Broome, the existing network of cameras is insufficient, with many either outdated or non-functional. Expanding the CCTV network and linking it to the police operations room could significantly improve surveillance and response times in Broome, similar to Kalgoorlie-Boulder's model.

CCTV across Broome in residential areas should also be considered, like the CCTV Partnership Program that the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was investigating in 2022 to provide a contribution to home and business security systems. The Broome Police believe that CCTV off-the-shelf solutions have significantly improved in the last two years, making this a more cost-effective option for enhanced CCTV in neighbourhoods and CBDs.

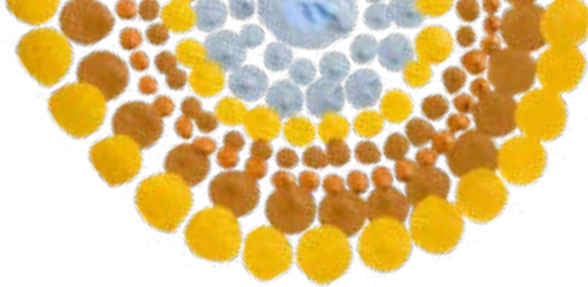
Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Interagency collaboration

In Broome, police have worked closely with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness. Broome benefits from more structured and collaborative partnerships with ACCOs that are taking the lead in caring for their community members.

This has allowed for more consistent engagement with the community, including initiatives to emerge such as the Kullarri patrol. These efforts, alongside the newly introduced liquor restrictions and high-visibility policing, have helped mitigate some of the anti-social behaviour seen in public spaces.

¹⁰ Broome Night Space helping community and youth stay safe | Western Australian Government



Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour

Port Hedland

Key Points

- Port Hedland Liquor Strategy Group extremely effective
- ACCOs providing high level of service
- Karratha Police have dedicated liquor officer

Trip observations [Page 91](#)

Background

Port Hedland is a coastal town located in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and a major hub for the state's iron ore industry. With a usual resident population of 15,684 people (2021 Census), the town plays a significant role in supporting regional economic development through mining, logistics, and export activities.

The town also has a substantial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with 2,916 individuals identifying as Indigenous, representing 18.6% of the total population. This figure is considerably higher than the national baseline of 3.2%, underscoring the cultural and demographic importance of Aboriginal people in the area.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Port Hedland's socio-economic standing is reflected in its SEIFA score of 997, which sits

just below the national baseline of 1,000. However, its national rank of 420 out of 544 LGA places it in the more advantaged third of councils across Australia. This positioning suggests that, relative to many other regions, Port Hedland experiences comparatively lower levels of overall socio-economic disadvantage, despite localised challenges.

One of the key issues facing Port Hedland is transitional Aboriginal homelessness. The town attracts individuals from remote communities seeking employment, access to services, and connections with family. Yet constrained housing supply, high living costs, and limited short-term accommodation often result in overcrowding and housing instability, which contribute to visible public challenges such as anti-social behaviour and public intoxication.

To address these pressures, government agencies, service providers, and Aboriginal organisations have collaborated to implement a range of culturally responsive programs. These initiatives focus on

improving access to housing, mental health supports, and social services, while promoting stronger partnerships across sectors to support vulnerable community members.

Despite these challenges, Port Hedland continues to play a critical economic role in Western Australia, serving as a major export gateway and regional centre. The strength and resilience of its diverse population, particularly its Aboriginal community, are central to ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

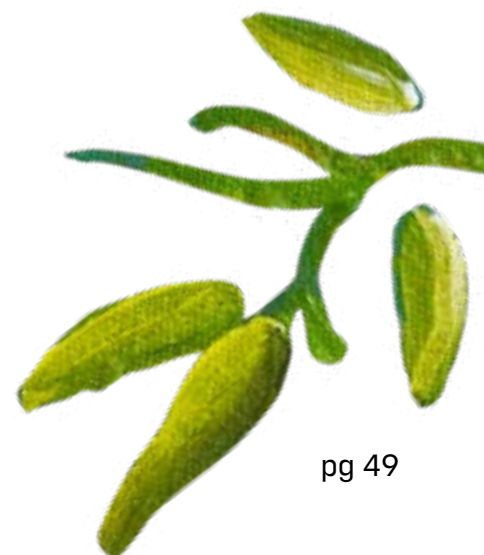
In comparison, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378 out of 544 LGA. While this score places Kalgoorlie-Boulder slightly below the national baseline of 1,000, its position in the more advantaged half of all LGAs reflects a moderate level of socio-economic resilience. By contrast, Port Hedland records a slightly higher SEIFA score of 997 and a national rank of 420. Although the score difference is relatively minor, Port Hedland's higher ranking suggests it fares marginally better in relative socio-economic positioning across Australia.

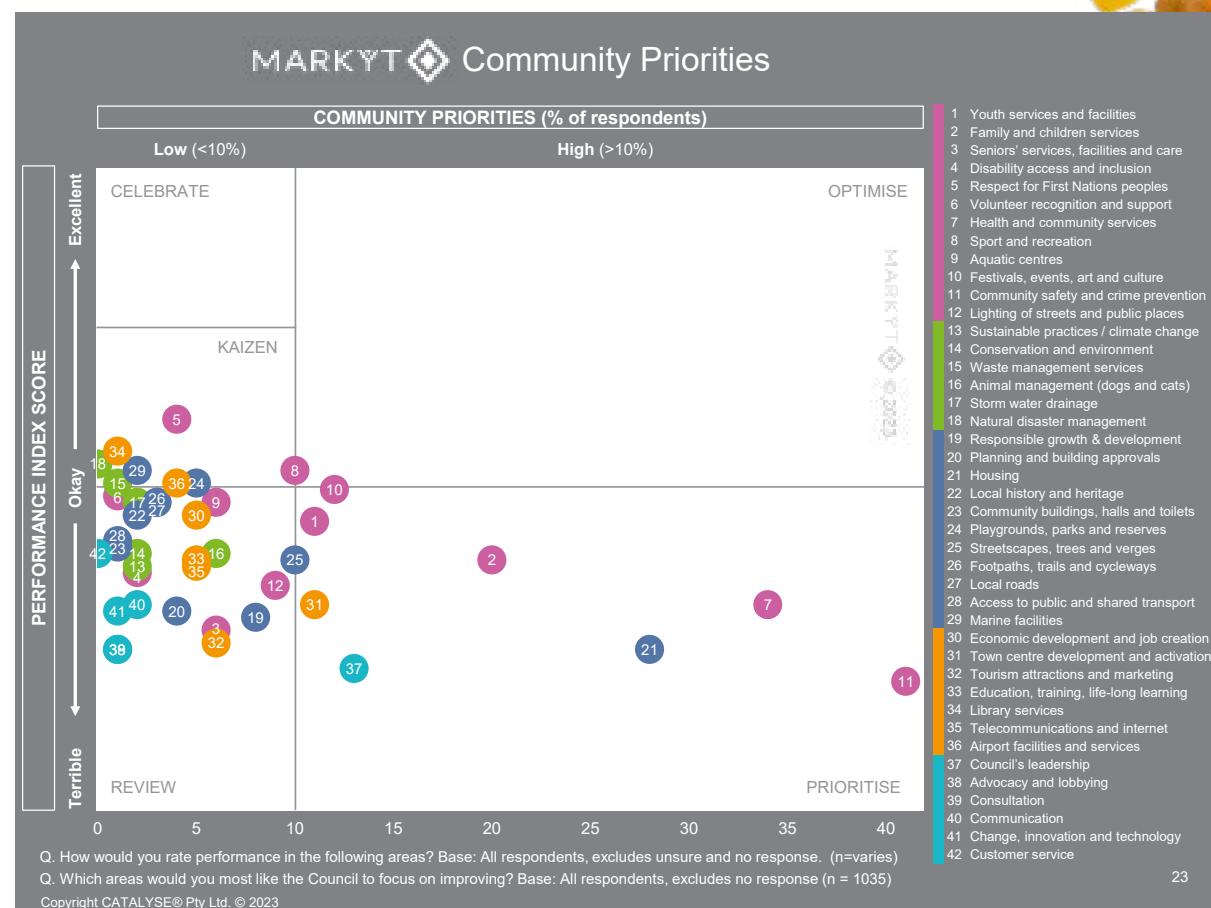
This comparison highlights the nuances of interpreting SEIFA data. Rankings are not derived from raw scores in isolation but are shaped by how each LGA compares within the national distribution. Kalgoorlie-Boulder's lower score and rank may reflect broader structural and social factors influencing local outcomes in areas such as education, employment, and household income. Conversely, Port Hedland's marginally higher score and more favourable rank suggest relatively stronger performance across key indicators, despite the town's known challenges with housing stress and transitional Aboriginal homelessness.



Both towns share common features as resource-based economies with critical roles in Western Australia's regional development. However, their economic strength is often offset by high living costs, limited-service capacity, and housing constraints, factors that contribute to persistent socio-economic disadvantage within vulnerable population groups.

These dynamics reinforce the importance of moving beyond surface-level economic indicators when assessing community wellbeing. While SEIFA rankings offer valuable insight into relative advantage, they must be interpreted alongside local context. In both Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Port Hedland, place-based, culturally responsive strategies remain essential to addressing the complex intersection of economic opportunity, social equity, and community resilience.





Community Perception Results (Port Hedland)

Port Hedland Community Perception Results

Similar to Broome, the Town of Port Hedland's number one priority is Community Safety and Crime Prevention.

Community Approach

Community Safety Plan

The Port Hedland Community Safety Plan outlines a strategic framework aimed at enhancing public safety, reducing crime, and addressing social issues that affect the town's residents and visitors. This plan, developed in consultation with local stakeholders, community members, and government agencies, focuses on creating a safer and more cohesive environment through proactive and collaborative initiatives.

Key objectives of the plan include:

1. Crime prevention through addressing prevalent issues such as property crime, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour through targeted interventions like increased surveillance, lighting improvements, and police visibility in high-risk areas.
2. Community engagement through encouragement of local involvement in safety initiatives, promoting neighbourhood watch programs, and fostering partnerships between the community, local government, and law enforcement.
3. Addressing the root causes of anti-social behaviour, particularly among youth, by investing in recreational programs, mentoring, and support services aimed at diverting individuals away from criminal activity and providing alternative pathways.

4. Support for vulnerable populations by focusing on assisting transient and homeless populations, particularly Aboriginal people, by providing access to support services, mental health resources, and housing programs, aiming to reduce instances of public intoxication and other forms of anti-social behaviour.
5. Strengthening coordination between the Town of Port Hedland, WA Police, local businesses, Indigenous organisations, and non-government agencies to ensure a unified approach to community safety.
6. Working to reduce alcohol-related harm and substance abuse through targeted policies, enforcement of liquor restrictions, and providing support for addiction services.

The Port Hedland Community Safety Plan prioritises long-term, sustainable strategies aimed at addressing both the immediate and underlying causes of safety concerns. By promoting community cohesion, cultural sensitivity, and a strong local response, the plan seeks to make Port Hedland a safer, more inclusive town.

Community Services – Street Presence

Port Hedland benefits from dedicated community organisations such as Bloodwood Tree Association Inc. which plays a critical role in addressing homelessness.

Bloodwood Tree Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation based in Port Hedland, primarily serving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Pilbara region. The organisation provides a wide range of support services aimed at improving the social, economic, and cultural well-being of these communities. Key services include:

1. Assisting individuals in gaining employment and developing skills through training programs, job search assistance, resume writing, and providing necessary work-related licences and certifications.

2. Counselling, referral, and support services for individuals dealing with alcohol and drug issues, including community outreach and education on substance misuse.
3. Support to people facing homelessness or housing insecurity, including temporary accommodation, advocacy for social housing, and assistance in finding stable housing solutions.
4. Various cultural programs which help foster a sense of community, identity, and cultural pride among Indigenous people, promoting cultural awareness and leadership.
5. Practical assistance like transport to medical appointments and other essential services, particularly for remote and disadvantaged individuals.

Port Hedland Crime Statistics

Since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Port Hedland LGA has significantly increased, rising from 2,649 offences in 2020 to 4,104 in 2024. This escalation in crime is particularly relevant in the context of rising anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

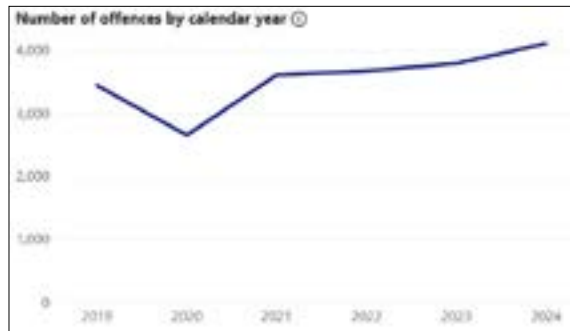
2019 to 2020
Offences decreased by 789 (-22.9%)

2020 to 2021
Offences increased by 956 (+36.1%)

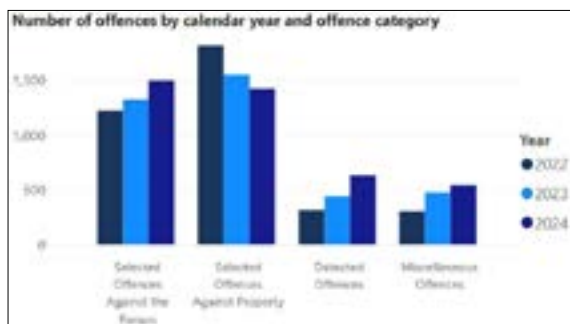
2021 to 2022
Offences increased by 63 (+1.7%)

2022 to 2023
Offences increased by 120 (+3.3%)

2023 to 2024
Offences increased by 316 (+8.3%)



Number of offences per calendar year (Port Hedland LGA)



Number of offences by calendar year and offence category (Port Hedland LGA)

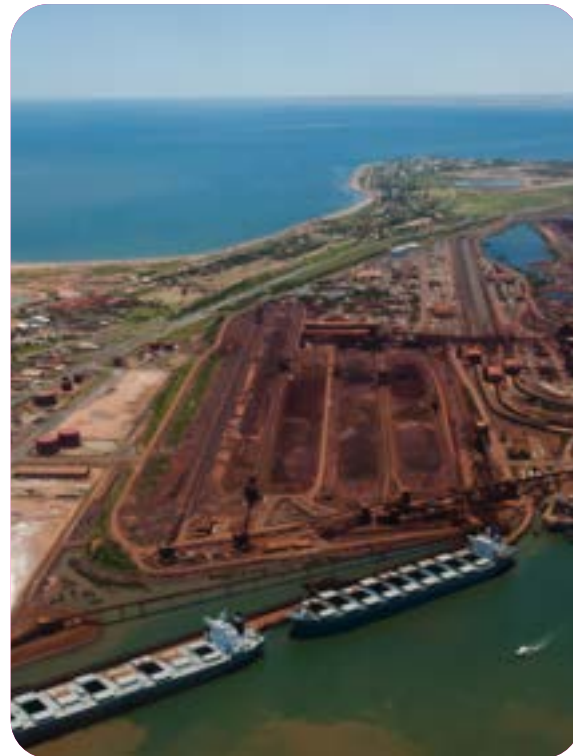
High-frequency offence categories in Port Hedland include family-related assaults, non-family assaults, sexual offences, and stealing. The sharp drop in 2020 may reflect the effects of COVID-19 restrictions and reduced movement within the region. However, consistent increases in the years since suggest growing social pressures related to population mobility, housing stress, and limited access to services.

Port Hedland Liquor Restrictions

The Town of Port Hedland is also subject to Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions.

Consuming liquor on public roads and in private vehicles is an offence (except where a permit or licence applies). This includes drinking in a motor vehicle on any public road or street.

Consuming liquor in parks and other public places is an offence without the consent of the owner or controlling authority. This includes areas such as parks, reserves, beaches and so on.



Takeaway liquor may only be sold at liquor stores, hotels, taverns and clubs (members only) as follows:

- Monday to Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm
- ANZAC Day 12:00pm to 8pm
- On Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day alcohol cannot be purchased

Takeaway liquor may only be sold in the following quantities from liquor stores, hotels, taverns or clubs (members only):

- The sale of cask wine is prohibited.
- The sale of beer in glass bottles of 750ml or more is prohibited.
- Takeaway liquor may only be sold or supplied knowingly by a licensee in the following quantities:
 - low alcohol liquor where the liquor contains less than 3.6% concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius in any quantity is unrestricted;

- where the liquor contains from 3.6% to 7% concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius a maximum cumulative quantity of 12 litres per customer per day, e.g. one carton of 30 cans at 375ml each;
- where the liquor contains greater than 7% but no more than 19.9% concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius a maximum cumulative quantity of 2.25 litres per customer per day, e.g. three bottles of wine at 750ml each;
- where the liquor contains greater than or equal to 20% concentration of ethanol at 20 degrees Celsius, a maximum cumulative quantity of one litre per customer per day;
- in the case of fortified wine nothing below a \$25 price point.

A person may purchase liquor in more than one category provided the limit for each category is not exceeded.

Exemptions

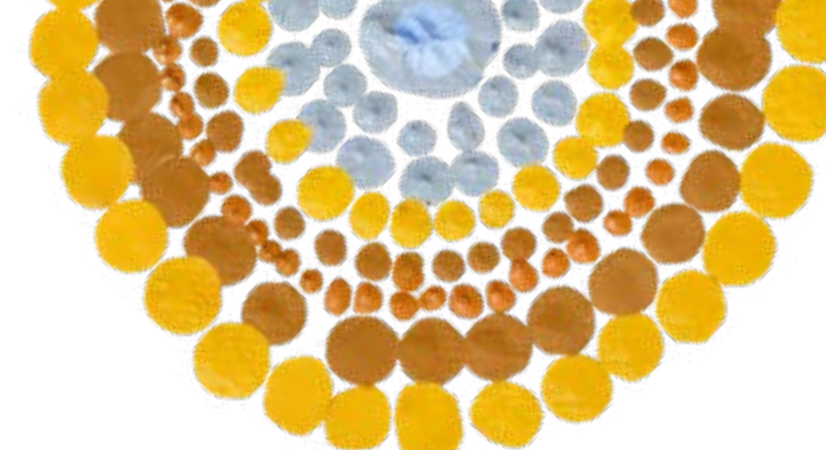
Exemption 1

The sale and supply of takeaway liquor is only permitted to a person who is present at the time of purchase on the licensed premises conducting the sale unless the person is:

- the liquor merchant;
- the station owner, pastoralist, person operating a remote work site, or seafarers. The sale can be to an employee that places and/or collects the order on behalf of the business and only on the conditions that:
 - the person confirms that the liquor is to be consumed at a station, the pastoral property, remote work site or on a ship;

- the licensee maintains on the licensed premises a register of purchase which must be made for inspection at the request of an authorised officer; and
- the register contains the following information in relation to the person: name, address to which the liquor is being delivered/taken, and description and quantity of liquor ordered.
- a person who has pre-ordered the liquor at least three days in advance of pick-up and delivery and only on the conditions that:
 - the person has personally completed and signed a bulk purchase order form; a bulk purchase order is any order above that allowed to be purchased under clause 3 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*;
 - the bulk purchase order form contains the following information in relation to bulk purchase: name of purchaser, address and phone number of purchaser, address to which the liquor is being delivered/taken, description and quantity of liquor ordered and the reason for the bulk purchase, the purchaser's signature; and





- the bulk purchase order form is retained by the licensee for six months and made available for inspection at the licensed premises at the request of an authorised officer within 48 hours and a copy is provided to the local police within 48 hours of receipt.

The sale of liquor under 'Exemption 1' is not subject to the quantity restriction set out above.

Exemption 2

The quantity restrictions set out above do not apply to the sale and supply of takeaway liquor to a person whom the licensee reasonably believes to be a bona fide tourist. The licensee must record the following information where a sale is made under this exemption:

- the name of purchaser;
- the local address or residential address and phone number of the purchaser;
- the vehicle registration of the purchaser;

- the address/location to which the liquor is being taken;
- the description and quantity of liquor ordered;
- the purchaser's signature.

This information is to be provided to the local police within 24 hours and retained by the licensee for six months for inspection at the request of an authorised officer.

Other restrictions

- The sale and supply of liquor for consumption on the premises is prohibited before 11:00am except where it is sold ancillary to a meal or to a lodger.
- Taxi and bus drivers cannot purchase packaged liquor on behalf of their passengers/customers.

Interviews

WA Police (Port Hedland) Interview – 22 October 2024

Attendees –

- Senior Sergeant Vance Ballerini
- Detective Senior Sergeant Ben Taylor

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Transitional Aboriginal homelessness in South Hedland presents unique challenges that are tied to the transient nature of the population.

Many individuals come from surrounding regions and communities, arriving with no pre-arranged accommodation. This movement is often motivated by the search for employment, family ties, or access to services, yet it results in individuals frequently couch-surfing, living in overcrowded homes, or, in some cases, sleeping rough.

Alcohol consumption plays a significant role in the homelessness crisis, exacerbating family violence and contributing to anti-social behaviour. Many incidents of street drinking and public disturbances are linked to transitional homelessness, and while these behaviours may not always be violent, they create a perception of disorder and unease in the community.

People who are homeless often remain disconnected from their home communities due to logistical challenges leading them to stay even when the option to return is available. This disconnect highlights a critical gap in support systems designed to facilitate the reintegration of homeless individuals back into their home environments.

This population also faces difficulties in accessing consistent support services, with limited short-term accommodation options available. For instance, there is no dedicated town camp to accommodate short-term needs.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

To address the anti-social behaviour associated with homelessness, South Hedland Police have worked closely with local service providers and businesses to create a multi-faceted strategy.

One of the key solutions is the Port Hedland Liquor Strategy¹¹ launched in 2020 and comprised of licensees and the WA Police. On a daily basis, liquor outlets receive text messages with an updated list of people who are banned from buying alcohol in the town, or who may be trying to buy large quantities of alcohol to sell for profit.

Communication through a WhatsApp group for licensees of liquor stores and bottle shops allows store owners and the police to communicate in real time about disturbances at specific locations, which enables the effective enforcement of bans and restrictions. If an individual causes trouble at one location, they are denied service at other outlets, limiting the availability of alcohol to those engaging in anti-social behaviour. This community-based approach has led to a notable decrease in alcohol-fuelled incidents.

In addition, South Hedland Police, in conjunction with the licensees, implement additional voluntary liquor restrictions that have had a direct positive impact on reducing anti-social behaviour. Licensees are consulted before making decisions about restricting hours or closing outlets early, particularly during periods of identified increased risk, which includes funerals or when large amounts of money, like land payments, are disbursed, or there is general anti-social behaviour or family feuding. Any decision to restrict hours is made with community safety at the forefront. As an example, sometimes bottle shops are closed as early as 5:00pm.

These restrictions, often advertised to the wider community a minimum of three days in advance on social media, are generally well-received and have significantly reduced the demand for police intervention during these high-risk periods. The proactive nature of these measures has proven effective in preventing alcohol-related incidents before they escalate.

¹¹ Pilbara Liquor Stores and Police Unite in Major Anti-Social Crackdown – Liquor Stores Association of WA





Town of Port Hedland

The success of the Liquor Strategy can be attributed to the working relationship between the managers of the bottle shops and liquor premises and the South Hedland Police. The managers have taken on a community well-being approach to the regulation of hours to ensure the responsible service of alcohol.

Service providers play an active role in managing transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour. Patrols organised by ACCOs run until 8:00pm in the evening, ensuring that vulnerable individuals, especially those affected by alcohol, are safely taken home or to a sobering up shelter. The sobering up shelter operates seven days a week, offering overnight care and breakfast to those in need.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The South Hedland Police have established several partnership models with government

agencies, local businesses, and service providers to address the dual issues of transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour.

Collaboration with the Town of Port Hedland has led to the development of an advanced CCTV system throughout the town, with the next stage of rollout to be providing police with real-time access to footage from their mobile phones. This solution will ensure that incidents of anti-social behaviour can be monitored and responded to swiftly, enhancing the overall safety of the community. The town has been particularly proactive in supporting the use of mobile CCTV trailers (two) which can be deployed to problem areas as needed.

Another important partnership is with local ACCOs. These organisations provide support by helping people repair their vehicles or arranging bus transport back to their communities. This transportation assistance is particularly important for the transient homeless population, who may be unable to return home without outside help. While these efforts do not fully solve the problem

of street presence, they help mitigate some of its effects by offering solutions to individuals who might otherwise remain stranded in South Hedland.

In addition to these partnerships, the police work closely with licensed premises through a community-based liquor strategy (accord) which involves regular meetings with licensees, where decisions are made collectively to address issues such as sly grogging (illegal alcohol sales) and alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The Town of Port Hedland's role includes ensuring access to a well-maintained CCTV system and litter clean-up around key areas, including shopping centres. The Council recently approved for shop owners to install roller doors, to reduce incidents of vandalism in hot spot areas.

Trials and programs implemented to address homelessness in your Shire

The town has one sobering up shelter which is another critical resource in the town's approach to homelessness. The shelter operates seven days a week and provides a safe, alcohol-free environment for individuals to recover overnight. Alongside providing a place to sleep, the shelter offers breakfast in the morning, ensuring that those in need are given some basic support.

While these shelters only offer short-term relief, they play a vital role in addressing the immediate needs of the homeless population and reducing the strain on police resources. The provision of these services, although limited in capacity, demonstrates a commitment to addressing homelessness in a compassionate and practical way.

Of the crime statistics for South Hedland, which offences are related to homelessness

In South Hedland there is a clear link between transitional homelessness or

street presence and certain types of crime, particularly those related to alcohol consumption and youth offending.

Many of the crimes committed in the town, such as stealing, burglaries, and motor vehicle theft, are perpetrated by juveniles, some of whom come from transient or unstable housing situations. These young people often have limited support networks, usually do not engage with support services, and may turn to crime as a means of coping with their circumstances.

Homelessness, particularly among youth, creates conditions where individuals are more likely to engage in petty crime, especially if they are disconnected from school or employment opportunities.

Alcohol-related offences are also closely tied to transitional homelessness. Public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and family violence are common issues, particularly within the Aboriginal homeless population. These crimes are often fuelled by excessive alcohol consumption, which is exacerbated by the easy availability of alcohol in the town.



However, the community-based liquor restrictions that have been implemented have proven effective in reducing the frequency of these offences. By limiting alcohol availability during high-risk periods, such as funerals or when significant amounts of money are distributed, or when there is an increase in anti-social behaviour or family feuding, the town has seen a drop in alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Visitors, often family members or community connections, may lack access to adequate accommodation and are left with no option but to rough sleep or couch-surf during their stay. This situation creates a transient population that can contribute to public disturbances, street drinking, and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The absence of short-term housing exacerbates the problem, as people often remain in the town for extended periods, especially during visiting hours or when inmates are released.

While there are broader socio-economic factors contributing to homelessness-related crime, such as unemployment and poverty, the strategies employed by the South Hedland Police and local government have helped to manage and reduce the impact of homelessness on crime rates.

The use of technology, community patrols, and partnerships with service providers are essential tools in this effort, but there is still a need for long-term solutions that address the root causes of homelessness to reduce its connection to criminal activity.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Detective Senior Sergeant Ben Taylor has recently moved to South Hedland from Kalgoorlie-Boulder and was able to provide some context in the differences between the two areas, particularly in how each town manages homelessness, anti-social behaviour, and alcohol-related issues.



This trend is particularly pronounced in towns like Kalgoorlie-Boulder, where the large transient population and isolation from other communities increases the strain on local resources. The challenge, therefore, is not only to address transitional homelessness but also to consider the broader social impact of regional prisons on local towns, highlighting the need for improved accommodation and services for visitors to reduce the negative community impacts.

One of the most significant distinctions is the larger transient population in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which has been noted as a contributing factor to higher levels of street drinking and street presence. Kalgoorlie-Boulder has two distinct central business districts compared to Port Hedland's, making it more challenging for authorities to manage anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

The street frontage in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is larger, which increases visibility and creates greater public concern over street presence and street drinking. In contrast, Port Hedland's smaller CBD and more concentrated layout allows for a tighter level of control and monitoring, particularly through effective use of CCTV systems.

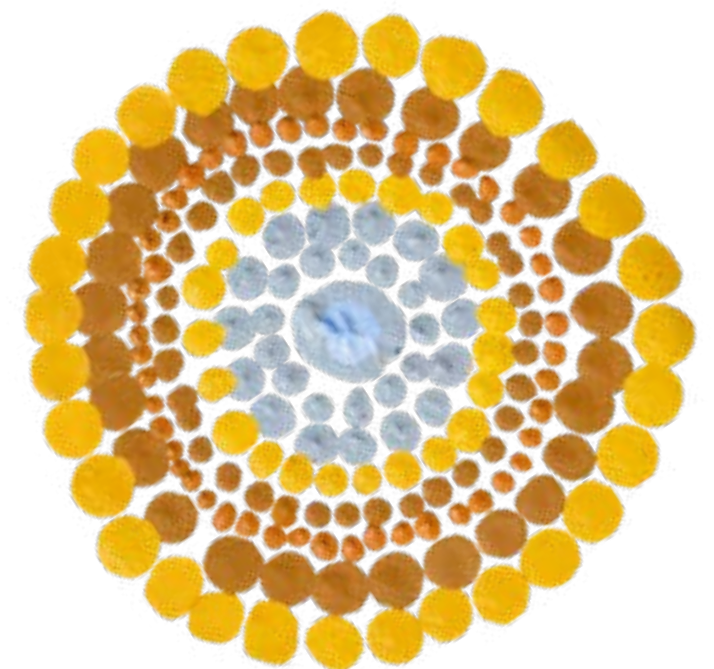
Both towns struggle with alcohol-related issues, but they approach these challenges differently.

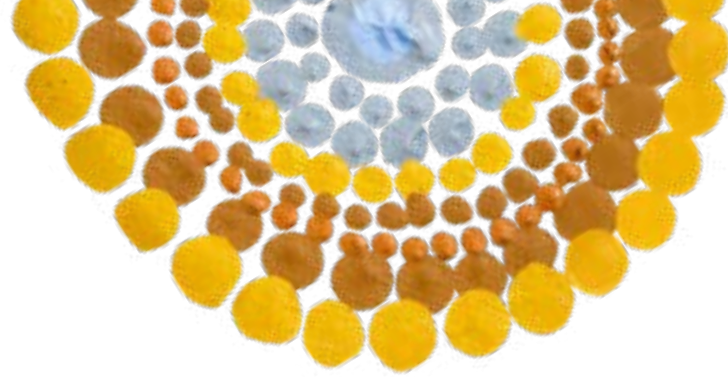
Port Hedland has implemented voluntary liquor restrictions, particularly around high-risk events like funerals, which has led to noticeable reductions in anti-social behaviour

While both towns face similar issues related to alcohol, youth crime is a more significant problem in Port Hedland. Many youth crimes, such as shoplifting, burglaries, and motor vehicle theft, are linked to juvenile offenders. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder experiences less youth crime but faces challenges with a larger transient adult population.



While both towns have community services in place, the higher population of transient individuals in Kalgoorlie-Boulder strains these resources more significantly. Additionally, Kalgoorlie-Boulder's location and its role as a service hub contributes to a larger, more complex homeless population, further differentiating it from the Town of Port Hedland.





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour Karratha

Key Points

- Significant investment from mining sector in community
- Relationship between mining sector and community has enabled programs and infrastructure development
- Liquor accords led by licensees in collaboration with WA Police deliver better outcomes

Trip observations Page 91

Background

Karratha is a regional city located in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, recognised for its strategic role in supporting the mining, oil, and gas industries. With a usual resident population of 22,199 people (2021 Census), Karratha has experienced sustained growth, underpinned by its strong ties to the resource sector and its contribution to the economic development of both the region and the state.

The city is also home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with 2,594 individuals identifying as Indigenous, accounting for 11.6% of the population. This is notably higher than the national average of 3.2%, reflecting the important cultural and historical presence of Aboriginal people in the area.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Karratha's socio-economic standing is reflected in its SEIFA score of 1,035.

This score places the city above the national baseline, indicating relatively high levels of socio-economic advantage in areas such as income, employment, and education. Karratha holds a SEIFA rank of 470 out of 544 LGA, positioning it among the more advantaged communities in Australia.

The city's higher standard of living is largely supported by its resource-driven economy, which has brought investment, infrastructure, and employment opportunities to the region. However, like many remote regional centres, Karratha also faces unique challenges related to housing affordability, cost of living, and access to services for vulnerable populations.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

In contrast to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378 out of 544 LGA, Karratha records a higher SEIFA score of 1,035 and a higher national rank of 470. Both the score and rank indicate that Karratha is comparatively more advantaged.

Overall, both centres are economically significant and demonstrate comparatively strong socio-economic outcomes. However, Karratha holds a higher national SEIFA rank, indicating a broader level of relative advantage when assessed against other LGA across Australia.

Importantly, this higher ranking does not imply uniformly equitable conditions within the community. Like Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Karratha continues to face persistent disadvantage among specific population groups, particularly residents experiencing housing insecurity, unemployment, and limited access to essential services.

Karratha Community Survey Perception Results

The City of Karratha's 2024 Annual Community Survey was completed in May 2024 with 2,075 people completing the survey.

Service areas that required improvement were identified as:

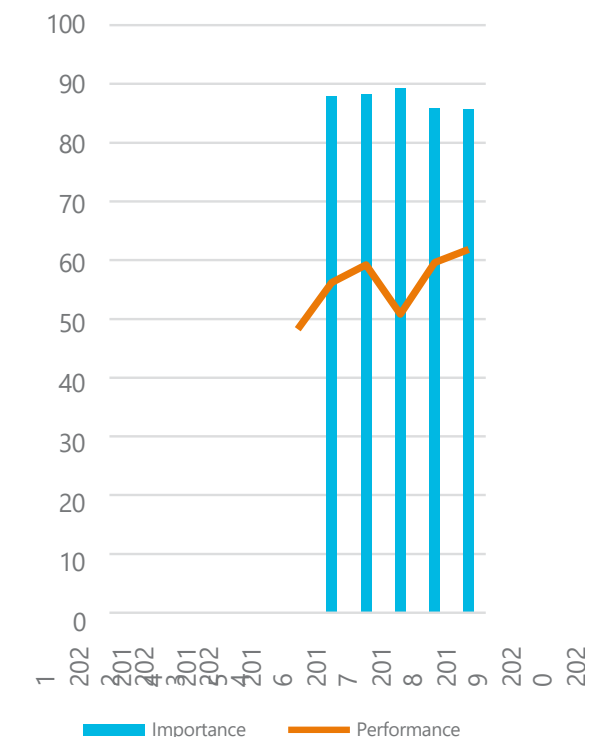
1. Community Engagement Activities
2. Financial Management
3. Prevention of Illegal Dumping

The top three most important things for the City to focus on were identified as:

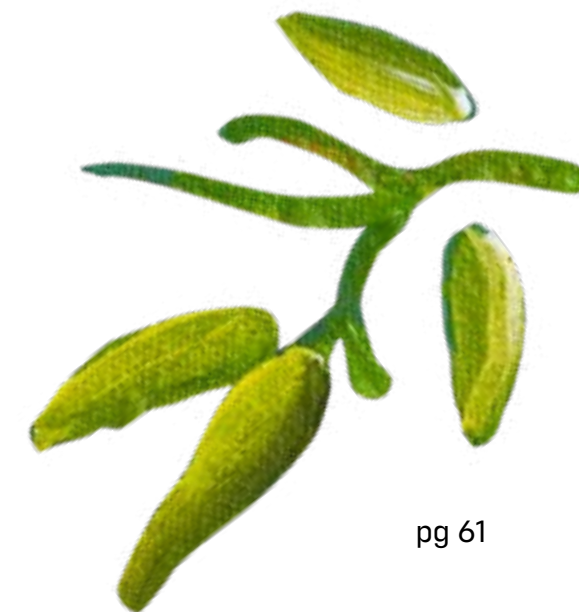
1. Cost of Living
2. Housing
3. Health services

In terms of community safety, security, and policing, the graph below demonstrates the importance of this to the community. Noting that the community's perception is that the City is performing at 60% an increase of 10% over the last five years.

Safety, Security and Policing



Safety, Security and Policing Community Perception Survey (Karratha)





Community Approach

Safer Communities Partnership Strategic Plan

The City of Karratha's Safer Communities Partnership Strategic Plan (2019 – 2022)¹² is a collaborative initiative aimed at improving public safety and well-being through a series of targeted actions. The partnership, involving local government, state agencies, and industry, focuses on five key areas, including:

1. Crime and anti-social behaviour prevention involving efforts to reduce criminal activity and promote responsible community behaviour.
2. Initiatives to address substance abuse issues, contributing to overall community safety.
3. Public engagement and partnerships with an emphasis on working closely with the community and partners to foster a culture of safety and responsibility.

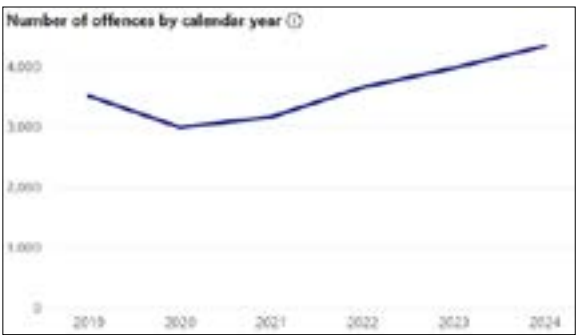
¹² Safer Communities Partnership Strategic Plan – WEB.pdf

Karratha Crime Statistics

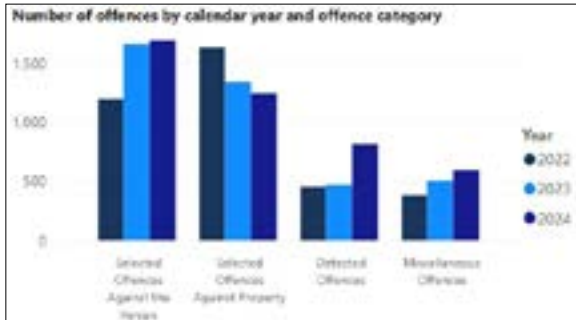
Since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Karratha LGA has significantly increased, rising from 2,989 offences in 2020 to 4,337 in 2024. This escalation in crime is particularly relevant in the context of rising anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2019 to 2020 Offences decreased by 519 (–14.8%)
2020 to 2021 Offences increased by 174 (+5.8%)
2021 to 2022 Offences increased by 495 (+15.6%)
2022 to 2023 Offences increased by 323 (+8.8%)
2023 to 2024 Offences increased by 356 (+9.2%)



Number of Offences by Calendar Year (Karratha LGA)



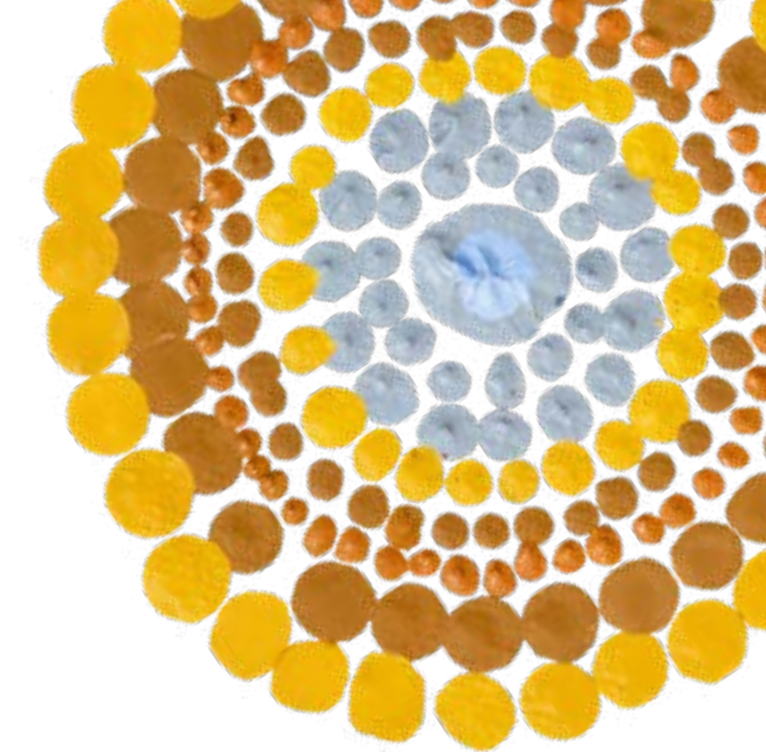
Number of Offences by Calendar Year and Offence Category (Karratha LGA)

High-frequency offence categories in Karratha include assaults, stealing, and property-related offences. The notable reduction in 2020 likely reflects the effects of COVID-19-related restrictions on travel and activity, particularly in a region characterised by fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workforce patterns. The steady increases since then indicate persistent pressures related to housing availability, regional service delivery, and the presence of transient and vulnerable populations – all of which are contributing factors to transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour.

Karratha Liquor Restrictions

The City of Karratha is subject to Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions.

Consuming liquor on public roads and in private vehicles is an offence (except where a permit or licence applies). This includes drinking in a motor vehicle on any public road or street.



Consuming liquor in parks and other public places is an offence without the consent of the owner or controlling authority. This includes areas such as parks, reserves, beaches and so on.

Takeaway liquor can be purchased:

Liquor stores:

- Monday to Saturday 11:00am to 8:00pm
- ANZAC Day 12:00pm to 8:00pm (where ANZAC Day falls on a Monday to Saturday)
- On Sundays alcohol cannot be purchased

Hotels, taverns and clubs:

- Monday to Saturday 11:00am to 8:00pm
- Sunday 12:00pm to 6:00pm
- ANZAC Day 12:00pm to 8:00pm (where ANZAC Day falls on a Monday to Saturday) and 12:00pm to 6pm (where ANZAC Day falls on a Sunday).



The sale and supply of liquor for consumption at hotels/taverns is prohibited before 11:00am, except where it is sold or supplied ancillary to a meal or to a lodger residing at a licensed hotel.

Takeaway liquor may not be sold in the following quantities:

- In glass bottles of 750ml or more of beer (king browns)
- In individual containers of more than two litres of liquor with an alcohol content of 6% or more (for example, wine casks of more than two litres)
- Fortified wine in containers greater than one litre

Interviews

City of Karratha Interview – 23 October 2024

Attendees –

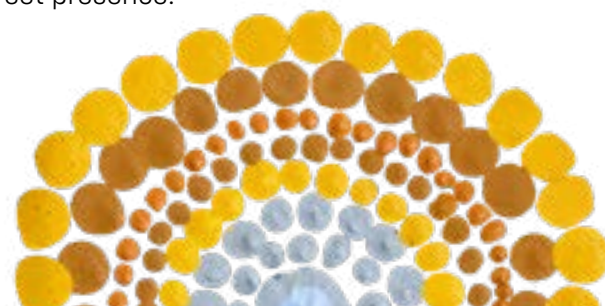
- Bev Menezes, Manager Engagement and Partnerships
- Luke Finlay, Community Development and Partnerships Coordinator

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The City of Karratha faces several challenges related to transitional Aboriginal homelessness, largely due to the region's transient population and cultural factors. One of the key issues is the movement of people between communities, particularly between Roebourne and surrounding areas.

Many Aboriginal people residing in Roebourne do not have connection to this area, leading to times when the town is completely empty when people return to their place of origin. There is also overcrowding in the homes particularly during the hotter months when rough sleeping becomes less viable. In cooler months, there is an increase in rough sleeping in Karratha, while overcrowding and cultural safety concerns persist throughout the year.

Anecdotally, Aboriginal people who do not have family or suitable housing in Karratha are forced to camp or move frequently, adding to the complexity of addressing street presence.



Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The City of Karratha works closely with service providers to address anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness, although they do not directly manage certain initiatives like the Pilbara Liquor Accord.

The City's Community Safety Officer has been involved in attending the Pilbara Liquor Accord, which is chaired by local hoteliers. In cases of significant events such as funerals, liquor restrictions are enacted, and the community is informed in advance. These restrictions aim to reduce alcohol-related incidents during high-risk periods.

The City also supports safety through the implementation of infrastructure projects such as solar footpath lighting. This has improved public space usage and there is ongoing demand for more lighting, particularly for pathways, which are more frequently used during cooler months.

Overview of partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The City of Karratha engages with government agencies and service providers to address transitional homelessness and anti-social behaviour.

Aboriginal Corporations in the region, particularly in Roebourne, are strong and affluent, playing a key role in community leadership. The City acknowledges the excellent leadership from these corporations and Elders, including initiatives such as the opening of a co-operative grocery store in Roebourne, which helps address food insecurity.

Yaandina's Turner River Rehabilitation Centre in Roebourne is a 24-bed facility that uses the Therapeutic Community (TC) model for treatment and addiction recovery which includes mental and physical healing. The centre is open 24 hours – 365 days a year and families are able to visit following a settling in period.

The Centre runs the Mingga Patrol, a night patrol service in Roebourne which ensures the safety and security of intoxicated people who may be at risk of harm by transporting them to a safe place.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The City of Karratha views its role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness as multi-faceted, focusing on infrastructure development, community safety, and supporting local partnerships.

The City's responsibilities include improving public infrastructure like footpath lighting, which has been shown to increase the use of public spaces. Although the City does not directly manage CCTV installations, it supports WA Police in their efforts to install CCTV in key areas, while the City oversees facility-specific CCTV systems.

Additionally, the City recognises the importance of addressing the perception of crime. While crime statistics are relatively low and are classified as opportunistic, community concerns about safety remain a priority. The City continues to work on communication strategies to ensure residents feel safe and informed.



Trials and programs implemented to address homelessness in the Shire

The City has undertaken a benchmarking process as part of its Community Safety Plan (CSP) this year to better understand the scope of homelessness and anti-social behaviour in the area. This process involves working closely with stakeholders to gather relevant data and implement solutions tailored to the local context.

WA Police (Karratha) Interview – 23 October 2024

Attendees –

- Senior Sergeant Peter Gilmore, Officer in Charge

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

In Karratha offences such as minor stealing (retail theft) and anti-social behaviour are often linked to homelessness, in-particular when substance abuse is involved.

While the region benefits from mining royalties, which reduces visible homelessness, issues like domestic violence and child abuse persist, albeit often behind closed doors.

Alcohol and methamphetamine abuse remain significant problems in Karratha, contributing to both homelessness and criminal behaviour. The police have concentrated efforts on seizing illegal substances and preventing the flow of drugs into the community by conducting regular operations at roads and airports to intercept contraband.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Roebourne benefits from having its own dedicated WA Police station and maintains a strong working relationship with the WA Police in Karratha.

Street drinking is not as prevalent in Karratha and when there are incidents they

are quickly managed and de-escalated. Proactive measures, including Liquor restricted premises (LRP) and Banned Drinker Order (BDO) checks and early interventions, play a significant role in the management of reduction of alcohol-related disturbances in public spaces.

Overview of any partnership models with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Currently, there is one police-owned trailer equipped with variable messaging and cameras, providing flexible monitoring options.

To advance surveillance efforts, the WA Police are determining suitable locations for ANPR installation, with plans to deploy seven to eight cameras to bolster security and improve traffic and safety monitoring in the community.

Liquor Regulations and Community Engagement

Karratha has a strong liquor accord, designed to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.

The police work closely with local licensed venues to ensure that individuals involved in alcohol-related offences are placed on the BDO. This proactive approach, which includes frequent communication with businesses, helps address liquor-related issues before they escalate.

Additionally, the town's hoteliers and liquor licensees are more focused on providing upscale services, particularly for the FIFO workforce, creating a more controlled drinking environment. This collaboration between police, businesses, and the community has proven effective in curbing anti-social behaviour related to alcohol consumption. The WA Police Force have a very strong relationship with industry stakeholders in the area who are quick to response to matters that involve their employees.

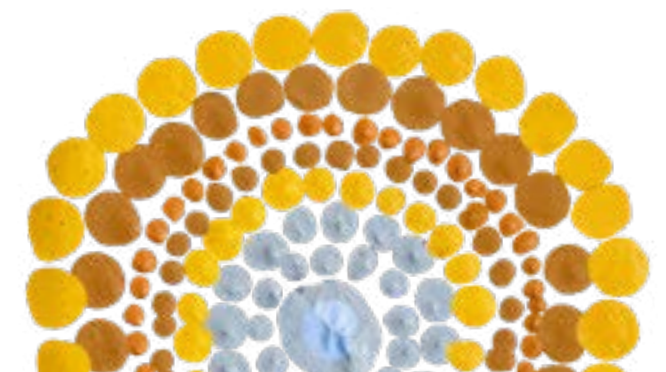
Community Safety Perceptions

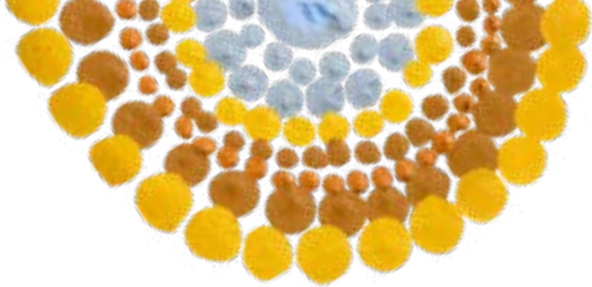
Karratha Police recognise that public perception of crime in the community often differs from the reality. Social media can amplify minor incidents, such as vandalism or petty theft, creating the impression that crime levels are worse than they are.

To manage this, police regularly engage with the community through media appearances, including weekly radio interviews and updates in local newspapers. This ensures that residents have accurate information about crime trends and are aware of the ongoing efforts by police to keep the community safe and secure.



L-R: WAPOL Karratha Senior Sergeant Peter Gilmore, Officer in Charge, and CKB CEO Andrew Brien





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour Carnarvon

Key Points

- Significant media attention brought enforced Ministerial liquor restrictions
- Share in \$11.1 million Target 120 project
- Significant reduction in crime since liquor restrictions were implemented

Trip observations [Page 91](#)

Background

Carnarvon is a regional town located on the northwest coast of Western Australia, known for its agricultural production and its proximity to the Indian Ocean. With a usual resident population of 5,251 people, it serves as an important hub for the surrounding Gascoyne region.

The town is also home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with 857 individuals identifying as Indigenous, accounting for 16.3% of the population. This is substantially higher than both the Western Australian state average of 3.3% and the national average of 3.2%, reflecting the strong cultural and historical presence of Aboriginal people in the area.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The town's socio-economic standing is reflected in its SEIFA score of 918. This

score places Carnarvon below the national baseline in terms of economic advantage, indicating a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage in comparison to other regions.

Additionally, Carnarvon ranks 130th in the SEIFA index, placing it in the bottom quartile and further highlighting the challenges faced by its residents in areas such as income, employment, education, and access to services. Despite these challenges, Carnarvon remains a resilient community, known for its natural beauty and strategic importance to Western Australia's agriculture and tourism sectors.

There has been significant attention on Carnarvon in relation to media, especially over the last two years whereby the Shire President, in 2022, stated that parts of the town "look like a war zone"¹³ calling for the State government to intervene in anti-social behaviour issues.

¹³ Carnarvon Shire Council president says parts of town look like a 'war zone', as he begs WA Premier for help – ABC News



L-R: Shire of Carnarvon CEO Amanda Dexter and Community and Cultural Development Manager Stephanie Leca, and CKB CEO Andrew Brien

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

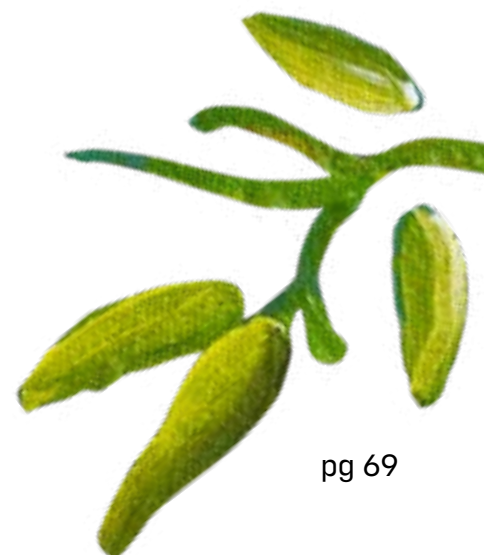
When compared to the Shire of Carnarvon, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder demonstrates a comparatively more favourable socio-economic profile. Carnarvon's SEIFA score of 918 and national rank of 130 place it within the most disadvantaged quartile of LGA across Australia, indicating significant disadvantage in areas such as education, employment, and household income.

In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally despite falling below the national baseline score of 1,000.

Although both towns operate as important regional centres and share challenges associated with geographic isolation and access to services, Kalgoorlie-Boulder benefits from a more diversified economic base and stronger infrastructure capacity. These factors contribute to comparatively improved socio-economic outcomes, even

while pockets of disadvantage, particularly among Aboriginal residents, remain evident.

Carnarvon's lower SEIFA score and rank reflect a greater need for targeted interventions, particularly in addressing long-term disadvantage and improving health and social outcomes. The contrast between the two communities reinforces the importance of tailoring regional policies and service delivery to the specific socio-economic conditions of each location.





Carnarvon Community Perception Results

Carnarvon does not have any Community Perception Results available. However, its *Strategic Community Plan for 2022 to 2032* outlines a vision to “Create an improved sense of community – driven by a growing population in a safe, liveable environment – that is immediate and ongoing.”

Community Approach

Intensive Family and Community Intervention 2022-2023

The Shire of Carnarvon’s Intensive Family & Community Intervention (IFCI) program for 2022-2023 was designed to address complex social issues within the community, particularly focusing on at-risk families and individuals facing significant challenges.

The program aimed to improve overall well-being and reduce social disadvantage by providing targeted support, with an emphasis on fostering stronger family units and improving community resilience.

Through the IFCI, a range of services were offered, including family counselling, parenting programs, and individual support sessions. The initiative worked closely with local organisations and service providers to ensure a coordinated approach to addressing

issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health concerns. The program also focused on improving access to essential services, helping families navigate systems related to housing, education, and healthcare.

A key aspect of the IFCI program was its holistic approach, which involved not only responding to crises but also working on prevention strategies and long-term solutions. This included building partnerships with Indigenous communities and respecting cultural perspectives in the design and delivery of support services.

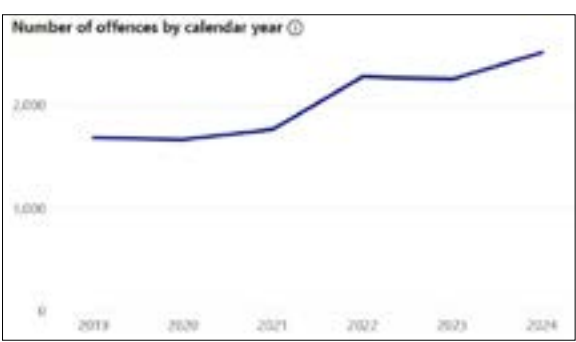
Over the course of 2022-2023, the IFCI helped stabilise many families, contributing to a more cohesive and resilient Carnarvon community, though challenges such as ongoing resource needs and complex social dynamics remain.

Carnarvon Crime Statistics

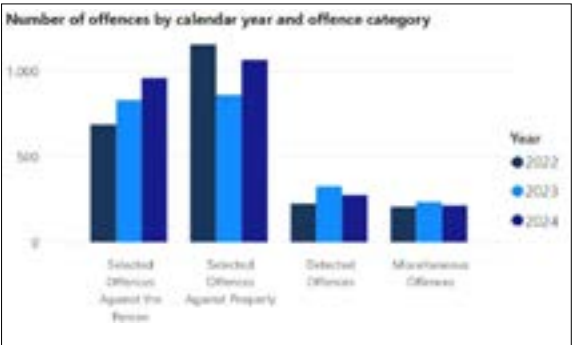
Since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Carnarvon LGA has significantly increased, rising from 1,663 offences in 2020 to 2,511 in 2024. This escalation in crime is particularly relevant in the context of rising anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2019 to 2020 Offences decreased by 17 (–1.0%)
2020 to 2021 Offences increased by 99 (+6.0%)
2021 to 2022 Offences increased by 513 (+29.1%)
2022 to 2023 Offences decreased by 26 (–1.1%)
2023 to 2024 Offences increased by 262 (+11.6%)



Number of Offences by Calendar Year (Carnarvon LGA)



Number of Offences by Calendar Year and Offence Category (Carnarvon LGA)

High-frequency offence categories in Carnarvon include family-related assaults, stealing, and property damage. While the overall trend is one of significant growth, minor fluctuations year-on-year may reflect localised responses or temporary changes in enforcement or reporting. Nonetheless, the consistent rise in offences since 2021 suggests increasing pressure on housing, social services, and community infrastructure.

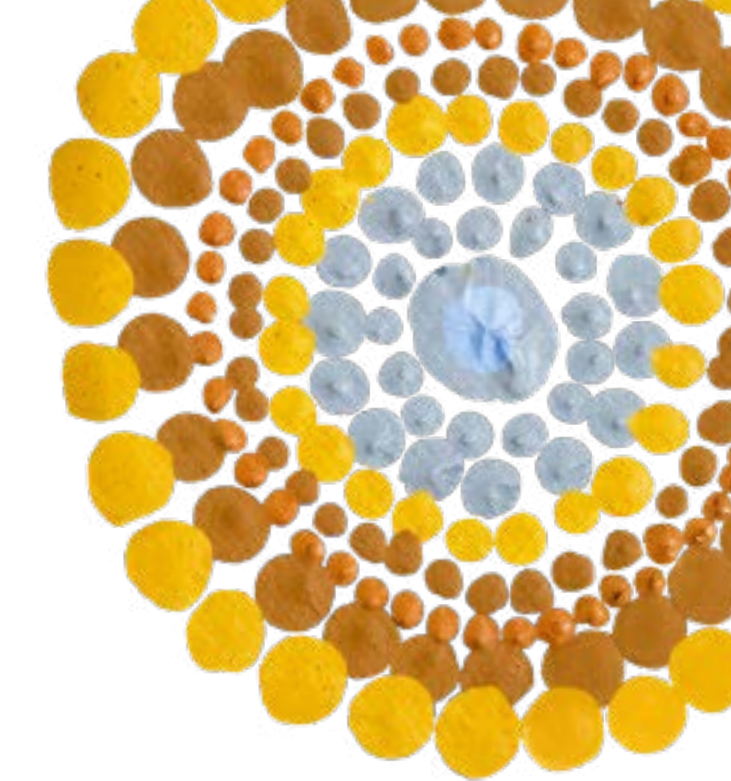
Carnarvon Liquor Restrictions

The Shire of Carnarvon is subject to Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions.

On 4 May 2023, the Director of Liquor Licensing (DLL) determined to impose liquor restrictions in Carnarvon to minimise the extent of alcohol-related harm occurring in the town.

The following conditions have been imposed:

- The sale and supply of packaged liquor is prohibited on Sunday and Monday.



- The sale and supply of packaged liquor is only authorised on permitted days between the hours of 12:00pm and 7:00pm.
- Packaged liquor cannot be sold in excess of the following quantities per customer per day:
 - 11.25 litres of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits (for example one carton or a combination of each kind of liquor up to 11.25 litres) where the alcohol content does not exceed 6%; or
 - 3.75 litres of beer, cider or pre-mix spirits (or a combination of each kind up to 3.75 litres) where the alcohol content exceeds 6%; or
 - 1.5 litres of wine (for example two bottles or 1.5 litre cask); or
 - 1 litre of spirits; or
 - 1 litre of fortified wine.



- No sales in an individual container that contains more than 400ml of beer.
- Wine to have a minimum price of \$15 per bottle or cask.
- Where a product is available in cans, it should not be sold in glass containers.
- When the facilities become available, licensees must scan ID for all persons purchasing packaged liquor for compliance with the Banned Drinkers Register and Take Away Alcohol Management System.
- The sale of liquor is not subject to the daily limits detailed above, where a customer pre-orders liquor at least 72 hours in advance of pickup or delivery and:
 - the customer has completed a bulk purchase order form; and
 - the bulk purchase order form contains the following information:
 - name, address and licence number of relevant licence and signature of licensee or employee;
 - name, address, phone number of customer;
 - address where the liquor is being taken or delivered;
 - description and quantity of liquor ordered and the reason for the bulk purchase.
- a copy of the bulk purchase order form is:
 - provided to the Officer in Charge of the local police station within 24 hours of the order being received by the licensee; and
 - provided to the customer; and
 - retained by the licensee and made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer.
- Licensees must maintain on the licensed premises, a register of purchases made by a tourist, station owner, seafarer, pastoralist or a person operating or employed at a remote work site.

- The register must be made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer and must contain:
 - name, address and phone number of the purchaser, including the residential address of a tourist; and
 - address where the liquor is being taken or delivered; and
 - description and quantity of liquor purchased; and
 - vehicle registration of the purchaser.

Carriage limits

Carriage limits restrict the amount of liquor that a person can carry in a vehicle in certain areas within Western Australia.

The carriage limits are set in the *Liquor Control Regulations 1989* and allow a person to transport up to:

- 1 carton of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits; or
- 3 bottles of wine; or
- 1 litre of spirits or fortified wine; or
- a combination of two products,
- per adult in a vehicle, per day.

Vehicles that carry more than five passengers will only be permitted to carry quantities of liquor for five people. This means that if a vehicle can carry six or more passengers, the maximum quantity of liquor that can be carried in a vehicle is five times the carriage limits.

A vehicle includes:

- motor vehicles, ships, trains or aircraft; and
- trailers, semi-trailers or caravans attached to a vehicle.



Why carriage limits have been introduced in Carnarvon

Carriage limits have been introduced to combat sly grogging, which is the practice of transporting large quantities of liquor into remote areas of the state (often where liquor restrictions are in place) and illegally selling that liquor to vulnerable members of the community.

This is one of a number of measures currently in place in Carnarvon that aim to reduce the level of alcohol-related harm occurring within the community.

Carrying alcohol in excess of the limits

WA Police have the discretion to stop and search vehicles, and can immediately dispose of any liquor in excess of the limits.

Anyone found to be carrying liquor in excess of the limit could face a maximum fine of \$10,000.

Exemptions

Exemptions apply to tourists, pastoralists, station owners and operators of remote work sites.

The tourist exemption will apply where a person is not usually a resident of the local government district of Carnarvon and is staying away from their usual place of residence for at least one night and not

more than 12 months. WA Police may ask anyone claiming to be a tourist to provide evidence that they are staying overnight at a place that is not their usual place of residence.

Lawfully bringing liquor into the Carnarvon area for the purpose of selling it to residents in Carnarvon:

Liquor can be lawfully carried in and around Carnarvon in a number of ways, for example:

- where liquor is carried in smaller amounts (such as under the carriage limits);
- where the person carrying the liquor is a bona fide tourist, or a pastoralist, station owner or operator at a remote work site.

Liquor cannot be sold within Western Australia without a valid liquor licence. Anyone that sells liquor without a licence commits an offence and faces a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and imprisonment for two years.

Carriage limits are also in place in:

- the towns of Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham, and within 20km of the boundaries of those towns; and
- the area within 5km of the boundaries of the Shire of Broome, Shire of Derby/West Kimberley, Shire of Halls Creek and Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley; and
- the area within 5km of dry Aboriginal communities.

Interviews

Shire of Carnarvon Interview – 24 October 2024

Attendees –

- Amanda Dexter, Chief Executive Officer
- Stephanie Leca, Community and Cultural Development Manager

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The Shire of Carnarvon does not face significant Aboriginal homelessness, with issues tending to stem more from transitional living when people visiting the region need to rely on extended family networks for accommodation.

There is also concern about substance misuse, with individuals increasingly choosing stronger alcohol and more affordable options, such as litre bottles of spirits, over beer.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The Shire of Carnarvon has adopted a range of solutions and programs in collaboration with local stakeholders and service providers to address anti-social behaviour. These initiatives primarily focus on providing youth services.

Carnarvon recently received \$1.3 million in justice reinvestment funding to conduct service mapping, a process designed to identify gaps in community services. The Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC) has taken a leading role in this project which is not currently a public document; however, Council has been provided with a copy of the document for its review.



The recently appointed Shire of Carnarvon CEO shared experiences from Derby and the Kimberley region in relation to anti-social behaviour.

In Derby, the Shire runs several well-attended events, including Thursday pool nights and Friday and Saturday basketball sessions, with over 200 children attending regularly. These programs offer structured activities, meals, and safe spaces, helping to keep young people off the streets and away from harmful influences. The introduction of night patrols and sensor lighting at public spaces such as basketball courts further supports this, creating safer environments for community engagement.

An issue identified was the lack of exit pathways from social housing. To address this, the State and Federal governments should consider models that move individuals from social housing into new homes with rent tied to income, providing a mix of market-rate and affordable housing options. These programs would improve housing stability while supporting workforce participation and reducing reliance on social housing.

Trials in the Kimberley have shown the potential of such programs, with 400 houses being built as part of a long-term strategy which includes a 20-year maintenance plan. The Shire of Carnarvon recognises the importance of similar initiatives for its own community, especially as social issues like workforce participation, housing, and youth engagement are all interlinked.

Overview of partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The Shire of Carnarvon has forged strong partnerships with government agencies and service providers to address anti-social behaviour.

The Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC) has coordinated the Justice Reinvestment Funding into developing a service mapping study. The intent of this project is to ensure wrap-around services are in place to support individuals who are at risk of homelessness or involved in anti-social behaviour. However, long-term sustainability is a concern, as maintaining these services requires consistent funding and commitment from all stakeholders.





In the Kimberley, collaboration with Horizon Power was noted as beneficial, with the introduction of Smart Lights in the community. These lights not only reduce costs but also improve public safety, and illumination of public spaces, such as basketball courts with sensor lights, have been instrumental in deterring anti-social behaviour at night by providing youth with a safe place when there are no other options available to them.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Over the last few years, the Shire of Carnarvon has been subject to significant negative media which impacted the perceptions of tourism and liveability. The on-the-ground experience by Kalgoorlie-Boulder Officers was that the Shire was a comfortable town to visit.

The work the Shire has done to advocate on behalf of the community to attract government support in close collaboration with the WA Police has seen a reduction in anti-social behaviour and street drinking.

Community safety perceptions remain low anecdotally, and efforts to improve lighting and public safety need to continue. Communities "lit up like Christmas trees" are essential for creating safe environments, and the Shire has acknowledged the importance of public lighting in increasing safety and reducing crime.

WA Police (Carnarvon) Interview – 24 October 2024

Attendees –

- Acting Officer in Charge Sergeant Kal Dhillon

Challenges Associated with Aboriginal Homelessness

In Carnarvon, homelessness, as it is typically defined, is not considered a significant issue. Most individuals in the community have access to shelter, and there are several vacant homes which are available for people to live.

The transient nature of housing in the community, particularly among Aboriginal families, may give the impression of instability, but nearly everyone is able to find a place to stay. Community support systems are strong, and when someone is intoxicated or in need of shelter, they are often taken in by family or friends. In addition, shelters, such as the men's refuge, women's refuge, and the sobering up shelter, are also available as needed, should the appropriate staffing resources be available.

There is also a community expectation placed on WA Police to act beyond their traditional role, which adds another layer of complexity. The community often looks to the police to handle not only law enforcement but also social services, such as caring for children in vulnerable situations or providing therapeutic support. This broad expectation strains police resources, as they are not equipped or appropriately trained to offer the wrap-around services needed to address the root causes of anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address anti-social behaviour

To tackle anti-social behaviour Carnarvon Police have adopted several targeted strategies in cooperation with local service providers. One of the most effective measures has been the enforcement of strict liquor restrictions (Section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* Restrictions).

These bans have led to a noticeable reduction in alcohol-related crimes, such as public intoxication and disorderly conduct, as well as a broader impact on community safety. The restrictions can also limit alcohol consumption to licensed venues or private residences, which helps curtail street-level drinking and related offences.

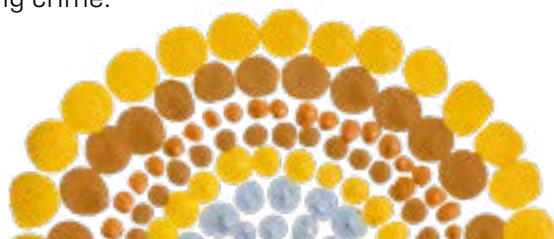
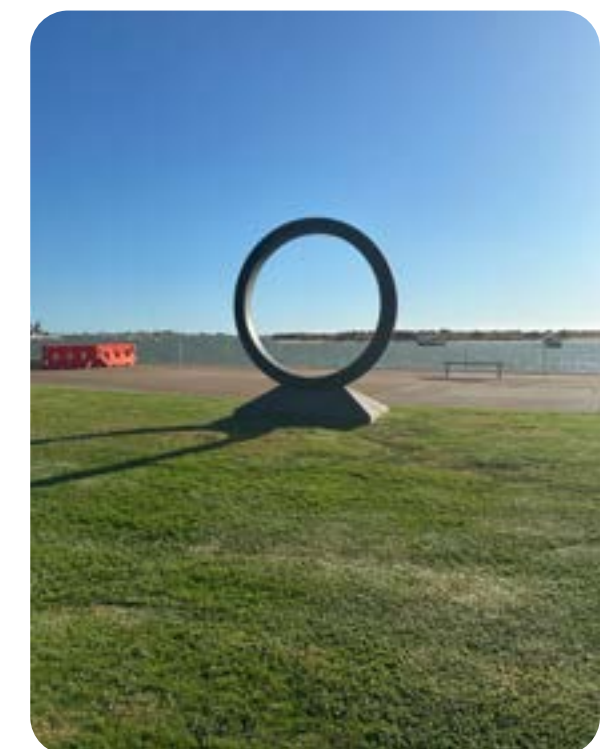
There are varying durations of alcohol bans that can be placed on an individual that commits an offence which would qualify for them to be placed on the banned drinkers register, which can range from three to 12 months in duration.

Live monitoring of CCTV cameras installed around the central business district and bottle shops enables the police to respond quickly to potential issues. For example, when groups gather around bottle shops or licensed premises, police are alerted and can intervene before incidents escalate.

Police also work closely with local liquor outlets, using systems like the Banned Drinkers Register and identification scanning to track large alcohol purchases that could lead to public disturbances. Failure by liquor licensees to comply with regulations is reported to the relevant liquor licensing authorities, ensuring that businesses continue to play a part in maintaining community safety.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers

Carnarvon Police have established important partnerships with various government agencies and service providers to tackle issues related to anti-social behaviour. These partnerships include collaboration with Aboriginal liaison officers who work closely with the police to engage young people through community programs coordinated with the Shire. These programs are designed to deter youth from criminal activities and offer alternative pathways for engagement, rather than punishment, though resource constraints remain a challenge.





The Burringurrah First Nations community is a key focus. The WA Police have two officers who reside within the community, facilitating better communication and more effective interventions. This closer proximity allows for a more integrated approach to addressing anti-social behaviour, as police are able to work directly with community members and understand their specific needs and challenges.

Gascoyne Development Commission Interview – 24 October 2024

- Timothy Bray, Chief Executive Officer

Collaborative Approach to Alcohol Management and Social Behaviour

The Gascoyne region has benefitted from coordinated efforts between local councils, government agencies, and retailers to manage alcohol-related issues and anti-social behaviour.

The introduction of tools like TAMS (Takeaway Alcohol Management System) and the Banned Drinkers Register has proven effective, with the latter becoming more impactful over time. Retailers, especially in the Kimberley, have played a crucial role by working with the police to shut down alcohol sales during culturally significant events like funerals. This cooperation has yielded immediate benefits, with data showing a sharp decline in incidents when alcohol is restricted.

WA Police and health services have emerged as strong allies in these efforts, helping to push back against opposition to ensure that public health and safety remain the priority.

Effective Management of Short-Stay Facilities

Itinerant and short-stay populations in regional areas, particularly in the Kimberley, require tailored solutions to meet their needs for temporary accommodation. One successful example is the Derby short-stay facility, which was completed in just six months after the council provided land¹⁴.

¹⁴ Derby Short Stay Accommodation for Aboriginals | MercyCare

These facilities are less about the infrastructure and more about effective management, with organisations like Mercy Care providing services. The focus is on offering a safe, dry, and affordable place to stay, with a maximum 28-day limit, although flexibility is often applied based on individual circumstances.

Management plays a pivotal role in the success of these facilities. For instance, a no-alcohol policy is strictly enforced to ensure the camp remains a safe space. Additionally, integrating services such as transport to hospitals and other essential services makes the facility a hub for government service delivery, hosting professionals like optometrists and physiotherapists.

Despite concerns from some community members about building “white elephants,” these facilities have been operating at high occupancy levels, with up to 95% utilisation. Government subsidies help support these programs, highlighting their importance as part of a broader strategy to address homelessness and transient populations in regional areas. In time, these facilities have proven effective, helping town camps improve standards and addressing short-term housing needs.

Addressing Social Housing and Transitional Housing Gaps

One of the major challenges identified by the Gascoyne Development Commission is the lack of a clear exit path from social housing. Transitional housing programs have been introduced to help bridge this gap.

In both East and West Kimberley, over 120 new houses have been built, enabling the movement of individuals from social housing into these new homes. The Thrive program¹⁵ introduced by the Department of Communities in 2023 focuses on the tailored delivery of services that reflect the diversity of clients and the community by mobilising local solutions.

¹⁵ Thrive Program

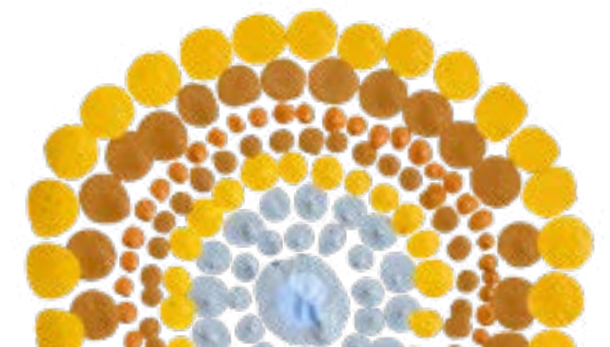
The Thrive program aims to:

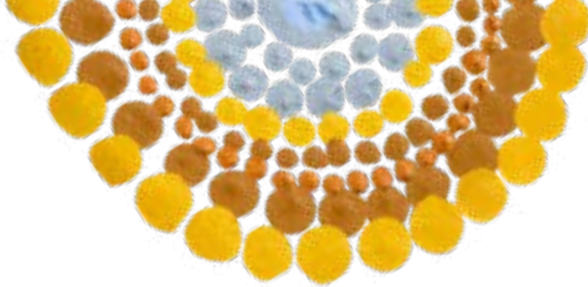
- Assist people to manage their household by developing strategies to grow their capacity and resilience.
- Help people to navigate and link up with support services and programs across government and the private sector.
- Provide people with long term sustainable support networks.
- Build people’s connections to their community.

Homes are tied to income-based rent, creating a mix of market-rate and affordable housing options. This approach aims to break the cycle where people in social housing are often demotivated to increase their income due to the risk of losing their homes.

The success of transitional housing programs lies in the wrap-around services provided, which support residents through the process of moving from social housing to more independent living arrangements. By linking rent to income, the program encourages individuals to improve their financial situation without the fear of losing their accommodation.

This model highlights the importance of having flexible, well-managed housing options that cater to the specific needs of regional populations. It also underscores the necessity of government support in ensuring these programs remain viable and effective.





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour

Geraldton

Key Points

- Significant State government support through WA Alliance to End Homelessness' Advance to Zero project achieving results
- Rough Sleeper Coordination Group facilitates collaboration across agencies
- \$5.2 million funding to boost social housing

Trip observations Page 92

Background

The City of Greater Geraldton, located on the mid-west coast of Western Australia, is a regional city known for its vibrant coastal lifestyle and strong connection to the surrounding agricultural areas. Geraldton's economy is diverse, with fishing, tourism, agriculture, and mining contributing significantly to the local economy.

With a usual resident population of 39,489 people, Geraldton functions as a key regional service hub, supporting both its local population and surrounding communities. The city is home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 3,814 individuals identifying as Indigenous, accounting for 9.6% of the total population. This is considerably higher than the national average of 3.2%. The strong presence of Aboriginal people in Geraldton contributes meaningfully to the city's cultural and social identity, supported by a range of initiatives that seek to preserve and celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

In terms of socio-economic indicators, Geraldton has a SEIFA score of 941, reflecting relative socio-economic disadvantage when compared to other areas in Australia. Geraldton's SEIFA rank of 218 places it in a lower socio-economic bracket relative to many other regions across the country, indicating potential challenges in terms of access to resources and services for some sections of the population.

Despite these challenges, Geraldton continues to grow and develop, with ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for all its residents.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Greater Geraldton, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder demonstrates a slightly stronger overall socio-economic position. Geraldton's SEIFA score of 941 and national rank of



218 place it in the lower half of Australian LGA, indicating moderate levels of socio-economic disadvantage. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder holds a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally, despite falling just below the national baseline of 1,000.

While the difference in scores may appear modest, these measures reflect broader patterns of socio-economic wellbeing and access to opportunity. Kalgoorlie-Boulder's higher rank suggests relatively better outcomes across key indicators such as employment, income, and education. However, both cities continue to experience significant levels of inequality within their communities. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, persistent disadvantage among Aboriginal residents and other vulnerable groups highlights the ongoing impact of structural barriers, including housing stress, service limitations, and intergenerational disadvantage.

Geraldton similarly faces socio-economic disparities, despite the strengths of its diverse economy and regional role.

This comparison reinforces the need for place-based strategies that are responsive to the specific socio-economic conditions of each community, ensuring that targeted interventions address both broad regional challenges and the complex needs of disadvantaged population groups.

Community Perception Results

The City of Greater Geraldton does not have any Community Perception Results available. However, the Greater Geraldton 2031 – Strategic Community Plan identifies an outcome as "Community safety, health, and well-being is paramount."





Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation

Community Approach

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2029

The City of Greater Geraldton's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024-2029¹⁶ outlines key priorities to address local safety concerns and reduce crime. The plan emphasises collaboration between the City of Greater Geraldton, local agencies, and the community, acknowledging that crime prevention is a shared responsibility.

Of the 387 respondents to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Survey, 30% reported not feeling safe in the Central Business District (CBD) during the day and 62% reporting not feeling safe in the CBD at night.

¹⁶ Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2024 2029.indd

Key focus areas include:

- Breaking the cycle of offending, particularly youth crime.
- Crime prevention through environmental design, aimed at making public spaces safer through thoughtful planning and management.
- Addressing anti-social behaviour by fostering social cohesion and community well-being.

The plan continues successful initiatives like the U-Turn Project and PCYC Safe Space Program, while introducing new strategies that align with the city's broader community goals.

Geraldton Crime Statistics

Since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Geraldton LGA has significantly increased, rising from 5,915 offences in 2020 to 10,024 in 2024. This escalation in crime is particularly relevant in the context of rising anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

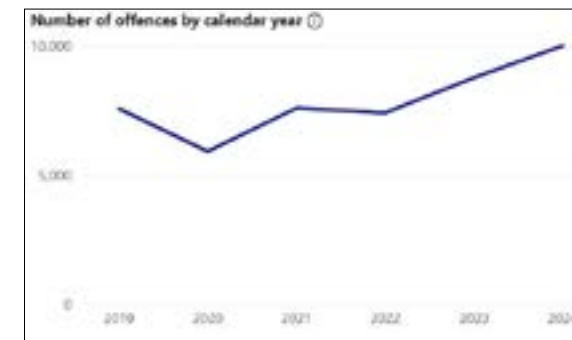
2019 to 2020
Offences decreased by 1,665 (–22.0%)

2020 to 2021
Offences increased by 1,685 (+28.5%)

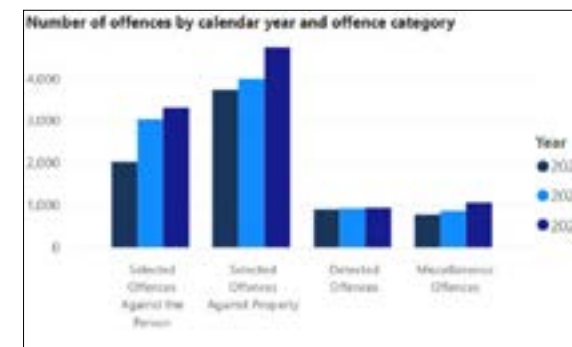
2021 to 2022
Offences decreased by 185 (–2.4%)

2022 to 2023
Offences increased by 1,370 (+18.5%)

2023 to 2024
Offences increased by 1,239 (+14.1%)



Number of offences per calendar year (Geraldton LGA)



Number of offences by calendar year and offence category (Geraldton LGA)

High-frequency offence categories in Geraldton include family violence, stealing, and sexual offences. The initial decline in 2020 may be linked to reduced social activity and movement during COVID-19. However, the substantial increases since 2020 point to intensifying pressure on local housing markets, youth services, and health infrastructure – factors associated with elevated risks of transitional homelessness and public safety issues.

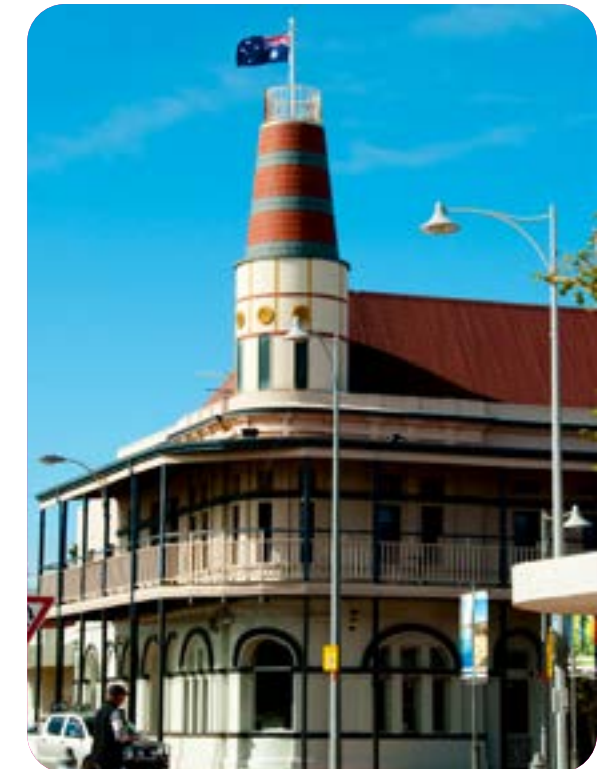
Geraldton Liquor Restrictions

Geraldton is not subject to any liquor restrictions imposed by the Director of Liquor Licensing under the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.

Interviews

City of Greater Geraldton Interview – 25 October 2024

- Fiona Norling, Director of Community and Culture



- Peter Treharne, Manager Community and Cultural Development
- Denielle Riley, Aboriginal Engagement Office

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Aboriginal homelessness in Geraldton presents layered challenges, particularly among transient populations and those who require access to legal, healthcare, and social support services.

High concentrations of social housing in specific areas exacerbate these challenges by concentrating vulnerable populations within certain suburbs. This clustering has led to an increase in social tensions, at times resulting in family conflicts and neighbourhood disturbances.

These issues reflect broader, often oversimplified, perceptions of regional homelessness, as public discussion on social media often reveals a negative impression of the City.



Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Due to increased anti-social behaviour in facilities, the City is investigating changes to its local government-owned buildings (e.g. library) to further protect staff, with consideration being given to the introduction of duress alarms and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

To directly assist those experiencing homelessness, Centacare plays a pivotal role in providing Housing First Support Services. To complement these services, the program's Dignity Bus, which provides access to showers and washing facilities, offers essential services to street-present individuals, alleviating one aspect of daily hardships. The By Names list used by service providers ensures better coordination and personalised support for individuals facing homelessness.

The City has also explored methods to reduce environmental factors that contribute to congregation and potential anti-social activity, such as removing seating in certain

car park areas. However, this approach has demonstrated the complexity of managing such behaviours, as issues then shift to other locations without targeted social solutions.

Overview of partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Key partnerships include a working relationship with the Department of Housing. Geraldton also collaborates with Advance to Zero¹⁷, a collaborative initiative that has achieved measurable results, including a significant reduction in homelessness for those over the age of 50 years old.

The City is involved in the Geraldton Liquor Accord, through the Manager of Regulatory Services. The Liquor Accord helps address alcohol-related issues that contribute to anti-social behaviour, though discussions continue about the implications of introducing a banned drinkers list.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Due to the perception of cost-shifting by other levels of government, the City's approach to homelessness has been limited in recent times. City representatives offer advisory input and continue to offer

¹⁷ Advance to Zero – AAEH

information and non-financial support to non-profits who are directly involved in the provision of these services.

The City plays an enforcement role when necessary, for instance, when addressing individuals sleeping rough in vehicles, with allowances typically extended for a few days before further intervention.

Geraldton has a CCTV Strategy and recently obtained funding for two mobile CCTV trailers to be used at events and hot spots. The City acknowledged that cameras cannot cover 100% of the city and when incidents occur there is often no appropriate footage available.

Community Respect and Equality Initiative

The Community Respect and Equality (CRE) initiative reflects the City of Geraldton's proactive commitment to fostering a respectful culture.

The program, developed in 2019, is foundational in promoting respect and inclusivity across Geraldton, with a strong focus on equipping local businesses and community members to call out disrespectful behaviours.

As part of this initiative, an intensive 2.5-hour training module was introduced for all City staff, helping to create an internal culture that reinforces the importance of respect. This culture, in turn, permeates into the community, given that many City staff are local residents.

The initiative has introduced new tools, such as QR codes that link to feedback surveys, allowing staff to review responses and track an initiative's effectiveness. Additionally, active bystander training encourages employees to address inappropriate behaviour at an early stage, preventing escalation to formal grievances.

Community Perception and Engagement

Geraldton's approach to community engagement involves participatory budgeting as well as mystery shopper evaluations to understand and improve the customer experience with Council services.

The City has not undertaken a Community Perception Survey for several years, therefore the information provided in relation to anti-social behaviour and homelessness is anecdotal, but supported by crime statistics for the region and various surveys undertaken through relevant strategy development processes.

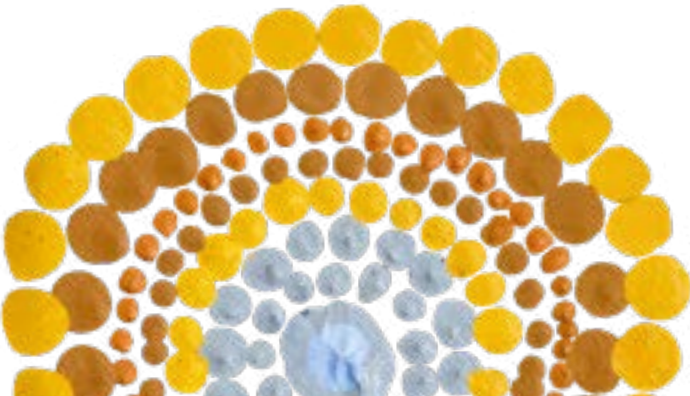
Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

The City's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has evolved into an Innovate RAP, focused on building relationships with local Aboriginal groups and enhancing community participation.

The City has a high-level volunteer internal RAP Reference Group and the latest consultation on the RAP included a morning tea to obtain feedback from the community, including Traditional Owners.

The City collaborates with local Aboriginal organisations in shared hosting roles for RAP-related events. This direct engagement has fostered a stronger relationship between the City and the local Aboriginal community.

Like many local governments, the City is considering moving away from Reconciliation Australia's endorsed framework due to the desire to have a more localised approach rather than a generic focus.



Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation Interview – 25 October 2024

- Wayne McDonald, Chief Executive Officer

Background

The Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation (Bundiyarra) is a not-for-profit Aboriginal corporation based in Geraldton, Western Australia. Established in 1992, it serves the Yamaji people of the region and is governed by Aboriginal people, aiming to promote cultural, social, and economic development within the local Indigenous communities.

Bundiyarra, meaning “working together” in the Wajarri language, aligns with the corporation's commitment to improving the lives of Yamaji people through projects focused on cultural preservation, language revitalization, and sustainable development. The corporation operates a diverse range of programs, including language and cultural heritage projects, youth development, and services in housing, health, and employment support.

One of Bundiyarra's flagship initiatives is its Language Centre, which documents and revitalises endangered Yamaji languages through workshops, language resources, and collaborative efforts with local schools and community Elders. The Language Centre has produced publications and learning tools that contribute significantly to maintaining linguistic heritage in the region.

Bundiyarra also supports Indigenous entrepreneurs and small businesses, working closely with partners to offer training, financial guidance, and business development services. Its focus on economic empowerment aims to create employment opportunities and encourage self-sufficiency among Yamaji people.

By fostering cultural awareness and supporting Yamaji families, Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation remains a pivotal organisation within the Geraldton region, dedicated to enriching and sustaining Aboriginal culture and community well-being.



Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation

Challenges Associated with Aboriginal Homelessness

Bundiyarra identifies several challenges in addressing Aboriginal homelessness. One core issue is the limited voice and representation for Aboriginal people in certain regions where Native Title arrangements contribute to uncertainty around community rights and responsibilities. While Native Title agreements are often geared towards economic development, there is insufficient focus on pressing social issues like homelessness.

Another key challenge is managing the influx of visitors from remote communities in town centres, particularly for funerals or medical needs, which exacerbates overcrowding and puts pressure on local housing and resources.

A successful approach has been evidenced through the strong leadership of Aboriginal Elders when taking responsibility for the well-being of their community members both within their community and when visiting other regional areas.

The situation has been further compounded by State and Federal policies, such as funding reductions to Aboriginal communities and the closure of town-based reserves, which has increased street presence (homelessness), and overcrowding in private housing. This in turn creates additional anti-social issues and associated impacts.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Bundiyarra has implemented several solutions in partnership with service providers to tackle the anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness.



For example, in partnership with local police in Geraldton, the community led an educational campaign aimed at reducing rock-throwing incidents by engaging children and youth. By educating younger community members on the impacts of these behaviours, they were able to address anti-social behaviour proactively.

To address waste management and maintain community spaces, the City supplies large rubbish bags, which Bundiyarra distributes across neighbourhoods for residents to collect waste from their yards. The organisation then coordinates free pick up and disposal at the tip. This initiative is designed to engage people directly in maintaining their homes while promoting responsibility and pride in community spaces.

Bundiyarra is currently establishing an alcohol and drug-free short-stay accommodation facility with 44 units that can house between 80 to 103 people¹⁸. The site has been built around identified cultural heritage sites; this has been incorporated into the overall design, such as walking trails and areas with edible plants to provide a positive environment for temporary residents.

This model supports individuals and families needing short-term accommodation while maintaining a safe, secure space that mitigates the risks of anti-social behaviour often associated with homelessness.

Overview of any partnership models with government agencies and service providers

Bundiyarra's partnerships extend across various agencies, supporting both social

¹⁸ Geraldton Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation

services and economic development. They collaborate with the Mid-West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance, which is backed by the Department of Communities to strategise on issues affecting Aboriginal people.

This Alliance was used prior to land determination to strengthen the Aboriginal voice to speak on behalf of all the Aboriginal people in the area. In addition, it is used today to discuss Aboriginal issues which are brought annually to Ministers for advocacy purposes.

The Alliance has a funded consultant to aid in strategy development, helping ensure that services and resources align with community needs. The Alliance is also an active member of the Council of Aboriginal Services WA.

Bundiyarra operates an Aboriginal Community Resource Centre to provide social services programs for the benefit of the local Aboriginal population. This was built by Aboriginal people many years ago and provides ongoing funding for resources.

Centacare Geraldton Interview – 25 October 2024

- Melissa Wharekawa, Centacare Housing First Support Services Coordinator

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Geraldton faces several challenges in addressing Aboriginal homelessness, particularly around the issues of overcrowding due to cultural obligations to accommodate visitors and support for those experiencing transitional homelessness. Many Aboriginal individuals who travel to Geraldton can become 'stuck' due to a lack of resources to return home, resulting in extended periods of homelessness.

With limited housing available, there is also a significant mismatch between available housing, which tends to focus on singles or couples, and the need for larger spaces suitable for families.

Centacare's work reveals that once an individual is housed, intensive and ongoing support is required to maintain tenancies. Without adequate wrap-around services, housing placements risk instability, underscoring the need for comprehensive support.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Includes Housing First, another program operated by Centacare, which advocates for people sleeping rough to have opportunities to accessible long-term housing. As part of a collaborative effort multiple Housing First clients were offered housing within a complex of units, and after the first year of intensive support initiatives such as a Liquor Restriction were taken up by many residents within the complex to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviours.

To address anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness, Centacare Geraldton has implemented several solutions in collaboration with service providers. A prominent initiative is the Housing First Contract, funded by the State as part of the Zero Project, focusing primarily on assisting rough sleepers and working towards sustainable housing solutions.

A barbecue is provided three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) along with the "Dignity Van", which has been operational since May 2023 and includes laundry and shower facilities. In addition, the Department of Communities offers transportation assistance on Wednesdays to allow Centacare to hold the barbecues at other locations.

These initiatives provide an opportunity to connect with people experiencing homelessness in various settings and help mitigate isolation that can lead to anti-social behaviour. It also creates consistent touchpoints with the homeless population

in Geraldton, facilitating engagement and trust building.

A comprehensive database known as the "Geraldton By Name" list is used to monitor and engage individuals, and an updated vulnerability survey is conducted to track individual needs more effectively. It is considered one of the most comprehensive and accurate By Names lists in the state.

Housing First, another program operated by Centacare, advocates for people sleeping rough to have opportunities to accessible long-term housing. As part of a collaborative effort multiple Housing First clients were offered housing within a complex of units, and after the first year of intensive support such initiatives as a Liquor Restriction was taken up by many residents within the complex to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviours.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Centacare Geraldton collaborates closely with government agencies and local service providers through a structured partnership model.

A notable example is the strong relationship with the Department of Communities, specifically the Homelessness Project Officer, a unique role in Geraldton. This role leads regular coordination meetings where agencies can discuss individuals of concern who are sleeping rough and coordinate appropriate interventions.

Each individual on the "Geraldton By Name" list is assigned a lead worker to streamline service delivery, which will expand further with the addition of new staff. This model of inter-agency coordination enhances Centacare's ability to deliver targeted, consistent support to homeless individuals.

The WA Country Health's iCare Program leverages the expertise of service professionals with deep local knowledge, who assist in developing targeted, community-based solutions for homelessness.

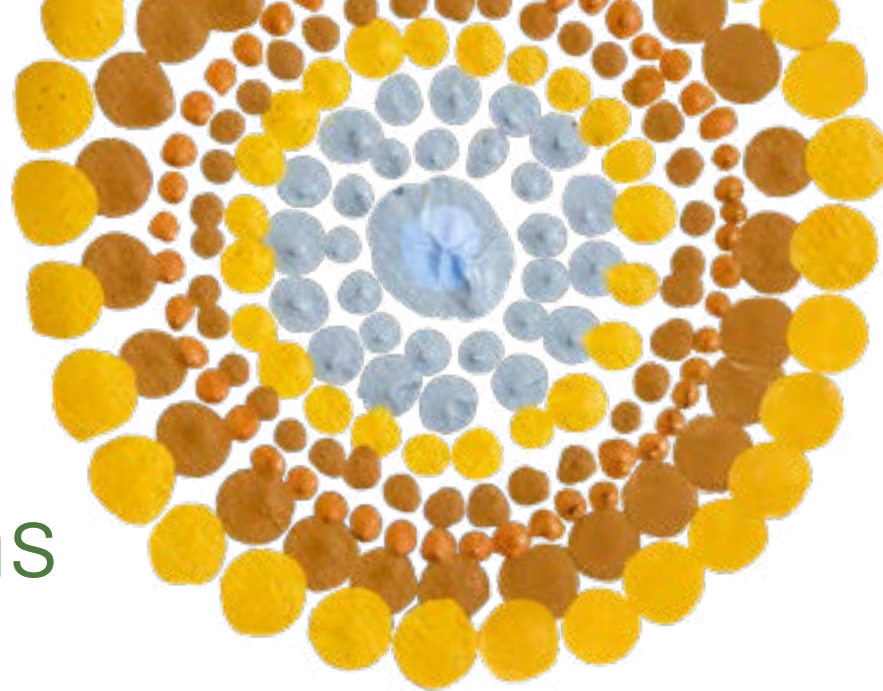
Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Centacare sees local government as playing a crucial role in addressing homelessness and associated behaviours. Although Geraldton currently lacks a formal homelessness strategy, increased engagement with the City as part of the Zero Project has strengthened collaborative efforts.

A formal strategy would help to allocate resources more effectively and establish a structured framework for a community-wide response. Local government is also well-positioned to coordinate responses among community organisations, local businesses, state government agencies, and service providers, creating a unified and effective approach to homelessness.

Local government support for infrastructure, such as crisis accommodation facilities or sobering-up shelters, is essential to meet the community's needs and to advocate for funding to increase the resources available. Centacare emphasises that addressing homelessness and anti-social behaviour requires a whole-community approach, with local government taking an active role in driving coordinated efforts forward.

Observations



Broome

- There is a significant police presence throughout the town and surrounding neighbourhoods. Patrols are active and visible, contributing to a heightened sense of security.
- Many properties are equipped with advanced security systems, including motion-activated alarms that trigger both lights and voice warnings when activated.
- WA Police are regularly seen moving people on in the mornings, particularly in public spaces.
- Solar pathway lighting is motion activated to a brighter level providing a safer sense of security and ability to visually see people along the pathway at different locations.
- Initiatives led by ACCOs, especially in relation to the Kullarri Patrol, are well received by the community and contribute significantly to the well-being of their clients.
- Anti-social behaviour has had a profound impact on Broome's image. As an example, when picking up the hire vehicle, several warnings were issued around personal and property security.
- The street presence (homelessness) of Broome has created a negative image of the town, which is a major tourism destination in Western Australia.
- WA Police indicated there is no silver bullet to addressing anti-social behaviour and street presence (homelessness) – it is a mix of initiatives which provides the greatest impact.
- With higher levels of restrictions on the sale of alcohol, the requirement for a Liquor Accord is reduced.
- Liquor volume is different in cans versus bottles which then permits the sale of glass containers contrary to the legislation.

Town of Port Hedland

- Unlike in many other areas where police must submit formal requests to access footage, in Port Hedland, WA Police can view CCTV footage without needing to file any requests, through an arrangement with the Town of Port Hedland.
- The strength of the Port Hedland Liquor Strategy group, which includes the licensees and WA Police, is extremely effective in addressing high-risk incidents and reducing anti-social behaviour, with little involvement from the Town of Port Hedland.
- ACCOs are providing a high level of service to the community from transport to child/youth programs.

Karratha

- One of the unique aspects of Karratha is the significant investment by the mining sector in local infrastructure and social initiatives. This investment, from the development of indoor playgrounds to multi-storey office spaces, contributes to the overall well-being of the city and its residents.
- The strong relationship between the mining industry and the local community has also enabled the development of programs and infrastructure that support safety and address social issues, including homelessness and anti-social behaviour.
- Liquor accords that are led by licensees in collaboration with the WA Police tend to demonstrate better outcomes for the community.

- The Karratha Police have a dedicated liquor officer who reviews all offences and, if any are related to alcohol, the accused will be automatically referred to the banned drinkers register.

Carnarvon

- Significant media attention on Carnarvon brought enforced Ministerial liquor restrictions and a share in the \$11.1 million for the Target 120 project¹⁹.
- Whilst stakeholders confirmed that crime levels were not to the extent that the media portrayed, there has been a reduction in crime since liquor restrictions were implemented in May 2023 (2,302 offences in 2022 versus 1,127 offences in 2024)²⁰.
- The Shire presented as clean and tidy including in the morning before Shire works crews had been through the town centre.



¹⁹ \$11.1 million boost to Target 120 program to address drivers of youth crime | Mirage News

²⁰ Carnarvon community says 'safe space' for at-risk youth the next step in addressing town's social issues – ABC News



Geraldton

- Significant State government support through the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness' Advance to Zero project is achieving results in homelessness and seeing a measurable reduction in 2023.
- Geraldton has a Rough Sleeper Coordination Group (RSCG) which includes the Department of Communities. The RSCG facilitates collaboration across agencies to address support, accommodation and housing needs for people experiencing homelessness, specifically rough sleeping or chronic homelessness.
- The RSCG meets fortnightly and is made up of local, place-based service providers that collaboratively coordinate supports based on each person's needs. The WA Alliance to End Homelessness chairs these meetings, with Centacare playing a pivotal role providing Housing First Support Services.
- Geraldton recently obtained \$5.2 million in funding to boost the number of social homes in the city; this will be managed by a Community Housing Organisation through a Supportive Landlord Model (SLM) approach.
- The City does not play a hands-on role in the advocacy and development of homelessness strategies.

Analysis

The key observations on homelessness and anti-social behaviour in regional Western Australia are as follows –

1. Socio-Economic Disadvantage and Substance Misuse

The interconnectedness of homelessness, alcohol misuse, and anti-social behaviour is evident across regional centres such as Broome, Port Hedland, and Carnarvon.

While liquor restrictions have reduced public drinking, they have also contributed to an increase in methamphetamine use and other drugs.

Transitional homelessness, particularly among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, is prevalent and exacerbated by factors including socio-economic disadvantage, overcrowding, and limited access to culturally appropriate support services.

2. Partnership Models and Service Coordination

Collaborative models involving local government, ACCOs, WA Police, and service providers are central to managing anti-social behaviour. These partnerships often struggle due to inconsistent funding, high staff turnover in key agencies, and gaps in service continuity—particularly for return-to-country programs and housing support.

3. Infrastructure and Enforcement Limitations

Community safety plans developed in Broome and Port Hedland have identified strategic interventions such as CCTV expansion, improved lighting, and youth diversion initiatives. Outdated or vandalised infrastructure and limited enforcement capabilities for community patrols hinder the effectiveness of these initiatives.

4. Population Mobility and Resource Pressures

A common challenge across regional towns is the transient nature of Aboriginal populations moving between communities, often drawn to larger centres for access to services or more lenient liquor regulations.

This mobility places strain on local services, increases public visibility of



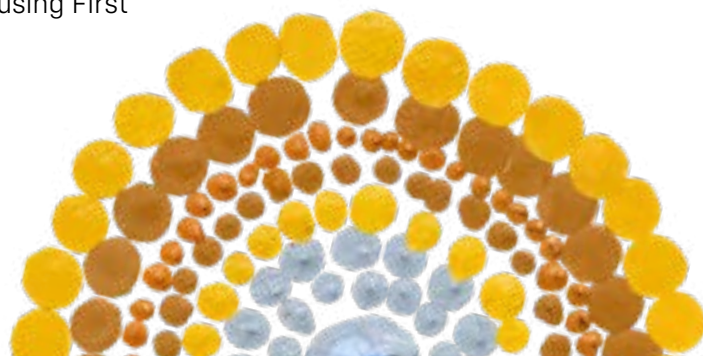
homelessness, and makes long-term planning difficult. There is growing support for a more unified, regional approach to policy, particularly regarding alcohol management and return-to-country support.

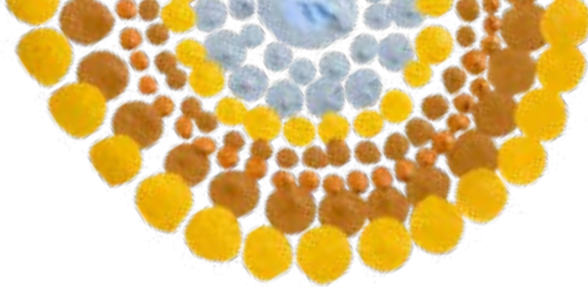
5. Youth Engagement and Early Intervention

Youth crime and vulnerability are recurring issues, particularly in Broome and Port Hedland. Local initiatives provide critical support for at-risk youth. Despite their positive impact, these initiatives are under-resourced and need additional investment to reach more participants and address the root causes of disengagement, including family violence, substance abuse, and housing instability.

6. The Role of Local Government

Local governments play a vital but constrained role in responding to homelessness and anti-social behaviour. Their contributions include advocacy, infrastructure development (e.g. lighting and public space upgrades), and support for community patrols and safety plans. However, limited funding, jurisdictional authority, and reliance on State and Federal agency support restrict their capacity to lead systemic change. There is a clear need for multi-tiered, place-based approaches that align local strategies with broader government support.





Homelessness and High-risk Behaviour

Ceduna

Key Points

- Successful collaborative model involving more than 40 service providers
- Community Paramedic program is a trusted outreach service
- Aboriginal community involvement is central in shaping and enforcing culturally appropriate alcohol rules

Trip observations Page 128

Background

Ceduna is a coastal town situated in South Australia, approximately 780km northwest of Adelaide. As of the 2021 Census, the Ceduna LGA recorded a population of 3,408 people. The town plays an important role in servicing surrounding communities on the state's west coast and is recognised for its cultural diversity and strong connection to the land and sea.

Ceduna is home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 25.5% of residents identifying as Indigenous, considerably higher than the national average of 3.2%. This demographic highlights the cultural and historical importance of First Nations peoples in the region and their central role in the town's identity.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Ceduna's socio-economic standing is reflected in its SEIFA score of 927. This places the town below the national baseline of 1,000, indicating higher levels

of disadvantage in areas such as income, employment, and access to education. Ceduna ranks 167 out of 544 LGA nationally, placing it in the lower third of socio-economic rankings across Australia.

In recent years, the town has faced challenges related to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and high-risk behaviours. Local concerns have been amplified since the discontinuation of the Cashless Debit Card in 2022, with reports of increased crime and social disruption. However, community leaders emphasise that addressing these issues requires more than financial controls, calling for a comprehensive, community-led response that includes housing support, health services, and culturally appropriate engagement strategies.

To support these efforts, Ceduna has received brokerage funding from the Department of Social Services aligned to a Local Services Plan and, more recently, Drug and Alcohol brokerage funding through the Department of Health. These investments aim to deliver targeted interventions that improve outcomes for vulnerable populations and strengthen community resilience.



PTAC, FWCP and City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Representatives

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Ceduna demonstrates a relatively less favourable socio-economic profile. Ceduna's SEIFA score of 927 and national rank of 167 place it within the most disadvantaged third of LGA across Australia, indicating a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder records a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally, despite its score sitting below the national baseline of 1,000.

Although the numerical difference between the SEIFA scores is relatively small, it points to a notable divergence in underlying socio-economic conditions. Kalgoorlie-Boulder's higher national rank indicates a comparatively stronger overall position, likely influenced by the presence of a more diversified economic base and broader access to employment opportunities, education, and essential services. However, this relative advantage does not obscure the presence of persistent disadvantage within parts of the community.

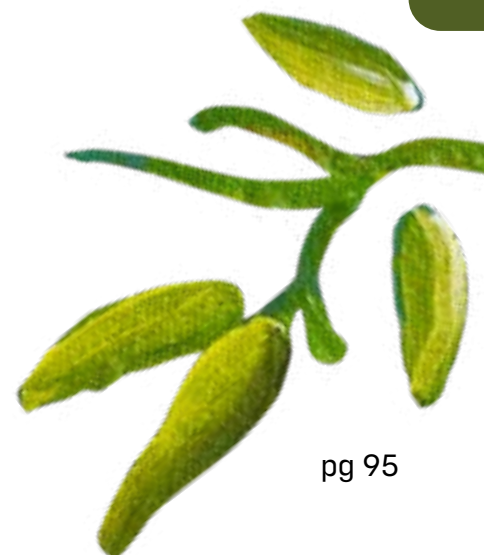
Both communities are significant regional centres with sizeable Aboriginal populations and face shared challenges such as transitional homelessness, youth

disengagement, and anti-social behaviour. However, the comparison underscores the importance of understanding the distinct socio-economic contexts in which these challenges arise. Tailored strategies that acknowledge both the strengths and vulnerabilities of each location are essential to improving long-term outcomes for all residents.

Ceduna Community Perception Results

While the District Council of Ceduna does not have community perception survey results available, its *Strategic Plan – Sense of Direction, Ceduna 2045* outlines a strategic priority as a Sense of Place whereby –

“Our plan will facilitate a safe and cohesive



district where individuals can access opportunities to participate in community life and communities can come together to share knowledge, culture and experience. This will include services such as: Regulatory services and town safety.”

Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation (PTAC)

In 2022, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder received a State government election commitment for the relocation of Boulder Camp, a short stay camp that is frequented by visitors to Tjuntjuntjara. The camp is not owned or operated by the City.

To advance the project, City representatives including the Mayor and CEO undertook a visit to Tjuntjuntjara in April 2024. This marked a key step towards working with the Tjuntjuntjara community to address the status of services available to them in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, including Boulder Camp; social and health services; transport support; and other key issues. The agenda provided by the PTAC Board, titled Kulintjaku, roughly translates into English as “to come and listen.”

Kalgoorlie-Boulder representatives sought preliminary feedback from the PTAC Board on the proposed upgrade and relocation of Boulder Camp and the required wrap-around support. One of the key recommendations from the PTAC community was for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to travel to Ceduna to understand their preferred model of support and accommodation options provided in Ceduna. The City’s CEO Andrew Brien and Director of Advocacy and Strategy Mia Hicks were accompanied by PTAC Board member Debbie Hansen, PNAC Advisor Ian Baird, and PTAC’s Strategic Consultant Kari Allen to many of the meetings and site visits in Ceduna.

Community Approach

South Australia Community Paramedics

Ceduna has a community paramedic program which has been funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care for the last 10 years. The program is specifically targeted to assist transient visitors in the community. Its role is to administer prescribed drugs, provide water on the weekends when services are closed, educate people in health, and assist with wound care.

Community Paramedics are trusted in the community, and service providers such as the Red Cross contact them when required. The Paramedics work on a week-on week-off roster, with relievers in place should one of them go on leave. They are also available to assist the senior population in changing dressings and arranging antibiotics.

Community Paramedics in Ceduna are currently embarking on a case study to demonstrate that their work in wound care has kept people from utilising the hospital for this purpose. Whilst the program has been in place for 10 years, the funding is subject to a request every year with no guarantee of continuing the program through the Primary Health Network Country South Australia (Integrated Team Care – Country SA PHN).

Community Paramedic Process for Assistance

The client usually comes direct to the Community Paramedic requiring medication. The paramedic will contact Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation (Ceduna Clinic | Yadu Health | South Australia) to obtain the relevant scripts. The paramedics run solo with a radio but have very strong rapport with clients. Almost 50% of a Community Paramedic’s day is allocated to dispensing medication and 50% for wound care.

Ceduna Community Hub

Similar to the model of the M25 Ministry (Church of Christ Kalgoorlie-Boulder), which provides multiple services and support including provision of clothes, meals, showers and clothes washing; church gatherings; and hangout spaces; the Ceduna Community Hub is a place for the community to connect, seek help and support, or as a safe place for people to come.

The Hub is a partnership between Red Cross and the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, and serves as support and a referral gateway for community in need. It is open in the town centre from Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

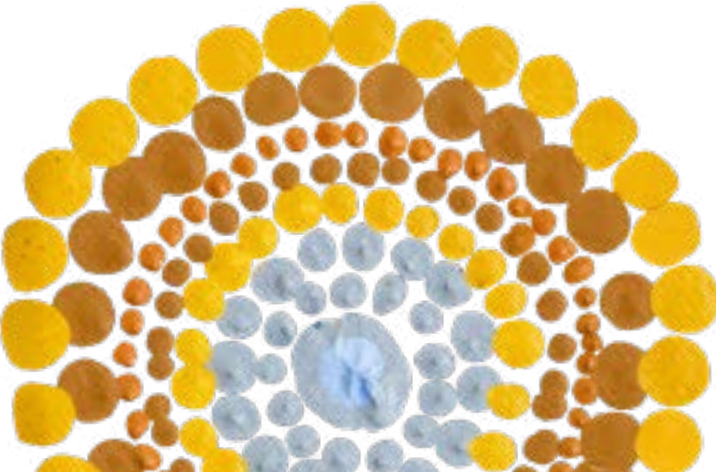
Programs offered include social support, a driver mentor program, street beat, transport, pop-up op-shop, life administration (e.g. printing of forms or documents), and drug/alcohol counselling. The Hub operates in an old house with a yard for activities.

The rules of the Hub, including a zero-alcohol tolerance, have been developed in consultation with the community and the Hub users.

A very simple contact form including telephone numbers to Aboriginal communities is provided to assist people with engaging with outside support services.

Ceduna Community Bus

The Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation runs a Back to Community bus service which is a one-way service from Ceduna to Yalata every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays).



8:30 am	Bus pick up at Town Camp (Wangka Wilurrara Transitional Accommodation)
8:45 am	Bus Pick up at Ceduna Day Centre
9.00 am	Bus Leaves Ceduna Day Centre to Yalata
11:30 am	Bus arrives Yalata

There are 10 seats available on each bus, with pickups from the Day Centre and Town Camp around 8:00am to 8:30am in the morning, arriving at Yalata around 11:30am. Bookings are taken at the Red Cross Day Centre and Town Camp.

The corporation also runs a town bus that is a free bus service from Monday to Friday which stops at schools. The service is well advertised at service provider locations and bus stops are well posted. The bus provides



a service to those who do not have access or funds to support their transport requirements. It stops at schools, supermarkets, Ceduna Hospital and Wangka Wilurur transitional Accommodation Centre.

SA Housing Trust – Wangka Wilurur Transitional Accommodation Centre (Ceduna)

A self-tour was permitted around the camp area which included the main administration and kitchen area, short-term units and yarning circle. This Accommodation Centre was recommended by PTAC as their preferred model for Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Boulder Camp Relocation project.

The Accommodation Centre is operated and maintained by the SA Housing Trust and can accommodate up to 45 people with occupancy regularly around 28 to 36 people per night. The opening hours were 8:00am to 4:30pm daily. Visitors from various lands were mixed together at the centre, as there are no other options for accommodation in Ceduna. There is a 21-day maximum stay, with extensions subject to approval.

Any person staying is required to be at zero alcohol, noting that the reasoning provided was that management would struggle to abide with domestic violence orders of zero alcohol for partners staying together.

The laundry and toilets were separate from the units, with the units having a shared

undercover walk-through with a kitchen. Five people could be accommodated in each unit at once. Breakfast is provided to the rooms (continental), and pillows and blankets.

The yarning area is used for church services and there is often a fire at night for visitors to gather. The accommodation facility does provide dome tents on request.



Yarning Area



Overview of Accommodation Centre



Tank 18 signage

Tank 18

The area called Tank 18 is unfenced bushland outside the dry zone limits of Ceduna. It is an unofficial camping area that is used by people visiting Ceduna from their communities. It is popular for socialising and binge drinking.²¹

Stakeholders expressed concern regarding people walking along the road from Ceduna to Tank 18 at night.

Ceduna Crime Statistics

Since 2021, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Ceduna LGA has significantly increased, rising from 478 offences in 2021 to 875 in 2023.

This escalation in crime is particularly concerning given the town's small population of approximately 3,000 residents and growing concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and transitional vulnerability across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2021 to 2022

Offences increased by 3 (+0.6%)

2022 to 2023

Offences increased by 394 (+81.9%)

High-frequency offence categories in Ceduna include theft, assault, property damage, and burglary/break and enter. In 2024, the number of reported offences remained elevated, with notable counts including:

- Theft: 330 cases
- Assault and related offences: 245 cases
- Property damage: 187 cases
- Burglary/Break and enter: 90 cases

The sharp increase in offences from 2022 to 2023 has been the subject of widespread community concern, particularly in relation to opportunistic crime and street-level anti-social behaviour²².

A Federal government review found that the cessation of the cashless debit card program corresponded with increases in alcohol consumption, gambling, public intoxication, and domestic violence – factors that have contributed to the escalation in crime observed in Ceduna²³.

²¹ Aboriginal camp 'not fit for humans'

²² Ceduna looks for solutions to anti-social behaviour in wake of Cashless Debit Card – ABC News

²³ Review of the Impact of the Cessation of the Cashless Debit Card Final Report



Accommodation Unit

Ceduna Liquor Restrictions

The following conditions have been imposed in relation to the sale of liquor in Ceduna (including Thevenard, Smoky Bay, Penong and Nundroo):

- Customers can only make one purchase of liquor per person per day at any bottle shop.
- Within that purchase, the following limits apply to restricted items, not to be purchased before midday:
 - one 2 litre cask wine (non-fortified) OR
 - two bottles of spirits (not exceeding 750ml) OR
 - one bottle of fortified wine/port (not exceeding 750ml).
- Customers may purchase unrestricted items such as beer/wine within their one purchase. Customers who attend a bottle shop in Ceduna for a second or subsequent purchase (of any type of liquor) on the same day will be refused service.
- These restrictions do not apply to:
 - managers and supervisors of station properties
 - managers and supervisors of companies operating mining ventures
 - other licensees.
- In addition to the above restrictions, licensees are not permitted to sell takeaway liquor to persons residing in a prescribed land.

During summer, between 20 and 60 people discreetly sleep rough around the town. Ceduna's transient population is well-known to residents and services, enabling assistance where required. The Summer Surge program operates under code red conditions, ensuring access to essentials like water and shelter. South Australia Police (SAPOL), recognising the unique challenges posed during peak periods, have adjusted their operational strategies, implementing foot patrols and increasing officer numbers when required.

Two summers ago, Ceduna hosted a generational men's business meeting, which resulted in a significant influx of visitors. This event, exceeding even Summer Surge volumes, caused community tensions. In response, SAPOL enhanced their operational presence and adopted strategies to maintain order.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Ceduna's small size fosters strong and transparent relationships among organisations and Aboriginal Corporations. Approximately one in three Ceduna residents are Indigenous, yet the town remains cohesive without major divisions or unrest. Young Indigenous leaders are stepping up, ensuring proactive community engagement and helping to shape locally led responses.

Alcohol-related issues are addressed proactively. Pubs in the area adjust their operating hours during peak periods, contributing to the rarity of physical altercations, with most incidents being limited to verbal disputes.

A discussion within the Aboriginal community considered the potential benefits and drawbacks of establishing a bar or

a designated alcohol consumption area, highlighting the balance between social inclusion and associated risks.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Service collaboration is a cornerstone of Ceduna's approach. A dedicated group operates under a state-level committee, bringing together both high-level departmental heads and ground-level service providers.

Supported by funding, this group meets quarterly to ensure coordinated responses to emerging issues. Over 40 service providers are involved, forming a proactive and collaborative network.

There is national recognition of ACCO coordination in Ceduna, with the work of Jessie Sleep, the CEO at Far West Community Partnerships, being particularly instrumental in raising the profile of effective service integration.

Ceduna's Native Title holders are focused on long-term development and business investment, rather than individual distributions, in contrast to some Western Australian arrangements. Programs supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, such as community-led cleanup efforts, offer further opportunities for engagement and should be expanded.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The District Council of Ceduna is actively engaged in these initiatives and the CEO participates in quarterly meetings facilitated

Interviews

District Council of Ceduna – 4 February 2025

Attendees –

- Tim Coote, Chief Executive Officer

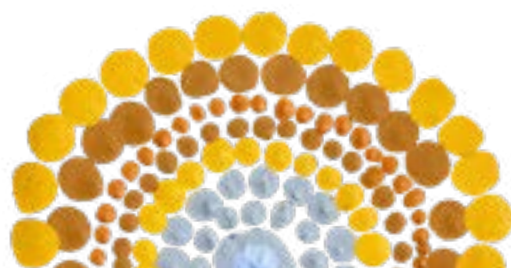
Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Like many regions across Australia, Ceduna faces ongoing housing and social service challenges. While numerous service providers operate in the area, there is concern that some programs may contribute to dependence rather than tackling root causes.

A significant effort has been made to enhance data sharing among stakeholders. However, establishing a formal data-sharing agreement has proven complex, particularly around usage provisions. Nevertheless, this information is vital to shaping policies, especially in relation to previous policies around income management.



Liquor Restrictions (Ceduna)



by the Department of Social Services and Human Services, where updates are shared on policing, child protection, and other critical service matters in the region.

The District Council of Ceduna, in partnership with ACCOs, SAPOL and paramedics, has explored the potential of establishing a designated safe camping area for transient people. This site would not be a dry zone and would include facilities such as phone charging stations. While police support the idea due to its ability to centralise and monitor activity, concerns remain regarding the scale, as larger camps would require added security and sanitation services.

The Family Responsibilities Commission model in Queensland has been highlighted as a potential policy option which could be utilised in Ceduna and other regions. It includes both state and local commissioners who can request tailored policy responses to community-specific challenges.

It is recognised by the District Council of Ceduna's CEO that each community requires tailored strategies. While Ceduna's challenges are seen as more manageable than those of places like Alice Springs, careful planning is still needed to ensure service provision addresses underlying issues rather than unintentionally perpetuating them.

Ongoing questions persist regarding the future of remote communities such as Warburton or Tjuntjuntjara, particularly around the aspirations of younger generations living in the regions and the sustainability of residing in these isolated areas.

Port Augusta, in contrast, shares greater similarities with Kalgoorlie-Boulder in terms of the challenges faced by local government and law enforcement, rather than the integrated service model that can be observed in Ceduna.

Far West Community Partnerships Interview – 4 February 2025

Attendees –

- Jessie Sleep, Chief Executive Officer (FWCP)
- Patrick Sharpe, Partnerships and Research Manager (FWCP)
- Debbie Hansen, Board member (PTAC)
- Ian Baird, Advisor (PNAC)
- Kari Allen, Strategic Consultant (PTAC)



City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, PTAC and FWCP Representatives

The Far West Community Partnerships (FWCP) is an inclusive organisation dedicated to social change in the Far West Communities of Ceduna, Koonibba, Scotdesco, Yalata and Oak Valley.

The FWCP Board members are made up of the CEOs/General Managers of the five Aboriginal communities in the Far West Region: Ceduna, Koonibba, Scotdesco, Yalata and Oak Valley (Maralinga).

The FWCP is also the brokerage organisation for the Department of Social Services' Community-led Support Funding, and therefore has built strong relationships with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which is also a brokerage organisation for this funding.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Transitional Housing

The housing conditions in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (also known as APY Lands) and Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Lands (also known as NPY Lands) remain inadequate, with heating and cooling systems that are either inappropriate or poorly maintained.

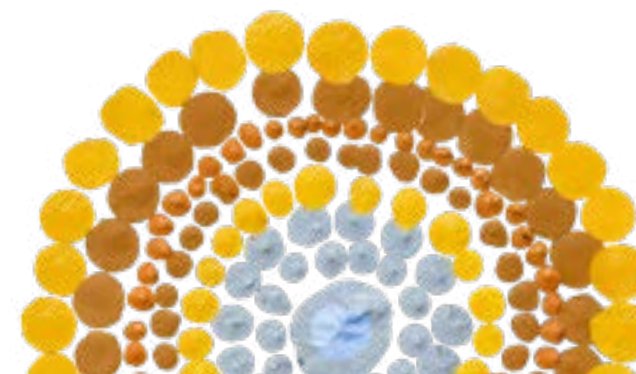
Rising costs further complicate the issue, particularly as decisions are driven by short-term capital costs rather than long-term sustainability. Investment in more durable and suitable housing is often overlooked in favour of immediate financial returns. Rather than considering a 20-year cost-benefit analysis, decision-makers focus on recouping costs within five years, leading to a cycle of repeated investment in housing that continues to fail communities. As a result, housing remains unsuitable, making it not surprising that people in these areas leave during extreme summer conditions.

A deeper understanding of cultural nuances is necessary to address these challenges effectively. First Nations peoples in these regions have historically moved across the landscape in response to seasonal changes and the availability of food and water. This pattern of movement has persisted since before colonisation, yet current policies fail to recognise or accommodate it.

There remains an expectation that once a house is built, people should remain there permanently, despite the well-established tradition of seasonal mobility. This same misunderstanding is evident in the annual "summer surge," where service providers express surprise each December when large numbers of people arrive from remote communities.

This movement is predictable and based on logical needs such as comfort, access to food, and water availability. Groups like the FNWP believe they could actually pre-generate a list of visitors in October who are likely to travel to Ceduna during the Christmas period. However, there is little interest from government agencies in engaging in meaningful discussions around supporting infrastructure, housing stock, or healthy housing principles to address these recurring issues.

Overcrowding and deterioration of housing stock was attributed to the gap between how homes are constructed versus what people require from housing stock. This, in turn, increases maintenance demands and exacerbates housing shortages. FWCP is initiating a research study to better understand these issues, but the underlying challenge remains—housing design is not suited to community needs.



Previously, South Australia had a well-regarded Aboriginal Environmental Health Program that successfully integrated housing, hygiene, dust control, cooling, and maintenance to create healthier communities. The program was defunded around a decade ago, leaving a gap that communities have been calling to fill ever since.

While accommodation solutions could be developed, they must be based on what communities need over what government policies stipulate. A genuine commitment to sustainable, culturally appropriate housing and infrastructure is required to break the cycle of inadequate housing and short-term decision-making.

Hand up versus Hand-out

Current approaches focus heavily on restrictions – telling people what they cannot do rather than providing clear guidance on what they can do. This has created an environment where people are left without appropriate options, leading to unintended consequences.

There is a prevailing focus on prohibitions to visitors rather than solutions. As Jessie Sleep noted –

“We spend, as a state and a region, a lot of time telling people what they can’t do, and we don’t spend a lot of time telling people what they can do.”

There are differing views on what should be provided to support people visiting regional hubs. While there is ongoing discussion about building empowerment programs and promoting self-determination, in practice this is often undermined by systems that prioritise hand-outs over accountability.

Jessie Sleep highlights this challenge, stating –

“The point is that you don’t need to give people everything. You still need to encourage self-sufficiency, self-sustainability, but what I think about is – if I was going to a community, what would I need for them to provide to support me with? And that’s my obligation to support them.”

In our change agenda we talk a lot about a hand-out, not a hand up. So it’s about creating an environment where people can look after themselves.”

It was acknowledged that one of the things that is not done well in Ceduna was holding people accountable when they come into town. There is a reluctance from service providers to tell people when they have overstayed or to enforce expectations around departure. While hospitality and community support are important, there is also a need to set boundaries.

For example, if someone is in town for a two-week medical appointment, their accommodation should be made available to the next person once that period ends. Instead, the prevailing approach has been to avoid making people “homeless,” even when staying is a personal choice. This raises broader questions about responsibility—how to balance providing options with ensuring people remain accountable for their decisions.

Addressing these challenges requires a proactive approach. There needs to be a clear distinction between those staying in town for employment or legitimate short-term reasons and those lingering without clear purpose.

The question remains—how do we manage this issue and ensure people return home when appropriate? In the past, strong social health programs provided outreach services, building relationships with individuals, understanding their reasons for staying, and guiding them through the process of returning home. Re-establishing these kinds of support mechanisms could be a key step in creating a more balanced and sustainable system, where both assistance and accountability are prioritised.

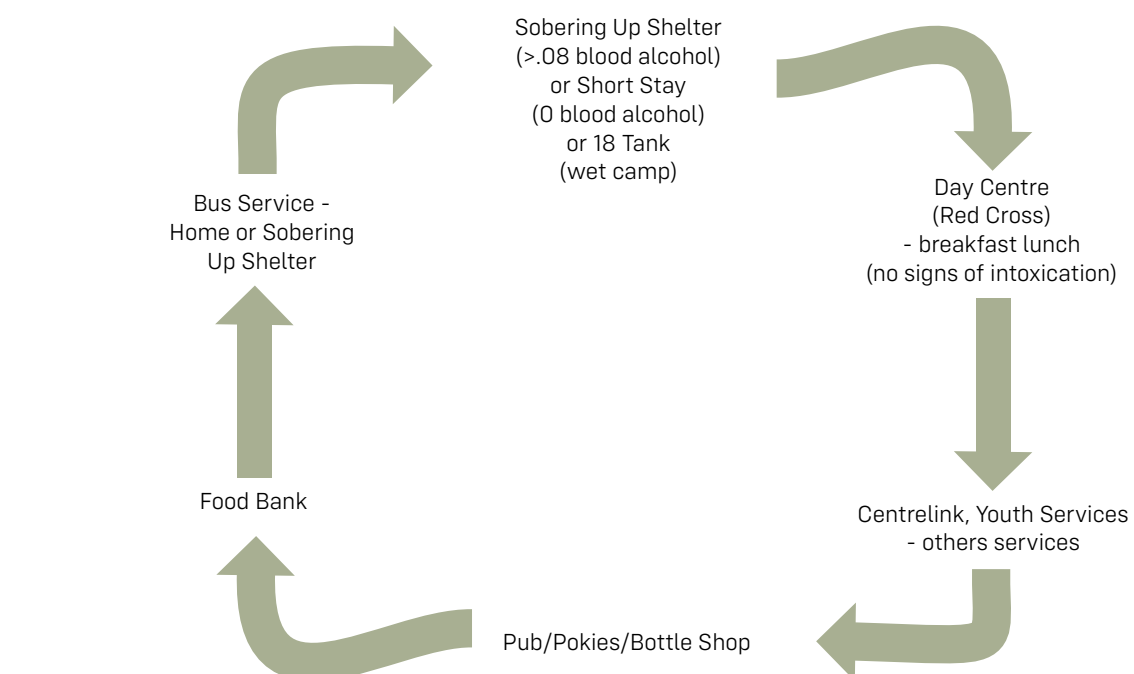
Furthermore, there is an awareness amongst some individuals about how to navigate services to get what they want. People understand that if they answer questions in a certain way when seeking emergency financial assistance, they may be denied help—so they adjust their responses accordingly. This points to a gap in the system where services are not necessarily engaging with the full context of an individual’s

situation, leading to a cycle of dependency rather than meaningful support.

A key example of the cycle of dependency is demonstrated in the process diagram below, which provides an overview of services for visitors to Ceduna and more importantly highlights the gaps in services.

As an example, the Short Stay requires a zero-blood alcohol reading, whereas the Sobering Up Shelter requires a $>.08$ blood alcohol reading, meaning that if someone had one or two standard drinks, they would not have enough in their system to seek accommodation at the Sobering Up Shelter, but would have too much in their system to seek accommodation at the Short Stay. In this case, their only option would be to sleep rough in Ceduna at Tank 18 or elsewhere.

Furthermore, the process diagram also demonstrates the circle of dependence on key services that encourages visitors to stay in Ceduna while their basic needs are being met. This was provided as an example of where service providers have moved towards a hand-out model, removing the ability for visitors to move to a self-determined model during their stay.



Process Diagram of Support (Ceduna)



Ceduna

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Remote Community Outreach

Community support initiatives are structured to maintain a balance between taking services into communities and welcoming people into community settings.

A satellite service hub operates to extend essential services to remote communities, ensuring access to banking, services and food bank resources in a coordinated manner.

Additionally, a Return to Country program is in place, facilitating one-way only travel for individuals returning to their communities. This program is managed through two key locations, with one service operating from Adelaide and another from Ceduna, supporting the safe return of individuals to their home communities.

Summer Surge

Service collaboration plays a crucial role in addressing challenges in transitional

homelessness and high-risk behaviour, particularly during periods of heightened demand, such as during the summer period. The “Summer Surge” collaboration brings ACCOs and non-profit organisations together to discuss key issues and explore solutions.

A key component of this collaboration is the Summer Surge Policy, which ensures that all participating services sign up to a coordinated approach. The policy also requires service providers to ensure staff are rostered on during the Christmas period to ensure continuous service availability to community members and visitors to Ceduna.

Stakeholders work together to guarantee that at least one service representative is always available for support from each non-profit organisation.

In 2023, Jessie and Patrick, recognising the need to understand community issues first-hand, independently opened and managed the Red Cross service over the Christmas period. The Red Cross service provides a safe place for visitors and community members to go during the day to charge their phones, have breakfast and partake in other activities.

Apart from community paramedics, who operate 24/7, and the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, which continued its return-to-country program, no other services maintained operations over the Christmas period.

One of the key challenges observed was the closure of Centrelink over Christmas, leaving community members unable to access payments or submit required forms. As an example, one individual spent seven hours on hold with Centrelink’s helpline, only to be told to call back the next day. This experience highlighted the necessity of ensuring services remain accessible during critical periods.

To address these challenges, a rostering system has now been developed by the Summer Surge Working Group, ensuring that different services are present at the Red Cross, operating as a hub during the Christmas period, on designated days. By formalising this roster through service collaboration meetings, services are held accountable for their commitments and, in some cases, funding agreements.

Halfway Camp

Many years ago, the community and First Nations groups took responsibility for supporting each other and managing movement into the area. As part of this, a Halfway Camp was established, including a kitchen and tents.

This camp served as a key meeting place for anyone coming into the community, with a designated caretaker, Patrick Sharpe’s grandfather, who was fluent in language. The caretaker played a vital role in welcoming visitors, explaining the expectations for entering the community, and ensuring cultural protocols were followed.

The caretaker was chosen by cultural groups, representing various groups without Native Title, to act as a community representative. He facilitated discussions with visitors, outlining the rules while also listening to their expectations, ensuring their needs were met appropriately.

The Halfway Camp functioned as a structured, culturally managed space which was described as a “neutral zone” or a place where visitors would wait before being granted permission to enter the community.

The system fostered accountability; for example, if someone was found littering, the caretaker would intervene to uphold community standards. However, when the government took back control of the land, the community was no longer allowed to use the site. As a result, makeshift camps emerged without a clear structure, leading to the establishment of the Transitional Accommodation Centre by the South Australian Government.

The Transitional Accommodation Centre is operated by the Department of Housing and is bound by risk-based regulations. For instance, individuals who have consumed alcohol, regardless of their behaviour, are denied entry.

The facility has a capacity of 50 people, but this assumes that every available bed in every room is occupied. Additionally, alcohol consumption is monitored through breathalyser testing, which many visitors find punitive. In contrast, areas such as Tank 18 allow unrestricted drinking in rough sleeping conditions, leading to an increase in informal camps along the roadsides.

As articulated in the Ceduna District Council interview, stakeholders including the FNWP are working to re-establish a safe camp for visitors. However, progress is dependent on securing funding through the Community



L-R: CKB CEO Andrew Brien and FWCP Partnerships and Research Manager Patrick Sharpe

Led Support Fund (CLSF), with confirmation of the funding at the time of writing this report still pending.

Alcohol Policies: A Self-Governance Approach

Feedback from the FNWP regarding managing alcohol consumption in town camps was for it to be approached through a self-governance model, whereby visitors and residents take responsibility for maintaining control. A community-led approach enables individuals to make safer decisions while receiving support from family members.

It is their experience that it is essential that First Nations people are involved in shaping regulations, ensuring that alcohol consumption does not become a reason to exclude individuals – especially those who contribute positively and conduct themselves appropriately. The key concern is not alcohol itself, but rather unsafe behaviours, and the people within the community are best placed to determine what constitutes unsafe conduct.

There is a broader question of equity in alcohol regulation that was discussed in relation to why it is acceptable for some groups, such as visiting fishing enthusiasts to Ceduna, to drink excessively in public spaces without scrutiny, while others face restrictions. It is acknowledged there may be inconsistency with how alcohol regulation is enforced, with a view that some groups are targeted disproportionately, and other times, rules are applied fairly and do not disproportionately target First Nations people.

Culturally sensitive alcohol restrictions have also been implemented, particularly during periods of significant cultural business. For example, in line with liquor licensing policies in the APY Lands, individuals covered in ochre were historically prohibited from entering licensed premises in Ceduna. This approach was implemented through dialogue between First Nations Elders and the police, ensuring that restrictions were guided by community leaders rather than being imposed unilaterally.

The five regions represented on the FNWP board have all adopted dry community policies, managing alcohol regulations independently with external support. Community-led enforcement ensures accountability, with residents responsible for upholding these rules.

A permit system is in place, allowing for the removal of individuals who breach restrictions. Additionally, restrictions prevent people from prescribed communities from purchasing takeaway alcohol in Ceduna. While grog running itself is not illegal, selling alcohol to known grog runners is, and licensees risk losing their liquor licences if they do so.

A Liquor Accord is held regularly, bringing together licensees and community members to discuss alcohol-related regulations. Ensuring Aboriginal community representation in these discussions is critical to ensuring that policies affecting the community are shaped through engagement rather than imposed externally.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Ceduna has over 40 service providers that meet monthly, with a broader gathering every second month that includes State police, ambulance, health services, and education partners. While education services are not typically first responders, they play a vital role in addressing the impacts of crisis situations on children, such as absenteeism. These meetings also bring together the CEOs of ACCOs.

These meetings began with the formation of a local working group, which later influenced the structure of the State group, with strong partnerships by State government representatives.

The involvement of a supportive Minister, with whom the group had built a strong relationship, was instrumental in driving these changes forward. The success of this collaborative model has drawn wider attention, with the State government now seeking to implement the Ceduna approach in Port Augusta.

The FWCP facilitates and serves as the secretariat for many of these collaborations, ensuring ongoing coordination. While some meetings may be brief, when there are fewer pressing concerns, the FWCP acknowledged that there is always an issue that benefits from collective problem-solving.

This collaborative approach has been in place for approximately 15 years, although there was a period when it faltered due to changes in leadership and shifting responsibilities. During that time, the Department of Human Services (DHS) stepped in to oversee its coordination. However, DHS has since transitioned the secretariat role back to FWCP, recognising its strong, on-the-ground presence and ability to maintain continuous engagement with the community.

One of the most significant indicators of progress has been the dramatic reduction in deaths among people sleeping rough. Since a coronial inquest in 2011, there has been only one such case, which occurred 14 months ago. Although officially classified as a sleeping rough death, it was primarily a health condition issue and perhaps not a direct consequence of homelessness.

The working group approach also respects individual choices, including the decision to camp on-country rather than choose other types of accommodation models. An example of this was the facilitation of an on-country palliative care program for a person who wished to spend their final days on-country. Through coordinated support, they were able to pass away in comfort, surrounded by family, with access to hospital palliative care at night and community paramedic services during the day. This case highlights how collaboration and a culturally responsive approach can uphold dignity and respect in service delivery.



CEO Andrew Brien and Maddy Clifford, Community Paramedic



Wangka Wilurrara Transitional Accommodation Centre

Another example is that late last year, an entire rough sleeping camp had to be relocated after the property owners decided they no longer wanted people on their land. Despite the challenges, the relocation process was relatively successful due to the collaborative approach of stakeholders. Instead of immediately issuing trespassing notices, SAPOL approached the FNWP for support and offered a few weeks' notice before taking any action.

This allowed time for the FNWP's Community Navigators to engage with the affected individuals, explain the situation, and give them the opportunity to decide where they would like to move. They then provided support to assist with their relocation.

Respectful communication, providing clear information, and asking individuals what assistance they need significantly improves the process and outcomes for all those involved.

South Australia Police, Ceduna Interview – 4 February 2025

- Daniel Lamb, Senior Sergeant First Class
- Patrick Sharpe, Partnerships and Research Manager (FWCP)

- Debbie Hansen, Board member (PTAC)
- Ian Baird, Advisor (PNAC)
- Kari Allen, Strategic Consultant (PTAC)

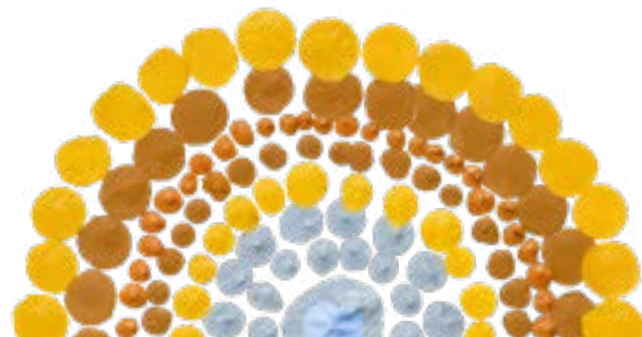
Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Ceduna has undergone significant changes in the past 10 years, shifting from a town with frequent public disturbances to a community with a much-improved safety environment. A decade ago, Ceduna experienced daily incidents of public fighting and detainments, whereas today, efforts have resulted in a substantial positive impact. Despite this progress, negative media coverage continues to highlight high-risk behaviour, influencing public perception.

Youth Engagement and Crime Prevention Initiatives

Although graffiti levels remain low, recent months have seen an increase in youth-related vandalism, including throwing rocks at windows. School holidays have exacerbated these issues, underscoring the need for more engagement opportunities for older youth.

Summer Surge has been a successful initiative, but further efforts are required



to involve teenagers. While the ACCO-run Youth Hub provides excellent programs for children aged 7 to 11, those aged 12 and above show little interest and are more likely to engage in disruptive behaviour.

A gap in youth programs exists, as most activities conclude by 5:00pm. Seasonal shifts also contribute to reduced engagement; sporting activities end in September, and with no football season until April, many youth have limited recreational outlets. Facilities for basketball and cricket are lacking, leaving few structured activities to occupy young people during after-school hours.

Sobering-Up Shelter

The existing sobering-up shelter is not ideally suited for its purpose. There is a risk that the facility operates more like a hostel, with individuals deliberately consuming more alcohol to meet entry requirements. Modifications are needed to ensure that stays at the shelter include mandatory rehabilitation elements.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Alcohol Restrictions and Enforcement

Ceduna is an entirely dry zone, meaning any open alcohol or any alcohol suspected of being consumed in public areas is confiscated and tipped out.



Ceduna



There are strict limitations on alcohol sales, with purchases restricted to one per person per day. Restrictions have been particularly stringent regarding cask wine and port, which were heavily regulated seven years ago, eliminating port purchases altogether.

South Australia's identification scanning system is highly effective, with police and civil barring orders playing a crucial role in enforcement. Currently, there are approximately 120 civil barring orders in place, with SAPOL issuing 60 to 90 of them. In addition to these measures, welfare orders, including doctor-initiated and domestic violence-related orders, can extend barring for up to 12 months.

There is debate in the community over whether individuals come to Ceduna specifically for access to services. While some believe people are drawn by available support, others argue that alcohol accessibility is the primary motivator.

Discussions are ongoing about permitting alcohol sales in historically dry communities, though many view this as culturally disrespectful to the Elders who initially established the bans.

Designated Gathering Spaces and Street Safety Measures

Advocacy efforts are being led by the FWCP to develop culturally appropriate spaces where people can gather and, if they choose to drink, do so in designated areas. It was acknowledged that as much as the police try to curb drug and alcohol use, visitors are adults and, in many cases,

well-respected adults and Elders who have the right to drink and be accountable for their actions.

Last year in Ceduna the police were busy with quadruple the arrests, compared to a relatively quiet summer this year due to the police's efforts in restricting alcohol consumption through policing efforts.

There has also been direct correlation between last year and this year in terms of police incidents by having service providers open during Christmas. Previously serviced providers closed between mid-December until mid-January, whereas this year services were only closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Community Response and Law Enforcement Collaboration

SAPOL have made significant strides in engaging with the local community, ensuring law enforcement services are culturally appropriate. The Anangu people have generally respected barring orders, demonstrating compliance with community regulations.

Effective communication has been a primary focus, as past discussions have often emphasised negative issues without acknowledging positive developments. Successful interventions have included relocating individuals camping on private property (as previously discussed in the FWCP section of the report) through engagement rather than force, achieving resolution within a week.

Collaboration between agencies has been an ongoing priority, but concerns remain about distributing tents and swags in extreme conditions, particularly in temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Kalgoorlie-Boulder's transitional nature, with people frequently traveling from other communities such as Tjuntjuntjara, presents similar challenges to those seen in Ceduna. Alcohol and drug-related issues remain prevalent concerns, with grog running back to communities being a major issue raised by stakeholders.

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals contribute to the illegal purchase and distribution of alcohol, exacerbating social problems. While outlying areas experience fewer issues, Ceduna itself has become a focal point for these activities, often exploiting vulnerable individuals.

Food Bank Interview – 5 February 2025

Attendees –

- Loreena Sleep, Ceduna Food Hub Co-ordinator
- Patrick Sharpe, Partnerships and Research Manager (FWCP)
- Debbie Hansen, Board member (PTAC)
- Ian Baird, Advisor (PNAC)
- Kari Allen, Strategic Consultant (PTAC)

The Food Hub is located in the centre of the CBD in Ceduna. Discussions with Loreena Sleep, Hub Co-ordinator, centred around the critical issue of food insecurity in the community.

Items are available for purchase at heavily reduced prices with all stock and produce freighted from Adelaide. Customers are charged a handling fee which is used to offset the operating costs. As an example, 500g Inghams Diced Chicken Breasts were \$2.50, donated meats were priced at \$5.00 per kilo, and some fruit, vegetables and bread were free. Should a customer not have any money, they are still able to take home the free items.

During periods of low supply, certain goods require limits. Goods that are limited are either in short supply from donors or are in high demand by customers. The Food Hub must often limit the items to ensure they have the best chance of getting these into as many homes as possible.

All customers must present either a voucher or a referral to access the Food Hub. Vouchers are issued when a supporting agency covers the cost of a customer's groceries, while referrals apply when customers are paying for their own shopping. Many service providers use their project funding to purchase food for their clients, including distributing to communities when travelling for outreach program delivery.

Due to recent road conditions, PTAC submitted a request which was referred to



the Foodbank South Australia Operations Manager, for Foodbank South Australia to provide food support to Tjuntjuntjara, given its closer proximity to Ceduna. PTAC will need to further explore the possibility of receiving support from Foodbank South Australia and, if this becomes the preferred option, negotiate the transition with Foodbank WA. PTAC has confirmed its intention to consider this approach.

Further, the CEO of Foodbank South Australia and Northern Territory has been in preliminary discussions with a Federal Minister regarding food security in remote communities. While still in the early stages, PTAC could contact the Foodbank to determine whether Tjuntjuntjara could be considered for inclusion in these discussions.

Another concept under consideration involves establishing a reserve food supply in remote communities—particularly those vulnerable to isolation due to road closures. This may involve pre-positioning a shipping container filled with non-perishable food items within the community, enabling residents to access essential supplies until regular transport routes are restored.





Ceduna Youth Hub, FWCP and City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Representatives

Ceduna Youth Hub Interview – 5 February 2025

Attendees –

- Peter Jericho, Youth Hub Coordinator
- Patrick Sharpe, Partnerships and Research Manager (FWCP)
- Debbie Hansen, Board member (PTAC)
- Ian Baird, Advisor (PNAC)
- Kari Allen, Strategic Consultant (PTAC)

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The issue of anti-social behaviour in Ceduna is complex and often misrepresented in the media. There are two distinct challenges:

1. adult anti-social behaviour from out-of-town visitors; and
2. youth crime among local children.

Youth-related offences often stem from social circumstances rather than criminal intent—incidents such as petty theft usually involve children stealing food out of hunger rather than engaging in serious crimes.

Some youth have been absent from school for over a year, making reintegration difficult. In response, the Youth Hub is collaborating with the education department to develop an alternative education program tailored to disengaged youth aged 11 to 14. Many of these children, particularly during school holidays, wander the streets due to boredom, leading to minor incidents such as shoplifting.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The Ceduna Youth Hub has been operating for 13 years and has expanded to include five programs, including a school engagement program employing three staff, a youth leadership program, a youth justice program, and STAY (Services to Aboriginal Youth).

The Hub's funding comes from a mix of Federal government agencies, including the Department of Social Services and National Indigenous Australian Agency, together with State government sources. While Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation prioritises service delivery, it assesses its capacity before accepting new funding and ensures that services align with community needs.

The Hub employs nine staff, all under the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, which

directly manages funding rather than relying on multiple non-government organisations (NGOs) as in the past. Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation has positioned itself as the primary youth service provider in Ceduna, advocating for centralised funding to deliver a cohesive and effective approach.

The Hub operates an effective after-school drop-in program, engaging 35 to 40 children daily, with numbers rising to around 60 during school holidays. While it provides engaging activities, the Hub faces challenges in meeting diverse interests, from biking and computers to fishing.

The Hub has experimented with extended hours, running after-hours programs from 2016 to 2019, including Thursday and Friday nights, and Saturdays from noon to 8:00pm. However, while these initiatives provided additional entertainment, they did not significantly reduce youth justice involvement, as most youth-related crime occurs after dark. Staffing was another challenge, as securing casual employees for only 15 hours a week proved difficult, placing additional strain on full-time staff.

The Youth Hub's philosophy aligned with the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation's broader approach to offer a "hand-up, not a hand-out". Its programs support youth in getting to school, developing leadership skills, and improving well-being, but emphasise shared responsibility. Families are encouraged to play an active role in their children's development rather than relying entirely on service providers. This principle is echoed across regional service providers to promote a consistent, community-driven approach.

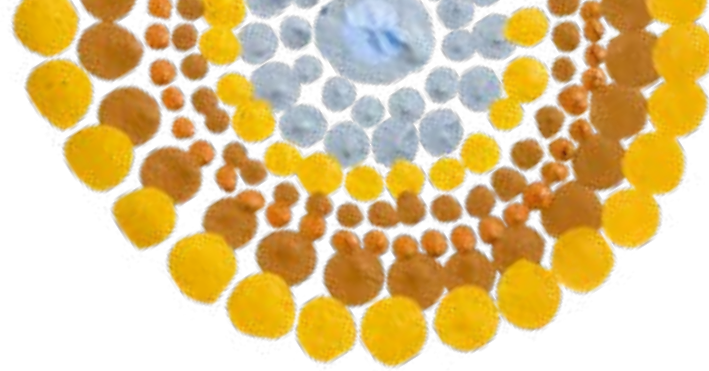
Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation has invested in its infrastructure, purchasing two blocks of land for youth services, including one designated for training and education programs for the 16-25 age group, addressing a gap in the region's support services.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The Shire of Ceduna does not currently provide youth services, having withdrawn its Youth Development Officer role. The governance requirements associated with youth services can be a growing barrier to direct Council involvement. However, the Council strongly supports the Youth Hub, recognising its contributions without providing funding.

When local governments engage in youth services directly, it was felt that it can introduce pressures from ratepayers and other external agendas, whereas a community-led approach ensures grassroots voices are prioritised for the benefit of youth.

Historically, there have been concerns about the Council making decisions on behalf of Indigenous communities rather than in collaboration with them. The current model, where an Aboriginal-run service provider takes the lead, has proven effective, offering a forum where the Council's CEO can advocate for wider community needs in a way that ensures engagement rather than unilateral decision-making.



Homelessness and High-risk Behaviour

Port Augusta

Key Points

- CBD operates as Declared Public Precinct since 2024
- Liquor strictly regulated but alcohol-related crime persists
- \$12 million in State and Federal funding for community safety

Trip observations Page 129

Background

Port Augusta is a regional city located in South Australia, approximately 322km north of Adelaide. With a usual resident population of 13,515 people (2021 Census), the city serves as a key service and transport hub for the state's north, connecting remote communities with southern urban centres.

Port Augusta is home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 20.8% of residents identifying as Indigenous—substantially higher than the national average of 3.2%. This highlights the strong cultural presence of Aboriginal communities in the region and the important role they play in the city's social and community life.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The socio-economic standing of Port Augusta is reflected in its SEIFA score of 877. This score is well below the national baseline of 1,000, indicating a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage across

indicators such as income, employment, and education. Nationally, Port Augusta ranks 54th out of 544 LGA, placing it among one of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia.

Port Augusta faces a range of social challenges, including high rates of anti-social and high-risk behaviour, which are often linked to broader socio-economic disadvantage.

Transitional Aboriginal homelessness is also a prominent issue, with individuals and families frequently moving between remote communities and the city in search of services, housing, or family support. A lack of stable accommodation and support options contributes to ongoing vulnerability and public safety concerns.

Efforts to address these complex issues require targeted, culturally appropriate strategies that recognise the unique needs of Port Augusta's Indigenous population. Investment in housing, health services, and community engagement remains critical to improving social outcomes and fostering greater resilience within the community.



CKB CEO Andrew Brien

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Port Augusta presents a more disadvantaged socio-economic profile. Port Augusta's SEIFA score of 877 and national rank of 54 place it among the most disadvantaged LGA in Australia, reflecting significant challenges in areas such as income, employment, education, and housing. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally, despite its score falling below the national baseline of 1,000.

Both towns are key regional centres and service hubs with substantial Aboriginal populations and shared experiences of social vulnerability, including transitional homelessness, intergenerational disadvantage, and anti-social behaviour. However, Kalgoorlie-Boulder benefits from a more diversified economic base and broader access to infrastructure and employment

opportunities, particularly through its mining sector, which contributes to comparatively stronger socio-economic conditions.

Port Augusta continues to face acute pressures related to high-risk behaviours and public safety concerns, often driven by underlying housing insecurity and limited access to support services. The frequent movement of people from remote communities into the city further strains already limited resources. While Kalgoorlie-Boulder also contends with similar issues, its relatively stronger socio-economic foundation provides a more stable platform for service delivery and long-term planning.

Port Augusta Community Perception Results

While the Port Augusta City Council does not have community perception survey results available, its *Strategic Directions 2035* references desired outcomes to be





“a resilient, inclusive, safe and vibrant community where people feel proud to live” and that the Council will “have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.”

Community Approach

Community Safety Audit

To further enhance safety measures in Port Augusta, the CEO and Mayor met with the Premier of South Australia to discuss the expansion of CCTV coverage and the execution of a community safety audit of the central business district. Both initiatives have since been successfully implemented.

The Port Augusta City Council has recently undertaken a community safety audit, where it sought feedback from the community through a resident survey which was open until 7 February 2025. The input will be used to help shape the Port Augusta CBD master plan, guide safety improvements in streets and parks, and foster stronger partnerships between businesses, residents, and government agencies.

The implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles is a key aspect of the community safety audit. This approach involves site visits conducted after hours to collect real-time data and engage directly with local retailers to assess

security concerns and preventive measures.

The audit focuses on public spaces within the CBD and does not include private buildings or shopfronts. Residential areas may be reviewed in future audits later this year, pending funding. The project is a collaboration with the Council, SAPOL and the Department of Community Services.

Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

On 17 July 2024, the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments announced a commitment of \$12 million over the next three years towards the next phase of community safety and well-being in Port Augusta. The project aims to bring together Aboriginal community representatives, the business community, State and Federal government agencies, and local government.

A draft Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (Port-Augusta-Community-Wellbeing-Safety-Plan.pdf) was developed with the local community over the past year. A community leadership group has been formed to finalise the draft, identify priority actions within it linked to the allocated funding, and establish monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

Port Augusta Crime Statistics

Since 2021/22, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Port Augusta LGA has significantly increased, rising from 1,849 offences in 2021/22 to 2,461 in 2023/24.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2021/22 to 2022/23
Offences increased by 564 (+30.5%)

2022/23 to 2023/24
Offences increased by 48 (+2.0%)

Port Augusta’s crime rate is among the highest in South Australia, with 15,794 incidents per 100,000 residents reported. High-frequency offence categories include assault, theft, and property damage, with 1,165 assault cases reported in 2024.

The town has also experienced a sharp rise in youth-related offending, with more than 100 children, some as young as 10, charged with serious offences in 2023. This surge in youth crime has raised significant concern among residents and stakeholders, echoing patterns seen in other regional centres.

In response, authorities have implemented a range of initiatives including the declaration of the Port Augusta central business district as a Declared Public Precinct, to enable enhanced policing and deter anti-social behaviour. Additionally, a \$12 million joint investment from State and Federal governments is supporting community partnerships to address youth crime, enhance safety, and build stronger local support systems.

Port Augusta Liquor Restrictions

Since 2 November 2022 the following conditions have been imposed in relation to the sale of liquor in Port Augusta:

- Packaged liquor cannot be sold in excess of the following quantities per customer per day:
 - Up to two 700ml bottle of spirits OR
 - One x 1 litre bottle spirits
 - one x 2 litre cask wine (non-fortified) OR
 - one 750ml bottle of port/fortified wine.



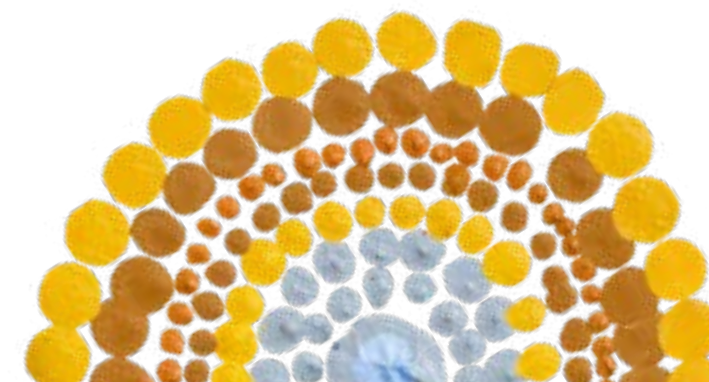
- All purchases require the presentation and scanning of customer ID
- These restrictions do not apply to:
 - managers and supervisors of station properties
 - managers and supervisors of companies operating mining ventures
 - other licensees.

In addition to the above restrictions:

- Licensees operating a bottle shop are not permitted to sell takeaway liquor before 11:00am on any day.
- Licensees are not permitted to sell takeaway liquor to persons residing in a prescribed land.
- Liquor cannot be sold to any person seated in a taxi, including the taxi driver. Customers may exit the taxi in the browsing lane to make a purchase, however liquor cannot be sold to a taxi driver on duty, whether the taxi driver is seated in a taxi, or by walk-up sales.

Dry Area/Declared Public Precinct

The Port Augusta Council has had various “dry areas” under the *Liquor Licensing Act* 1997 since 1987, prohibiting consumption





Lakeview Accommodation Centre, Port Augusta City Council

of alcohol in specified public places. These proved difficult to police effectively, and high-risk behaviour in the CBD and in other areas worsened, leading to the Council applying for and being granted a city-wide dry area in 2005; this was eventually extended until 2010. The Council still has three broad dry areas covering Port Augusta, Port Augusta West, and surrounds.

In October 2024, Port Augusta’s CBD became a Declared Public Precinct under a trial period. This measure aims to enhance safety for residents and visitors by tackling high-risk behaviour, youth crime, and alcohol-related issues. A Declared Public Precinct enables the following powers to be exercised by police:

- Conduct metal detector searches for weapons.
- Perform drug detection operations.
- Order individuals or groups posing risks to public safety to leave the area.
- Ban offenders from re-entering the precinct.
- Remove children engaging in dangerous or disorderly behaviour.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

In Western Australia, there are two mechanisms for liquor restrictions under the *WA Liquor Control Act 1988*, Section 64 and Section 175.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder already has Section 64 restrictions under the *Liquor Control Act 1988*, which means the consumption of liquor on public roads and in private vehicles, and in parks and other public places, is an offence.

The Section 64 restrictions also specify the hours within which takeaway liquor can be sold at liquor stores, hotels, taverns and clubs. Section 64 restrictions are imposed by the Director of Liquor Licensing. Police have powers to stop and search vehicles, and can immediately dispose of any liquor in excess of the limits. They can also issue “move on notices” directing a person to leave a public place for up to 24 hours.

Section 175 Restrictions are declared by the Governor of Western Australia on the recommendation of the Minister for Racing and Gaming, and provide for Aboriginal communities to request their local community be declared a dry community.

These restrictions apply to a declared area of the state; may prohibit the bringing in, possession and consumption of liquor in the

declared area; and may provide for penalties to apply to people who contravene the restrictions. The restricted area declaration is currently the State Government’s preferred legislative mechanism for alcohol management in Aboriginal communities. There are 30 areas in Western Australia that have Section 175 restrictions.

Interviews

Port Augusta City Council Interview – 6 February 2025

Attendees –

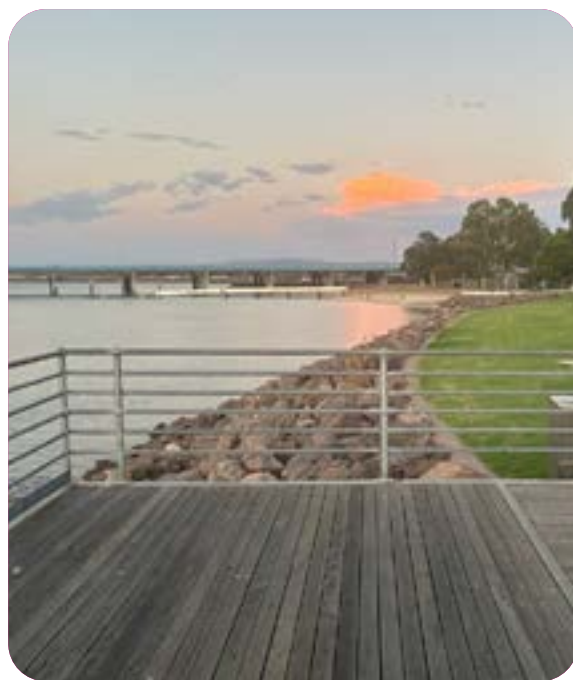
- Linley Shine, Mayor
- John Banks, Chief Executive Officer

In 2005, John Banks, then the Director of Community and Cultural Services for the City of Darwin, participated in the National Reconciliation Conference in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, engaging in discussions on reconciliation efforts. A decade spent in Darwin involved the development of a Community Safety Plan, focusing on strategic measures to address crime and high-risk behaviour. John Banks has been the CEO of the Port Augusta City Council since 2014.

More recently, collaboration with the Alice Springs Council has been a key part of the broader effort to implement effective safety initiatives in Port Augusta. Engagement at a national level also includes involvement in the Department of Health (DOH) Committee, contributing to health and safety governance on a broader scale.

Prisons and Impact on Regional Communities

In a previous interview in Port Hedland, Detective Senior Sergeant Ben Taylor provided commentary on the broader



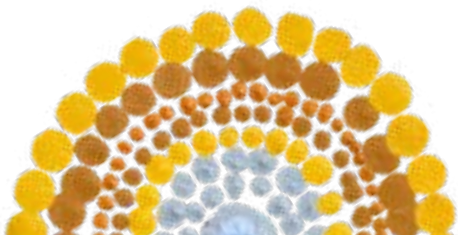
social impact of regional prisons and the requirement for improved accommodation and services for visitors to reduce the negative community impact from prisons.

As Port Augusta also has a regional prison, John Banks, CEO, provided the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder with a study called *Beyond Bars: Exploring Challenges and Solutions to the Problem of Short Custodial Stays in Regional South Australia, 2024*.²⁴

The *Beyond Bars* report explores the challenges and potential solutions related to short custodial stays in regional South Australia, focusing on Port Augusta and Port Lincoln. Short custodial stays—defined as six months or less—are common internationally and pose significant issues for rehabilitation and reintegration.

The report reveals that these short stays contribute to a cycle of incarceration without addressing

²⁴ *Beyond Bars: Exploring Challenges and Solutions to the Problem of Short Custodial Stays in Regional South Australia*, J. Mizzi, C. Hughes, M. Halsey, J. Cleary, S. Deegan and I. Goodwin-Smith, July 2024



the underlying causes of offending. A high proportion of individuals held on remand are released without conviction, indicating many could have avoided imprisonment. Despite this, regional areas often lack the infrastructure to support people transitioning back into the community, compounding issues like housing instability, unemployment, and health challenges.

Quantitative data collected from Port Augusta Prison (PAP) and Port Lincoln Prison (PLP) between 2018 and 2023 shows that over 80% of prison stays were short-term. Most of those incarcerated were on remand and later released without charge or on bail, suggesting unnecessary strain on prison and community resources.

Aboriginal people are disproportionately represented among those with short stays, and a significant number experience frequent reimprisonment—many cycling through the prison system multiple times. Case studies demonstrate how repeated short stays can result in considerable cumulative time served, yet without meaningful support or rehabilitation opportunities.

The report also incorporates stakeholder perspectives gathered through roundtables in both communities. Stakeholders consistently described the prison system as ill-equipped to support individuals on short custodial stays, particularly due to the unpredictable nature of remand and the lack of discharge planning.

Released individuals often face complex needs—mental health issues, substance use, domestic violence, and homelessness—without knowing how to access services. Regional services struggle to meet demand, and collaboration between corrections and health/social services is minimal.

The situation is further compounded by stigma, over-policing, and inadequate culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal communities.

To address these issues, the report recommends three key interventions:

- transitional accommodation facilities located outside prison gates to provide immediate, safe housing post-release;
- a centralised social and health services hub that operates on a “no wrong door” model to streamline access to support; and
- community-based “wayfinding champions” who engage with individuals pre-release and guide them through reintegration. These interventions should be paired with broader reforms such as early intervention programs, improved funding for regional services, reduced reliance on remand, and greater Aboriginal leadership.

Collectively, these solutions would aim to reduce recidivism, promote community safety, and create more effective responses to short custodial stays.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Rising crime and high-risk behaviour continue to be major priorities in Port Augusta. Social media has amplified crime reports, with the number of crime incidents formally reported to the Council or SAPOL not reflecting community perceptions.

Youth crime and high-risk behaviour remain pressing concerns in Port Augusta. Trends fluctuate, with high rates of domestic violence occurring in private residences and incidents of family-against-family violence in the central business district.

Groups of 10-12 youth frequently engage in harassment, theft, and, in some cases, the use of weapons. Most offenders are already known to SAPOL and Human Services. When detained, youth offenders must be sent to Adelaide due to the absence of local detention facilities.

Furthermore, family support and child protection interventions often take eight to nine weeks for resolution, further complicating efforts to address youth crime effectively. Instances of youth intimidation have also been reported, particularly involving groups aged 14-17 using scooters to harass pedestrians.

During extreme heat events (Code Red days), the State government relocates vulnerable individuals to hotels, covering their accommodation costs.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Police

Regular meetings are held with the police superintendent and senior officers to analyse crime statistics, with efforts made to encourage residents to report incidents despite the perceived burden of doing so.

Housing

The Mayor and CEO of Port Augusta maintain regular meetings with Alice Springs and Ceduna representatives to exchange strategies for addressing high-risk behaviour and homelessness. Strengthening partnerships with SAPOL, and State and Federal government agencies, will be vital in ensuring timely interventions and coordinated action plans. By implementing these measures, Port Augusta can work towards a safer, more secure place for all residents.

There is a need for a broader discussion on whether individuals genuinely wish to remain in their current communities. If not, the government should consider collaboration with stakeholders to facilitate relocation, including appropriate housing solutions. Data collection on how long individuals remain in other communities without accommodation is necessary to inform policy development.

The Mayor raised that, if small, medium, and large LGA (e.g. Ceduna with 3,500 residents, Port Augusta with 15,000 residents, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder with 30,000 residents) are all struggling with similar issues in relation to high risk behaviour and homelessness, it highlights the need for an improved response from higher levels of government.



Port Augusta



Port Augusta

While each community faces unique challenges, the overarching issues remain consistent, and no existing approach has proven entirely effective. Additionally, it was highlighted that the lack of bipartisan consensus in government leads to frequent changes in policies and programs, preventing long-term solutions from establishing themselves.

Funding and Government Involvement

Efforts to improve community safety in Port Augusta have been supported by securing \$12 million in funding, with \$6 million contributed by the State and \$6 million by the Federal government.

This funding, allocated over three years, has been designated for the development and implementation of a Community Safety plan which is to be facilitated by the NIAA and DSS.

However, despite an announcement in July last year by Minister Burney, Former Australian Minister for Indigenous Australians, no significant frameworks were put in place before the summer, delaying the intended impact of these measures.

To guide the expenditure of the \$12 million investment, the State and Federal governments are working together to develop a governance model to ensure appropriate investment decisions are community led. However, some challenges persist with the model due to competing Native Title claims in Port Augusta.

Two claims have been determined by the Federal Court, while another claim asserts cultural links, leading to ongoing discussions over Aboriginal representation and rights. The presence of 35 language groups further complicates consensus-building, making it difficult to determine appropriate authorisation.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Community Safety Initiatives

Several years ago, the Council developed a reporting tool – Incident-Reporting-Form-Anti-social-Behaviour.pdf for anti-social behaviour, simply due to the issue that appropriate reporting from the community was not going through to the SAPOL. Initially, there was a surge in reporting to the Council, however, this has gradually declined.

Previously, a City Safe Patrol operated in Port Augusta 24/7 with three staff members funded by the Council. However, the program ceased in 2019 due to high costs and uncertainty regarding whether such initiatives fell under the Council's responsibilities. Government agencies had come to rely on the City Safe Patrol for security, highlighting the impact of its discontinuation. A similar patrol operated in Darwin for 10 years before it was phased out.

Sobering up Shelters

The Port Augusta City Council operates a State-funded sobering-up shelter with 18 beds, which runs 24/7 and is connected to the local hospital. A day centre provides essential services such as breakfast, lunch, showers, and clothing.

However, there is concern that reliance on these services may be increasing rather than addressing underlying issues. For example, the NIAA provided additional funding to extend operations to weekends, ensuring continuous access to services, but which does not necessarily address the root causes.

A rehabilitation centre exists in Port Augusta, but Council has limited information regarding its operations.

Department of Human Services Interview – 6 February 2025

Attendees –

- Kayleen Patterson – Youth Outreach (DHS)
- Emily Butler – Executive Officer (DHS)
- Veronika Hammermeister – Project Officer (DHS)
- Jaqueline Tanke – Project Officer (DHS)

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

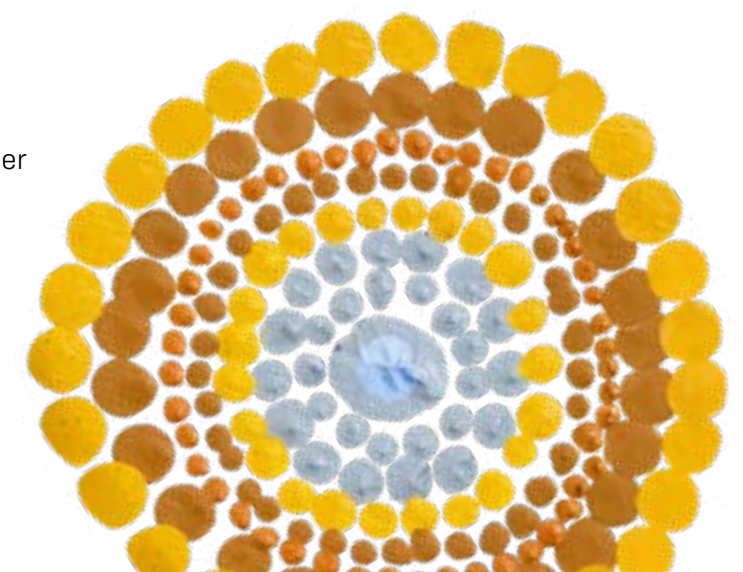
Community concerns persist regarding remote visitors and high-risk behaviours, particularly among youth.

There has been a shift in demographics, with fewer individuals returning to their communities and an increase in visitors unfamiliar with the area. Some individuals seek support from organisations like the Salvation Army but are unaware of services such as the day centre. Additionally, the presence of a local prison has led to issues where individuals released into the community struggle with reintegration, contributing to reoffending.

Accommodation shortages remain a pressing issue. The sobering-up facility, run by the Council, is flexible in admitting individuals, even those who do not meet the blood alcohol limit criteria. However, it has limited capacity, does not accommodate children, and operates on a short-term basis. Reports suggest that more individuals are staying in overcrowded homes due to the lack of alternatives.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The DHS in Port Augusta has been actively engaged in addressing community concerns, particularly around youth outreach, community safety, and well-being.



DHS has been leading the In Reach program for the past 18 months, which has played a role in responding to community concerns regarding high-risk behaviour and youth crime following advocacy from the community to the Minister for DHS.

Port Augusta's Declared Public Precinct has been established as a dry zone, with SAPOL granted additional powers to enforce compliance. Under these conditions, police can conduct searches, remove individuals from the area, and transport children to a place of welfare. There has been significant consultation regarding the Declared Public Precinct, with concerns that it disproportionately targets specific groups. Instead of fines, individuals found with alcohol in designated areas near Aboriginal communities are referred to alcohol and drug (AOD) services. However, the community remains divided on the necessity and fairness of these measures.

The Wali Wiru team, consisting of two First Nations workers, provides support for overcrowding in tenancies, assists with returning individuals to their communities, and offers well-being checks. This initiative, funded by the Department of Housing (SA), has been instrumental in addressing some of these housing challenges.

A DSS-funded pilot program has introduced an in-reach service for intensive family support, providing a safe space for children aged 12 to 17 from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. Agencies have been encouraged to establish soft entry points for engagement, such as cooking meals and providing social activities.

Traditional outreach efforts have faced barriers due to stigma and lack of trust, but services offering practical support, such as phone charging and gaming consoles, have seen better engagement. However, the existing youth centre requires payment for access and does not open until 4:00pm, limiting its accessibility for some young people.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The South Australian State Government has committed to a three-year initiative aimed at improving service coordination, with mixed responses from stakeholders.

Additionally, there have been calls for the Commonwealth Government to invest in a pilot program focused on community safety and well-being. The DSS remote and regional team has also been involved in these discussions.

A data-sharing agreement is being explored between three levels of government to improve coordination with the DHS involved in drafting the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. This plan is intended to be community-led, with a stakeholder group in Port Augusta comprising Traditional Owners, ACCOs, youth representatives, businesses, and SAPOL. The group is finalising the plan and endorsing initiatives aimed at improving safety and well-being.

Media and social media coverage have amplified incidents that are not as prevalent as portrayed, though there are acknowledged challenges in addressing these issues.

Service providers have been working towards a restorative approach, strengthening collaboration to enhance service delivery. Coordination efforts have been strong, with twice-weekly meetings involving NGOs, the Port Augusta City Council, SAPOL, and housing representatives. Port Augusta has a relatively stable workforce with minimal turnover, ensuring continuity in efforts to address these issues.

The Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan stakeholder group endorses initiatives that align with the Plan, with funding approvals managed by the NIAA and DHS; this streamlined approach has been put in place to minimise approval delays from other levels of government. The formation of the group involved an expression of interest process and voting, with a trial phase for initial projects.

The group is responsible for establishing its own monitoring system, prioritising alternative education and a well-being centre for youth. Funded organisations report back to the group through presentations, and members are expected to disseminate information both within and outside the group.

A key milestone was the first planning day without NIAA and DHS, empowering the group to take control of decision-making. The Terms of Reference (TOR) were developed by the group, with a membership term of 12 months and a review scheduled in six months. The group comprises 19 members, with a quorum set at 10, and no proxy attendance allowed.

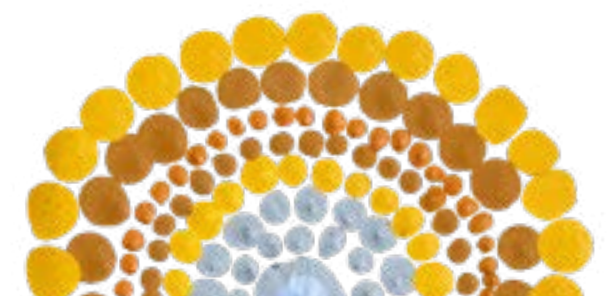
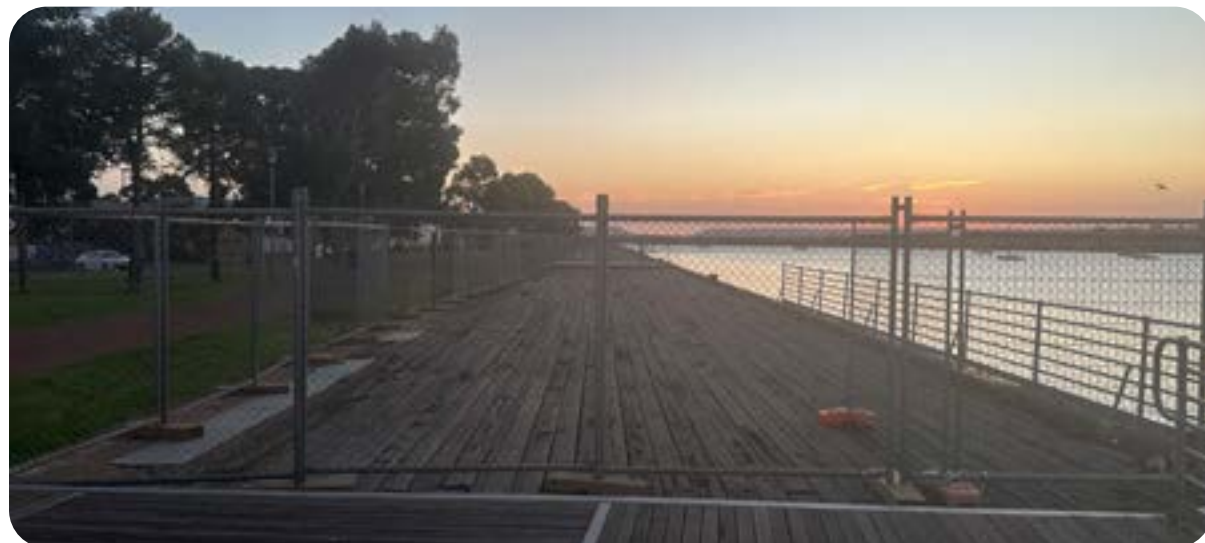
DHS has implemented youth outreach programs and coordinated efforts around remote visitors, conducting four consultation workshops that informed the development of the Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The Federal Government has also committed additional funding, with further contributions from the State Government.

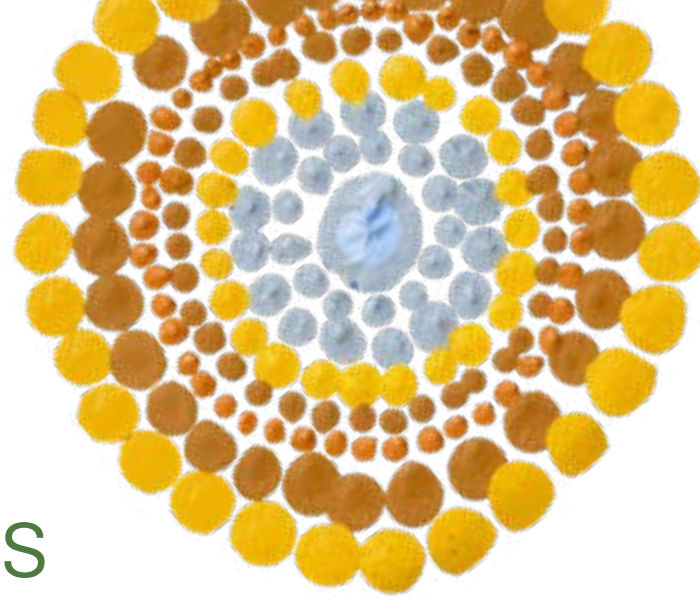
Edwards Park – Adelaide (A Case Study)

A significant issue facing Adelaide is homelessness, with Edwards Park becoming an area which serves as a safe place for remote visitors. Concerns have been raised about individuals crossing roads under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, prompting media attention.

DHS has been requested to identify a safer gathering site, which has been established as a temporary facility with no fixed structures. This site includes outreach workers operating in three shifts per day, a clinical lead nurse, social workers, and security. The location features basic kitchen facilities, temporary marquees, and toilet access. While the facility has seen significant uptake, there have been periods of underutilisation.

Discussions are ongoing with the Barngarla people, the Traditional Owners of the land, regarding long-term plans and cultural sensitivities. DHS acknowledges the need to be responsive, learning from experience while maintaining efforts to return individuals to their communities where possible.





Observations



Ceduna

- Ceduna has implemented a successful collaborative model involving over 40 service providers. These services meet monthly, with regular engagement from State departments, Aboriginal organisations, and local authorities to ensure coordinated responses to issues like homelessness and anti-social behaviour.
- Ceduna, like Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Summer Response Strategy, runs a Summer Serge collaboration whereby stakeholders have confirmed, via an agreement, to providing services all year round including over holidays. This includes staffing the Support Hub over this period.
- The Wangka Wilurra Transitional Accommodation Centre is the preferred model for the Tjuntjuntjara community in terms of infrastructure. It includes communal spaces such as a yarning circle and open spaces for cooking.
- An effective Community Paramedic Program has been funded for 10 years and is a trusted outreach service providing health support (wound care, hydration, prescribed medication) for transient visitors, operating on a week-on/week-off basis. The program is under constant funding review despite its success.
- Ceduna enforces strict takeaway liquor limits and has civil barring orders in place, supported by police. Aboriginal community involvement is central in shaping and enforcing culturally appropriate alcohol rules.

- The support system for the transient population accessing support has conflicting criteria — for example, someone may be too sober for a sobering-up shelter but too intoxicated for short-stay accommodation. This forces people to sleep rough and increases service dependency without a clear pathway out.

- The Ceduna Youth Hub delivers multiple programs and has good reach (up to 60 children a day) but struggles with extended hours and engaging youth aged 12 and over, who are more prone to anti-social behaviour during school breaks.
- The Ceduna Food Bank plays a vital role in combatting food insecurity, with support from service providers who use their project funding to purchase supplies. There is the potential to replicate this distribution model to nearby regions like Tjuntjuntjara.
- Youth, particularly in groups, are known to harass residents and use scooters and weapons. Offenders are mostly known to SAPOL and must be transferred to Adelaide due to a lack of local detention facilities.
- Liquor is strictly regulated with quantity limits and ID scanning. However, alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour persist, including in dry zones.
- Despite \$12 million in State and Federal funding for community safety, a lack of an implementation framework meant no measurable changes occurred prior to the summer surge.

Port Augusta

- Since October 2024, Port Augusta's CBD has operated as a Declared Public Precinct, granting police powers to remove individuals, ban repeat offenders, and conduct searches to address safety and alcohol-related issues.
- Historically, Port Augusta operated City Safe Patrols, mobile assistance, and other safety initiatives, but they were ceased due to cost and unclear jurisdiction.

Analysis

Ceduna and Port Augusta face significant challenges related to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and high-risk behaviour, but they have taken notably different approaches in response.

Ceduna has focused on collaborative, community-led models that empower Aboriginal community organisations, while Port Augusta has leaned more towards top-down governance structures and enforcement measures.

Ceduna's success is largely attributed to its integrated service model, strong Aboriginal leadership, and culturally sensitive responses, whereas Port Augusta's progress has been hindered by fragmented governance and inconsistent service delivery despite substantial government investment.

Ceduna's approach centres on proactive coordination and cultural respect. With over 40 service providers meeting regularly, and dedicated support from state departments and Aboriginal-led organisations like the Far West Community Partnerships, Ceduna has cultivated a model that is flexible and responsive. Initiatives such as the community paramedic program, the Ceduna Community Hub, and the Wangka Wilurarr Transitional Accommodation Centre reflect a clear emphasis on providing tailored, supportive environments that reduce harm while respecting individual choice.

The model in Ceduna aspires to be based on a "hand up, over a hand-out" in terms of service offerings. Whilst current offerings demonstrate a highly integrated approach, it could be seen, in some incidences, to be providing a level of dependency for the transient population on services.

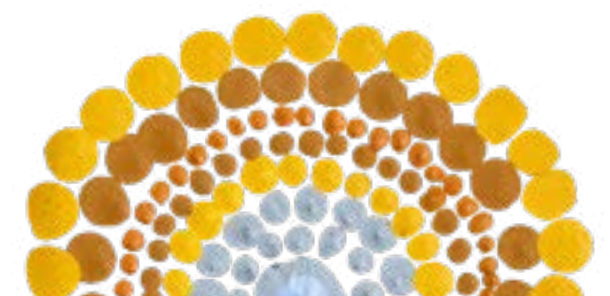


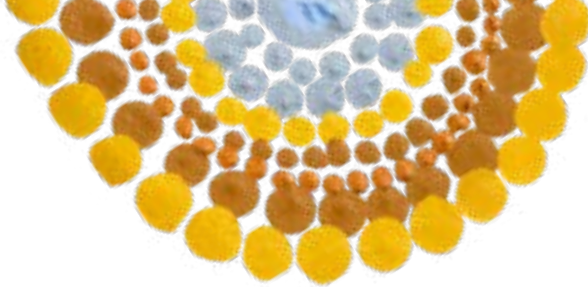
Ceduna

In contrast, Port Augusta, while similarly impacted by socio-economic disadvantage and high-risk behaviour, appears to rely more heavily on law enforcement and public safety interventions. The establishment of a Declared Public Precinct and city-wide dry zones underscores an enforcement strategy aimed at kerbing crime and anti-social conduct.

Housing instability and overcrowding are shared issues in both locations, particularly for transient populations moving between remote communities and regional centres. Both towns recognise the need for culturally suitable transitional accommodation and have centres in place operated by the SA Government.

Overall, Ceduna's experience offers important insights into how locally driven, culturally safe models can reduce anti-social behaviour and improve outcomes for Aboriginal visitors and residents. Its emphasis on empowerment, service collaboration, and community accountability has led to change that could inform broader regional strategies, including those in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This has not always been the case in Ceduna and required State and Federal government support to develop these frameworks in consultation with the community. Similarly, Port Augusta is now receiving State and Federal government support to implement effective solutions and coordinated service delivery.





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour

Alice Springs

Key Points

- Crime and safety concerns have escalated in recent years
- Enforcement measures not sufficient alone to address underlying drivers of behaviour
- Stakeholders consistently call for more integrated, community-based services, and Aboriginal leadership in decision-making processes

Trip observations Page 180

Background

Alice Springs is a remote town located in the Northern Territory, approximately 1,500km south of Darwin. With a usual resident population of 24,855 people (2021 Census), it serves as a major service centre for Central Australia and plays a vital role in connecting remote desert communities to essential services and economic opportunities.

The town is home to a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 18.1% of residents identifying as Indigenous. This figure is well above the national average of 3.2%, highlighting the strong cultural presence and historical significance of Aboriginal communities in the region.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Alice Springs' socio-economic standing is reflected in its SEIFA score of 1,004, placing it slightly above the national baseline of 1,000. Its national SEIFA rank of 430 out of 544 also places Alice Springs in the upper quartile of LGA, indicating a relatively higher

level of socio-economic advantage compared to many other regions.

Despite this, significant internal disparities persist, particularly among the Aboriginal population, many of whom travel to Alice Springs from remote communities to access essential services, seek employment, or participate in cultural activities. These dynamics highlight the contrast between the town's broader socio-economic profile and the lived experience of vulnerable groups within the community.

Alice Springs faces complex social challenges, including high levels of anti-social and high-risk behaviours. Many Aboriginal people travel from surrounding remote communities to Alice Springs for services, employment, or cultural reasons. However, the lack of affordable housing and limited access to appropriate support services often leads to transient living arrangements and increased vulnerability to homelessness.

Issues related to alcohol and substance abuse are also prevalent, contributing to broader concerns around community safety and health outcomes. Despite the town's relatively strong economic links, these



Alice Springs

issues reflect deep-rooted socio-economic inequalities that disproportionately affect the Indigenous population.

Addressing these challenges requires culturally responsive and community-led approaches. Key priorities include improving access to housing, health care, and education, as well as strengthening partnerships with ACCOs to ensure that service delivery reflects local needs and aspirations.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Alice Springs presents a similarly complex socio-economic profile. Alice Springs records a SEIFA score of 1,004, marginally above the national baseline of 1,000, with a national rank of 430 out of 544 LGA. This places it within the more advantaged half of LGAs across Australia, although its socio-economic profile remains marked by considerable internal inequality. By comparison, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it below the national baseline but still within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally.

Both Alice Springs and Kalgoorlie-Boulder function as major regional centres with large Aboriginal populations and significant responsibility for servicing surrounding remote communities. Each faces substantial social challenges, including transitional Aboriginal

homelessness, substance misuse, and anti-social behaviour. However, Kalgoorlie-Boulder benefits from a more diversified and stable economic base, particularly through the mining sector, and comparatively broader infrastructure and service delivery networks, which contribute to stronger relative socio-economic outcomes.

In Alice Springs, the apparent disconnect between its SEIFA score and rank reflects the presence of pronounced socio-economic disparities within the local population. While some residents benefit from stable government employment and regional investment, others, particularly within the Aboriginal community, face entrenched disadvantage, including poor housing access, unemployment, and limited culturally safe services. These intra-community disparities highlight the need for place-based, culturally informed approaches that respond to both the strengths and structural vulnerabilities present in each.



Alice Springs Community Perception Results

While Alice Springs Town Council does not have community perception survey results available, their *Alice Springs Liveability and Sustainability 2030* report identifies Pillar 2 as Safety whereby –

“Alice Springs is a unique and prosperous place to live and work when at its best. This relies heavily on ongoing considerations and support around community safety.

Council understands the need for residents and visitors to feel safe and secure in their own town while experiencing all that Alice Springs has to offer.

We are committed to working with all levels of government, as well as the community and individuals, to ensure Alice Springs becomes a safer place to live.”

Alice Springs Crime Statistics

Comprehensive crime statistics for Alice Springs are limited in publicly available datasets, with the most detailed data typically centred on assault-related incidents. This narrow scope poses challenges for drawing complete conclusions about overall crime trends in the region. However, based on the available data, assault offences provide a valuable proxy for gauging broader public safety concerns, given its frequency and its strong correlation with key social drivers such as alcohol misuse, family violence, and transitional homelessness.

Assault incidents in Alice Springs remain consistently high, with monthly totals generally exceeding 170 incidents and peaking at 232 assaults in July 2024. The persistent elevation in assault rates reflects sustained challenges with public safety, alcohol misuse, and complex social issues that affect the town and surrounding communities.

Key month-on-month trends include:

Dec 2023 to Jan 2024 Assaults decreased by 7 from 206 to 199 (–3.4%)
Jan 2024 to Feb 2024 Assaults decreased by 13 from 199 to 186 (–6.5%)
Feb 2024 to Mar 2024 Assaults increased by 37 from 186 to 223 (+19.9%)
Mar 2024 to Apr 2024 Assaults decreased by 52 from 223 to 171 (–23.3%)
Apr 2024 to May 2024 Assaults increased by 6 from 171 to 177 (+3.5%)
May 2024 to Jun 2024 Assaults increased by 4 from 177 to 181 (+2.3%)
Jun 2024 to Jul 2024 Assaults increased by 51 from 181 to 232 (+28.2%)
Jul 2024 to Aug 2024 Assaults decreased by 2 from 232 to 230 (–0.9%)
Aug 2024 to Sep 2024 Assaults decreased by 34 from 230 to 196 (–14.8%)
Sep 2024 to Oct 2024 Assaults decreased by 21 from 196 to 175 (–10.7%)
Oct 2024 to Nov 2024 Assaults increased by 20 from 175 to 195 (+11.4%)
Nov 2024 to Dec 2024 Assaults increased by 36 from 195 to 231 (+18.5%)
Dec 2024 to Jan 2025 Assaults decreased by 6 from 231 to 225 (–2.6%)

Despite some month-to-month fluctuations, the broader pattern shows a persistently high baseline of assaults, driven largely by family violence and alcohol-related harm. The spikes in March, July, and December coincide with school breaks and periods of increased population mobility, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Alice Springs continues to face acute pressures related to transitional homelessness, service demand, and community safety. These findings reinforce the need for coordinated strategies that include crisis accommodation, alcohol management, youth diversion, and culturally informed responses.

Community Approach

Various programs and initiatives for the community approach for Alice Springs are outlined within the interview section.

Alice Springs Liquor Restrictions

Alcohol consumption and takeaway liquor sales in the Northern Territory are governed by region-specific rules designed to support community safety and well-being. These restrictions are set by the NT Government and vary across regions.

The following key rules apply across the whole of the NT:

- Photo identification is mandatory for all takeaway alcohol purchases.
- Public consumption of alcohol is prohibited in dry communities and other restricted public areas.
- Taxi drivers are not permitted to purchase alcohol on behalf of passengers.
- Liquor stores remain closed on Good Friday and Christmas Day.
- Only liquor stores attached to licensed venues may trade on Sundays.

The following rules apply specifically to Alice Springs:

- Alcohol may only be purchased during the following designated hours:
- In Yulara, takeaway alcohol is available exclusively to registered resort guests.
- Only one alcohol purchase is permitted per person per day.

Regions and opening times	Alice Springs within local government area	Alice Springs greater region
Monday and Tuesday	Closed	2pm to 9pm
Wednesday to Friday	3pm to 7pm	2pm to 9pm
Saturday	11am to 8pm	10am to 9pm
Sunday (liquor stores attached to licensed premises only)	12 noon to 9pm	12 noon to 9pm
Public holidays	11am to 8pm	10am to 9pm
Good Friday and Christmas Day	Closed	Closed

Table 1 – Hours of Alcohol Purchase (Alice Springs)

Interviews

Community Housing Central Australia Interview – 10 March 2025

Attendees –

- Shelly Beattie, Operations Manager

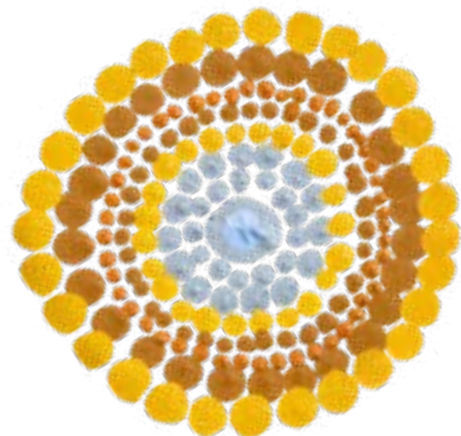
Community Housing Central Australia (CHCA), based in Alice Springs, manages 540 houses, including houses on 17 Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation Town Camps.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Violence remains a significant issue in Alice Springs, with severe incidents such as stabbings occurring. At any given time, there are high numbers of people sleeping rough or staying at other people's properties, causing overcrowding issues. These are mainly people coming to town from external communities.

While drug-related concerns are currently minimal, there is an expectation that issues will rise due to the affordability and accessibility of illicit substances. Alcohol-related concerns persist, with liquor restrictions in place – outlets like BWS operate only three days a week for limited hours, under police supervision. There is anecdotal evidence that for some people alcohol restrictions have led to paying inflated prices for black-market alcohol.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness



Town Camps

Town Camps in Alice Springs are structured along cultural and geographical lines, with 17 camps located all around the town. Each camp is closely tied to specific regional connections, and residents prefer to avoid mixing groups. The current system of allocating housing through camp governance has proven more effective than previous approaches, which often led to housing damage and disputes.

After the NT Intervention, the Housing Associations were forced to sign over their leases to the Commonwealth Office of Township Leasing (OTL). In turn the OTL has signed management of housing and asset management to the NT Department of Housing Local Government and Community Development (DHLGCD). The DHLGCD sub-contracts CHCA to manage the tenancies.

CHCA maintains an application list for individuals seeking housing. This list is discussed and then voted upon by the Housing Association Housing Committee members. This recommendation is then forwarded to the NT Department of Housing Local Government and Community Development for the final decision.

If a resident moves out due to cultural reasons or other circumstances, the property is relinquished. CHCA then returns the property to the Department of Housing for maintenance.

All Alice Springs Town Camps are designated as dry areas- no alcohol is permitted. Enforcement is carried out by the Police. There is no short-term housing available, and individuals not affiliated with a camp may face significant barriers to accessing housing within those communities.

Housing design remains a key challenge, as larger homes are often unaffordable to maintain and contribute to overcrowding, making visitor management and property upkeep difficult. CHCA has found that two-bedroom units are more sustainable than larger six-bedroom homes.



Alice Springs

CHCA transitional housing

CHCA supports three transitional housing initiatives –

- Short-to-medium-term accommodation at 34 South Terrace (20 one and two-bedroom units) for seniors and small families;
- Eight properties for DSFV survivors; and
- 33 properties for both social and affordable housing tenants locked out of the public or private rental market.

A transitional model aims to assist individuals experiencing homelessness, moving them through CHCA-managed housing while working with the government to secure long-term placements. However, housing availability remains limited, with 2,017 people currently on the waitlist.

Assertive Outreach Project

The Assertive Outreach Research Project was initiated by the government two years ago and then left to unfunded not-for-profits to implement. CHCA's Assertive Outreach team actively engages with individuals in need, providing support for medical needs, shopping, and renal care.

Return to Country initiative

A "Return to Country," initiative has been introduced through the government. This helps to fund the return of individuals to their home communities. CHCA can only refer people to this service.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Stakeholder Support and Outreach Work

CHCA works closely with police and bail officers to ensure appropriate housing placements. A coordinated Family Safety Framework brings together CHCA, police, Women's Shelter, social workers, legal services, and Men's Behaviour Change service providers for monthly discussions on high-risk cases.

Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs), funded by the government, mediate disputes but are often understaffed, currently only operate at night, and rely on NT Police for escalations. In cases involving anti-social behaviour or alcohol-related incidents, police intervention is required.



Alice Springs

CHCA also works closely with partners in the NGO sector, especially through its membership with NT Shelter, the Aboriginal Housing NT (peak for ACCOs), and CHIA NT. CHCA has extensive operational relationships to support clients across the NGO and Government sectors (Homelessness, Housing, Health, Legal, Financial Counselling, Disability, Tenancy Support Provider, Aged-care, etc.) throughout Alice Springs.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

Despite the ongoing challenges in Alice Springs, CHCA receives strong support from local leadership, including Mayor Matt Patterson and MLA Josh Burgoyne, who have actively backed the development of new housing projects.

Mission Australia Interview – 11 March 2025

Attendees –

- Teddy McDiarmid, Area Manager- Regional Northern Territory

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

A pressing issue remains the limited availability of affordable housing. With only 600 affordable housing options available, those people currently on the waitlist can experience up to a 12-year wait time.

Additionally, there is a critical need for

funding to support young people exiting out-of-home care, with calls for a five-year transitional program incorporating education, training, and employment pathways.

In the broader context, homelessness support in the Northern Territory has seen increased funding, with the NT Homelessness Strategy receiving an allocation of \$75 million.

Shelter WA plays a key role in advocacy and policy-making, highlighting the importance of building relationships to support efforts in addressing homelessness and ensuring that food prices remain accessible in remote communities.

A zero-tolerance approach is considered ineffective in addressing complex social issues. Government action is needed to tackle the increasing use of methamphetamine, which contributes to rising crime rates.

Previously, burglaries occurred primarily in unoccupied homes, whereas now, incidents can involve harm.

It was a key observation that Mission Australia's work in Alice Springs highlights the importance of comprehensive support systems to enable people to reach independent living and a harm minimisation approach to alcohol and drugs.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Percy Street Facility

Mission Australia's Percy Street facility provides transitional housing and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness. It comprises 28 self-contained units, each designed to accommodate residents for an 18-month program. Importantly, the program ensures that no resident exits the program into homelessness.

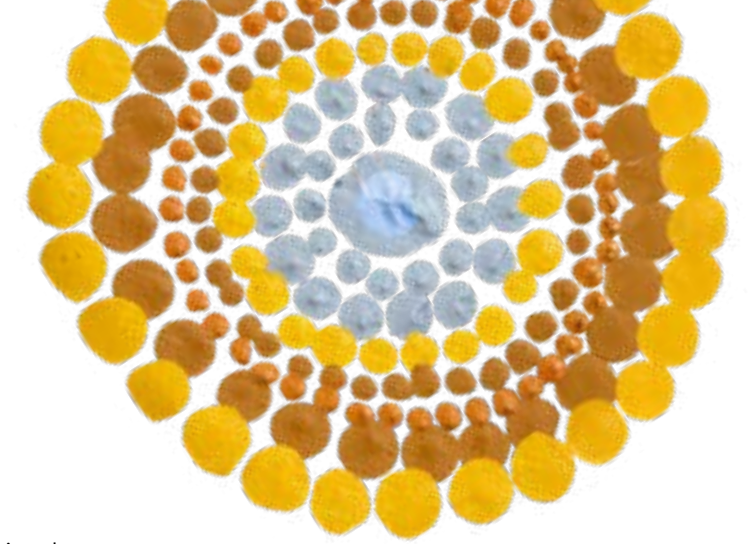
In the past year, 13 households transitioned successfully into various forms of accommodation, including private and public housing. However, challenges remain, including limited public and private housing stock available within Alice Springs. Additional barriers such as racism further complicate access.

The Percy Street facility operates with 24-hour staff support, including caseworkers and support workers available during the day. A strict code of conduct is in place, enforcing a drug and alcohol-free environment.

Residents may have visitors, with a maximum of four visitors allowed per stay,



Alice Springs



provided they are registered by 5:00pm. These visits can last up to four days, though new residents are restricted from having visitors for the first two months to help them adjust without external pressures, particularly from family.

To support residents' long-term stability, the property offers literacy and numeracy programs, as well as on-site Centrelink and medical services.

Accommodation consists of two and three-bedroom apartments, with a housing officer conducting weekly inspections to prevent residents from accumulating debt. If a resident cancels a payment, Mission Australia's system can identify this within 24 hours, which ensures debts do not exceed \$150. Additionally, support is available through interest-free loans facilitated by Centacare to assist with essential purchases such as refrigerators and furniture.

The intake process involves a three-month period between the initial interview and move-in day. Support workers assist new residents in settling in, providing guidance and practical assistance. The facility operates as fully independent transitional housing.

Despite the low availability of housing, some individuals decline placements at Percy Street due to location challenges, such as lack of vehicle access. In such cases, they are asked to sign a statutory declaration, which is then forwarded to the Department of Housing to close out the case. Evictions are rare, as the service prioritises harm minimisation rather than punitive measures.

The Percy Street property has been under a head lease to Mission Australia since 2008, with ownership retained by the Department of Housing. Monthly stakeholder meetings ensure advocacy opportunities for families ready for permanent accommodation.

Stuart Lodge

Additionally, Mission Australia manages Stuart Lodge, a crisis accommodation service with 34 rooms and 68 beds. The facility has seven staff members working in the office and does not accept unaccompanied individuals under 18 years old, though families are welcome. Families have access to shared areas while the entire facility remains secured for safety. Overnight staff closely monitor entry and exit, ensuring a safe environment.

Originally a backpackers' hostel, Stuart Lodge offers shared rooms with two single beds per room at a rate of \$25 per night, including breakfast. For an additional \$10, residents can access lunch and dinner. Service providers often cover the cost gap for clients, ensuring affordability.

A cook is available from 2:00pm to 7:00pm to prepare the evening meal, and efforts are underway to secure funding to transform the facility into a training centre. This initiative would improve food security, with NT Health ensuring that all meals provided meet nutritional standards.

NT Health has allocated 16 reserved beds with full room and board, which

contributes to the facility's operational costs, maintaining an occupancy rate of 70% or more. The Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) ensures daily cleaning of the facility.

Stuart Lodge follows a harm minimisation approach concerning alcohol consumption. Residents with alcohol in their system are encouraged to rest in their rooms. However, individuals displaying significant intoxication may be referred to the Sobering Up Shelter. The Lodge also provides water, assists with transport, and contacts police if required for rough sleepers.

The service caters to a predominantly First Nations population, with Stuart Lodge typically accommodating 90% First Nations residents, though this fluctuates (currently at 75%).

The NT Government funds maintenance, while operational costs are covered by the Department of Housing NT. Leasing agreements fund housing officers and maintenance staff.

Residents at Stuart Lodge are expected to keep their rooms clean, while common areas receive daily cleaning. Each common room is equipped with a duress alarm, allowing support workers to respond quickly by contacting security or police if necessary. Industrial washing machines are available on-site for residents' use. Additionally, \$50 clothing vouchers are provided to those in need. Residents can store personal items in a fridge in their rooms, and plans are in place

to install computers to assist with accessing MyGov and other essential online services.

Long-term case management at Stuart Lodge remains a key strength, with staff employing harm minimisation strategies. Weekly room inspections are conducted, ensuring compliance with house rules. For minor infractions, such as storing alcohol, warnings and corrective measures are implemented before escalating penalties.

In an ideal transition model, residents would move from Stuart Lodge into the Percy Street facility, providing a structured pathway to independent living.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited Interview – 11 March 2025

Attendees –

- Deanne Bear, Director Frontline Services, Western Australia, South Australia, Central Australia
- Marni Lowe, Assistant Director – Frontline Services, Western Australia, South Australia, Central Australia

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Despite the critical function of an Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) temporary accommodation facility (Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park), the facility faces several challenges.

Workforce shortages mirror those experienced in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, making it difficult to maintain staffing levels. Demand for accommodation is extremely high and can double overnight, placing additional strain on resources. Security concerns sometimes necessitate locking down the premises at night due to incidents of violence, often linked to overcrowding and alcohol-related issues. While only a minority of residents contribute



Alice Springs

to these disturbances, some individuals choose to sleep rough rather than comply with the alcohol restrictions.

There are often rough sleepers that camp around the fencing boundaries of Apmere Mwerre. To reduce the number of people going outside the facility and potentially partaking in high-risk behaviour, ALH prefers to offer smoking areas inside the facility and activities to reduce boredom.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park

The Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park, managed by AHL in Alice Springs, plays a vital role in providing temporary accommodation and support for its residents. As a core facility within AHL's network, it currently offers 84 beds, with an additional 20 beds under construction to meet the growing demand.

The demographic of residents is similar to that of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, with many facing social and economic challenges. The facility provides three dietitian-led meals per day, along with snack options, ensuring residents receive adequate nutrition.



Alice Springs



Alice Springs

Accommodation is offered at a flat rate of \$38 per day across all AHL facilities nationally, and some beds are prepaid by companies or communities, such as the APY Lands, which simplifies administration and ensures ongoing support for those in need.

Apmere Mwerre also accommodates families, with up to 20 children staying at any given time. A bus service is available to transport them, and after one week of staying at the facility, children are required to attend school, ensuring continuity in their education. The facility provides a platform for stability in residents' lives.

The shortage of long-term housing options in Alice Springs has led to extended stays, with the longest resident having lived there for four years, even though the facility was designed for temporary visitor accommodation.

The infrastructure presents ongoing maintenance challenges. Originally built with institutionalised-style rooms and fencing, there is now a strong desire to create a more welcoming environment. Kitchens were initially included in each room but proved problematic due to pest infestations and fire hazards. Mice remain

an issue, and air conditioning units require constant maintenance. The difficulty in securing contractors—many of whom are leaving Alice Springs—further complicates maintenance efforts.

Apmere Mwerre is part of a broader network of 43 AHL hostels across Australia, all equipped with Wi-Fi to support residents' connectivity needs. However, the facility in Alice Springs is at full capacity and unable to accommodate additional visitors; the demand for crisis accommodation is currently particularly acute.

Topsy Smith Hostel

The Topsy Smith Hostel, managed by Aboriginal Hostels Limited in Alice Springs, provides accommodation and support services for individuals undergoing renal dialysis. The facility operates with a structured environment to ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of its residents. The hostel has a capacity of 40 beds, offering a secure and supportive environment for those in need.

It features two TV rooms, one for men and one for women, to provide separate communal spaces. The kitchen operates

24 hours a day, offering snacks and quick meals at any time, while a kitchen hand and a cook prepare three meals daily to meet residents' nutritional needs.

Residents are responsible for washing and drying their own clothing, promoting self-sufficiency within the facility. An art room is available, allowing residents to engage in creative activities without taking up space in their rooms.

An art room is also being considered for Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Trilby Cooper. Due to the high outdoor temperatures, visitors prefer to use this room rather than engage in artistic activities outside.

The facility is designed with a courtyard model, similar to Trilby Cooper, which enhances visual surveillance and contributes to overall security. Designated smoking areas are provided to discourage residents from leaving the premises, as doing so could lead to high-risk behaviour.

Visitors are not permitted within the hostel to maintain a safe and controlled environment. Additionally, as per Mission Australia, the hostel has 16 prepaid beds allocated for hospital use to support medical needs.

Security remains a key priority at Topsy Smith Hostel. Two night attendants are on duty overnight, similar to arrangements at Trilby Cooper Hostel in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. However, to further enhance security, a dedicated security member is required at night to prevent unauthorised access, such as individuals attempting to jump fences. While there are manager's quarters on site, it is not sufficient to ensure comprehensive security measures.

AHL staff are not permitted to provide any medications directly to residents, ensuring proper management and distribution protocols are followed. Staff highlighted that the Telstra phone on-site is well-used given that it is free of charge and is a good asset for residents staying at the hostel.

The Topsy Smith Hostel continues to provide essential services within a well-managed and secure setting, ensuring the well-being of its residents while addressing their specific needs while undergoing renal dialysis.

A key observation was that the Topsy Smith Hostel has a very similar model of operation to the Renal Hostel in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Northern Territory Police Interview – 11 March 2025

Attendees –

- Terrence (Terry) Simpson, Officer in Charge

Alice Springs serves as a major operational hub for surrounding communities across Western Australia, South Australia, and the Queensland border.

The Southern Desert Division, which operates within this broader region, is led by an Officer in Charge (OIC) and a Superintendent that reports directly to the Commander of Southern Command. This division encompasses 12 remote police stations, each overseen by a Sergeant, highlighting the geographic coverage and leadership structure required to manage law enforcement across such a vast area.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

A key issue in Alice Springs is alcohol-related crime, with domestic violence and youth disturbances largely linked to excessive alcohol consumption.

The police force faces ongoing challenges, particularly in ensuring culturally appropriate policing and strengthening community relationships.

Crime rates in Alice Springs also fluctuate based on seasonal factors. People from remote communities travel into town for healthcare, school holidays, sporting events (footie), and due to weather conditions such as heavy rains impacting surrounding communities. This movement increases pressure on housing, town camps, and social services.

During June and July school holidays, the population can swell by up to 1,000 additional people. Additionally, royalty payments bring increased visitors to town, leading to increased alcohol consumption and social disturbances, including family disputes. The camps also experience significant couch surfing, making it difficult to determine an accurate population count, as many First Nations people do not participate in the census.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The NT Police in Alice Springs play a crucial role in maintaining law and order in a town



L-R: CKB CEO Andrew Brien and Regional Northern Territory Area Manager Teddy McDiarmid

with a population of approximately 25,000 to 32,000 people. With a force of 190 officers, the local police presence is strong and comprehensive.

While Terry Simpson serves as the Station Officer in Charge (OIC), the broader executive leadership structure includes Alice Springs Divisional Superintendent, Michael Budge, Commander of Southern Command, James Gray-Spence, and Assistant Commissioner for Regional and Remote Operations, Peter Kennon.

Given the size and complexity of Alice Springs, numerous Divisions and Commands operate out of the central Police Station. The Alice Springs Division includes Front Line General Duties, which fall under the leadership of the Station OIC and the Divisional Superintendent.

In addition, policing efforts are supported by a range of specialist areas, each with their own dedicated command structure, including Regional Crime and Intelligence, the Forensic Unit, Domestic Violence and Youth teams, the Dog Operations Unit, and Road Policing. Together, these teams reflect a policing model more akin to a larger metropolitan centre, highlighting the multifaceted nature of law enforcement in the region.

A Cultural Reform Unit has been established to enhance engagement with Aboriginal communities, with Aboriginal Liaison Officers identified by the community to provide valuable information to the police. This unit is led by a Senior Sergeant, a Sergeant, and 15 Aboriginal Liaison Officers. Additionally, there are several Aboriginal Community Police Officers employed. While distinct from police officers, Aboriginal Community Police Officers carry firearms and are recruited from within the Aboriginal community.

Liquor Restrictions

Strict alcohol laws have been implemented in Alice Springs. Takeaway alcohol sales are prohibited on Mondays and Tuesdays and restricted to designated hours on other days.



Alice Springs

Police maintain a significant and ongoing presence at bottle shops during operating hours to verify licences and prevent secondary supply or illegal alcohol sales to other areas. This strategy aims to minimise harm and protect the community.

Police apply a uniform questioning policy at bottle shops, regardless of an individual's background, to ensure compliance. The effectiveness of these restrictions is evident in the correlation between lower domestic violence incidents on alcohol-free days and increased incidents on days when alcohol is available.

The Alice Springs Liquor Accord, of which the Police Commander is a member, allows individuals to be banned from all licensed venues in town. However, the effectiveness of this measure depends on the commitment of licensees.

Police Strategies

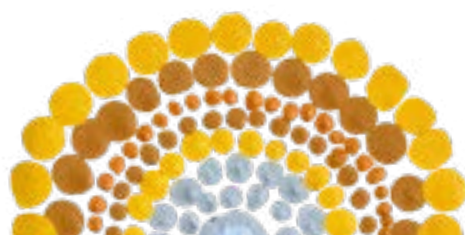
Police participate in a face-to-face Strategic Patrollers meeting at 7:00pm daily, which includes representatives from the Department of Families, Public Housing Safety Officers, Talice Security, Lhere Artepe local Elders, the Police Senior Sergeant, and the Tangentyere Council. This meeting provides a proactive approach to monitoring street activity, particularly concerning youth, and ensures information is shared to prepare for the night response.

The town has an extensive CCTV network monitored by police and Talice Security, providing real-time surveillance.

In collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, police occasionally arrange charter buses to assist people in returning to their communities. The Police also actively plan for major events such as football matches, which can draw large crowds and temporarily depopulate remote communities. These events require significant monitoring to mitigate associated social issues.

Police in Alice Springs work to address the same social issues seen in other regional towns, with domestic violence, alcohol abuse, and youth-related crime being predominant concerns. The role of Elders is emphasised, with Traditional Owners promoting messages of respect for the town and its rules.

The police have a mandatory induction program for new police starters which includes participation in a smoking ceremony and a full cultural induction to familiarise themselves with the town camps and their significance from an Aboriginal perspective. This practice ensures that new recruits develop cultural awareness and respect when working with First Nations communities. Cultural inductions are also undertaken for police officers from South Australia who have assisted temporarily in Alice Springs.





Alice Springs

A District Leadership Group, similar to that in the Goldfields, provides a platform for key decision-makers to address issues and concerns, allowing for high-level coordination across organisations.

The police also utilise a support link referral system, which enables officers to refer individuals to relevant support services even in the absence of criminal activity. Joint patrols and collaborative efforts with other agencies ensure that individuals in need receive appropriate assistance, such as returning home or accessing counselling services.

Overall, the NT Police in Alice Springs operate in a complex and demanding environment, employing a multifaceted approach to law enforcement and community engagement. Through strategic policing, cultural awareness, and collaboration with various agencies, they continue to work towards maintaining safety and social stability in the region.

As Terrence (Terry) Simpson, OIC, indicated,

"We cannot arrest our way through these issues, we need to provide support and lead where and when appropriate."

Town of Alice Springs Interview – 11 March 2025

Attendees –

- Andrew Wilsmore, Chief Executive Officer

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The Town of Alice Springs raised significant concerns regarding the ongoing social and economic challenges affecting the community.

Despite numerous Closing the Gap initiatives, key indicators in education and health continue to decline. The recurring approach to these issues has not yielded change, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current policies.

Elected Members are clear in their role as advocates rather than managers of social issues.

Anti-social Behaviour

A visible consequence of these failures can be observed in public spaces, where instances of domestic violence are occurring in full view of children. Further, the broader social policies in addressing Indigenous disadvantage have not resulted in improved living conditions.

Community members come into Alice Springs, local residents are being displaced, with members from external communities taking over available assets. While infrastructure development continues, smaller towns in the region are deteriorating, leading to an inevitable expansion of Alice Springs.

There is a pressing need for policies that focus on tangible results rather than extensive consultations that fail to drive meaningful change.

Tourism and Industry

Two years ago, a public rally against anti-social behaviour put Alice Springs into the national spotlight, prompting a visit from the Prime Minister and a commitment of half a billion dollars to the region. However, this attention also damaged the town's tourism industry, leading to two of the worst summers for local businesses. The "Action for Alice" campaign, while effective in drawing media attention, has negatively impacted the town's reputation, leading to distress among Traditional Owners over its portrayal.

With tourism dollars dwindling, First Nations artists struggle to sell their work, impacting Aboriginal Economic Development opportunities, while ongoing vandalism further deteriorates the town's appeal.

Retail operations in town also face challenges, with many businesses closing as early as 4:00pm. Crime and vandalism occur in cycles, and while recent police efforts have led to a temporary lull, businesses continue to face repair costs, particularly for glass damage. Fear of vehicle break-ins has significantly impacted local entertainment options, with cinema attendance declining due to security concerns.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Recent measures undertaken this summer provided some short-term relief. A proactive police strategy of arresting individuals breaching bail conditions led to a backlog in the judicial system, with many individuals placed on remand. While this temporarily reduced anti-social behaviour and break-ins, domestic violence rates remained unchanged. This approach created a temporary sense of social cohesion, though it highlighted the lack of long-term support services. Additionally, the NIAA provided \$400,000 for youth programs, which helped reduce the number of children on the streets.

The existing sobering-up shelter seems to

have low attendance. Meanwhile, high-risk substance abuse is emerging as a serious concern. Crime patterns show a notable reduction on Mondays and Tuesdays when takeaway alcohol sales are restricted.

Public safety is also a concern, as current by-laws do not allow authorities to remove rough sleepers, leaving enforcement efforts ineffective in this area.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

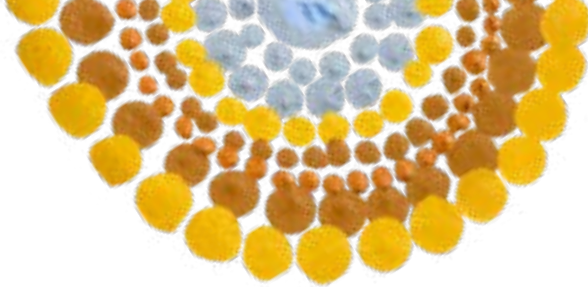
Housing

The dominant industry in Alice Springs is the public service sector, encompassing health, education, family services, and housing. However, the high cost of construction means that newly built homes are often valued below their construction costs. Land banking by some property owners has left large areas undeveloped in the CBD, as tenants are expected to finance fit-outs. Attempts by the Council to introduce a vacancy tax to encourage development over land banking has been unsuccessful.

Housing remains a major challenge, with Traditional Owners not currently pursuing the development of additional Town Camps. The condition of Town Camps remains poor, though the council collects waste as per a grant agreement.

Proposed program

A proposed day-release program was in place for inmates to undertake fire preparedness work, verge cleaning, park maintenance, and riverbank weeding. While the town would provide the necessary materials, implementation was challenging as many individuals are currently on remand. Consequently, the town has allocated \$250,000 in its budget to support these initiatives through other providers.



Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour Greater Darwin

Key Points

- Inner-city areas experience high levels of homelessness and associated anti-social behaviour
- Street presence often linked to visitors from remote communities
- Housing supply remains critically low, especially for transitional and supported accommodation

Trip observations Page 181

Background – Darwin

Darwin is a coastal city and the capital of the Northern Territory, serving as the administrative and economic hub for northern Australia. As of the 2021 Census, the Darwin LGA recorded a population of 80,530 people. The city plays a central role in supporting regional development, defence, and service delivery across remote communities in the Top End.

Darwin is home to a substantial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 8.7% of residents identifying as Indigenous, well above the national average of 3.2%. This reflects the city's strong cultural connections and its importance as a gathering place for Aboriginal people from across the Northern Territory.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Darwin's socio-economic profile is reflected in its SEIFA score of 1,036, positioning the city above the national baseline of 1,000.

Its national SEIFA rank of 472 out of 544 LGA places it in the upper third of Australian LGAs, suggesting relatively high levels of socio-economic advantage.

Despite this, Darwin faces ongoing challenges related to social inequality and disadvantage, particularly in specific suburbs such as Karama, where 16.8% of residents live in public housing, significantly higher than the national average of 3.8%. These areas have reported higher levels of crime, vandalism, and youth-related offending.

Initiatives like the Circuit Breaker program, a short-term, intensive residential intervention for repeat youth offenders, have been introduced by the NT Government to support at-risk youth and address the underlying drivers of anti-social behaviour.

Darwin has historically contended with high rates of domestic and family violence; however, these challenges reflect broader trends observed across the Northern Territory, which has consistently recorded the highest levels of domestic and family violence nationally. Past data has shown



that Aboriginal women in the Northern Territory were up to 40 times more likely to be hospitalised due to domestic violence compared to non-Indigenous women, highlighting significant disparities and the urgent need for culturally appropriate and targeted responses.²⁵

Transitional Aboriginal homelessness remains a pressing issue, with many individuals travelling from remote communities to Darwin seeking services, safety, or employment. This movement often results in overcrowded housing and increased visibility of homelessness in public spaces.

While Darwin benefits from strong economic and administrative foundations, these social challenges highlight the need for continued investment in culturally informed support services, early intervention programs, and coordinated responses that address the complex interplay of housing, safety, and community well-being.

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Northern Territory capital of Darwin presents a more socio-economically advantaged profile overall. Darwin has a SEIFA score of 1,036, which sits above the national baseline of 1,000, indicating relatively high levels of socio-economic advantage. Its national SEIFA rank of 472 out of 544 LGA places it within the most advantaged third of LGAs nationally. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder records a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it in the more advantaged half

²⁵ Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019, Summary – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



of LGAs, though its score sits just below the national baseline.

Both cities are regional centres with substantial Aboriginal populations and serve as critical service hubs for surrounding remote communities. Each face ongoing social challenges, including transitional Aboriginal homelessness, anti-social behaviour, and high levels of youth disengagement. However, while Darwin benefits from its position as a capital city, with strong administrative, economic, and defence-related infrastructure, disadvantage is still present in specific suburbs, where public housing concentrations and associated social issues are more acute.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder, while smaller in scale, similarly faces challenges around housing stress, community safety, and service accessibility, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Darwin Community Perception Report

While the City of Darwin does not have community perception survey results available, their *Safer Vibrant Darwin Plan* sets out seven priority focus areas that form the roadmap for the Darwin Safer City Program. This includes priorities ranging from positive perceptions of safety to safer homes and public spaces.

Darwin Crime Statistics

As with other locations in the Northern Territory, publicly available crime data for Darwin is limited in scope, with assault offences representing the most consistently published and detailed category. This restricted data coverage presents challenges in forming a complete picture of crime trends across the city. However, assault statistics serve as an indicator of broader public safety issues, given their prevalence and strong correlation with underlying social factors such as alcohol misuse, family and domestic violence, and seasonal shifts in population and community activity.

Since late 2023, Darwin has experienced fluctuating rates of recorded assaults, with notable peaks in December 2023 (215 assaults), July 2024 (238), and December 2024 (276). These trends are consistent with patterns of increased anti-social behaviour during peak seasonal periods and school holidays, particularly where alcohol is involved.

Key month-on-month trends include:

Dec 2023 to Jan 2024 Assaults increased by 24, from 215 to 239 (+11.2%)
Jan 2024 to Feb 2024 Assaults decreased by 36 to 203 (-15.1%)
Feb 2024 to Mar 2024 Assaults increased by 13 to 216 (+6.4%)
Mar 2024 to Apr 2024 Assaults increased by 8 to 224 (+3.7%)
Apr 2024 to May 2024 No change (224 assaults)
May 2024 to Jun 2024 Assaults decreased by 36 to 188 (-16.1%)
Jun 2024 to Jul 2024 Assaults increased by 50 to 238 (+26.6%)
Jul 2024 to Aug 2024 Assaults decreased by 27 to 211 (-11.3%)
Aug 2024 to Sep 2024 Assaults increased by 31 to 242 (+14.7%)
Sep 2024 to Oct 2024 Assaults decreased by 23 to 219 (-9.5%)
Oct 2024 to Nov 2024 Assaults increased by 14 to 233 (+6.4%)
Nov 2024 to Dec 2024 Assaults increased by 43 to 276 (+18.5%)
Dec 2024 to Jan 2025 Assaults decreased by 74 to 202 (-26.8%)

Alcohol continues to play a significant role in Darwin's assault profile, accounting for between 40% and 55% of monthly incidents²⁶. The December 2024 spike aligns with a surge in alcohol-related assaults, reflecting the need for stronger community-based responses during high-risk periods.

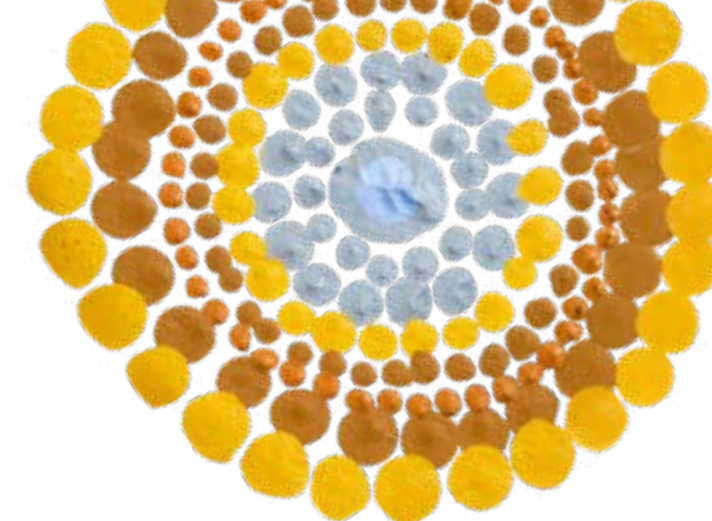
Greater Darwin Liquor Restrictions

For liquor restrictions, the "Greater Darwin region" encompasses Darwin city and surrounds, Palmerston, and Coolalinga, including Howard Springs and Virginia, but excludes Humpty Doo, Weddell and areas beyond the aforementioned locations.

As previously noted, alcohol consumption and takeaway liquor sales in the Northern Territory are governed by region-specific rules designed to support community safety and wellbeing. These restrictions are set by the NT Government and vary across regions.

The following key rules apply across the whole of the NT:

- ❖ Photo identification is mandatory for all takeaway alcohol purchases.
- ❖ Public consumption of alcohol is prohibited in dry communities and other restricted public areas.
- ❖ Taxi drivers are not permitted to purchase alcohol on behalf of passengers.
- ❖ Liquor stores remain closed on Good Friday and Christmas Day.
- ❖ Only liquor stores attached to licensed venues may trade on Sundays.



Takeaway Liquor Trading Hours in Darwin

Liquor store takeaway alcohol sales are permitted during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 10:00am – 10:00pm
- Saturday: 9:00am – 10:00pm
- Sunday: 10:00am – 10:00pm
(liquor stores attached to licensed premises only)
- Public Holidays: 9:00am – 10:00pm
- Good Friday and Christmas Day: Closed

Region-Specific Restrictions

Certain NT regions are subject to additional legal or licence-based restrictions on the sale of takeaway alcohol. In some areas, takeaway alcohol may only be accessed through special arrangements such as barge or bush orders, and only with a valid liquor permit.

Refusal of Service

Additional enforcement measures apply in Darwin, Palmerston, and surrounding rural areas including Howard Springs and Virginia. Retailers may refuse service if:

- A customer cannot provide a valid location where the alcohol will be consumed.
- The stated location is a prohibited or restricted area.

²⁶ Northern Territory Crime Statistics - January 2025

This policy supports the responsible sale and consumption of alcohol and aims to reduce alcohol-related harm in affected communities.

Permits and Special Conditions

In areas where no liquor stores operate, individuals may apply for a liquor permit to access alcohol through regulated delivery channels. These permits are subject to conditions and can be revoked if misused.

Banned Drinker Register – Northern Territory

The Banned Drinker Register (BDR) is a harm minimisation tool used in the Northern Territory to restrict alcohol access for individuals identified as being at risk due to alcohol misuse. A person on the BDR is prohibited from purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol, including takeaway alcohol, for the duration of their ban.

To enforce the BDR, individuals must present approved identification when purchasing takeaway alcohol from licensed venues such as bottle shops, supermarkets, or drive-through outlets. Staff scan the ID to check for BDR listings. In some regions, additional restrictions apply to the amount of alcohol that can be purchased. If a person is on the BDR or has reached their daily purchase limit, the sale is refused.



There are three primary pathways through which an individual may be placed on the BDR as follows:

- ◇ police intervention,
- ◇ court or parole orders, or
- ◇ referral assessed by the BDR registrar.

Under the police pathway, a Banned Drinker Order (BDO) may be issued for repeat or serious drink driving offences, alcohol-related incidents, being named in a domestic violence order involving alcohol, or for consuming alcohol in prohibited places. Since December 2023, individuals involved in certain lower-level incidents (e.g. being taken into protective custody or receiving an infringement notice) may receive a seven-day BDO. Two such incidents triggers a mandatory three-month BDO. Further breaches may result in additional bans of up to 12 months.

Through the court and parole pathway, a person may be placed on the BDR if subject to legal orders that prohibit alcohol use, including court bail, good behaviour bonds, or parole. The ban remains in place for the duration specified in the legal order.

The BDR registrar pathway allows for referrals from authorised professionals (such as health practitioners, police, and social workers), as well as from the individual themselves, family members, carers, or guardians. Following assessment, the registrar may impose a BDO for three, six, or 12 months.

Individuals subject to a police or registrar-issued BDO may apply to reduce or revoke their ban by providing evidence of participation in a recognised therapeutic support program.

The BDR forms part of the Northern Territory's broader alcohol harm reduction strategy, aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm through early intervention and targeted restrictions.



Banned Drinker Register – Types of Police Banned Drinker Orders (Northern Territory)

Liquor Permitting on the Gove Peninsula and Nhulunbuy

Individuals living, working, or visiting the Gove Peninsula, including Nhulunbuy, Gunyangara, and Yirrkala, must obtain a liquor permit to purchase takeaway alcohol. These permits are subject to specific conditions, including limits on the quantity and type of alcohol that can be purchased, based on permit tier levels.

Permits are available to adults aged 18 and over who are either permanent or long-term residents, contractors, or recognised visitors staying in approved accommodation. Applications require proof of age and either proof of residence or employment. Contractors must also provide a letter of support from their employer, and overseas tourists must present government-issued photo ID and other supporting documentation.

There are three main types of liquor permits:

- Resident permits are available to individuals residing in the region for three months or more and are valid for three years unless revoked.
- Contractor permits are issued to those working in the area for up to six months or on a FIFO basis. These require employer support.
- Visitor permits are for short-term visitors staying less than three months and may be used while staying in recognised accommodation or with a resident.

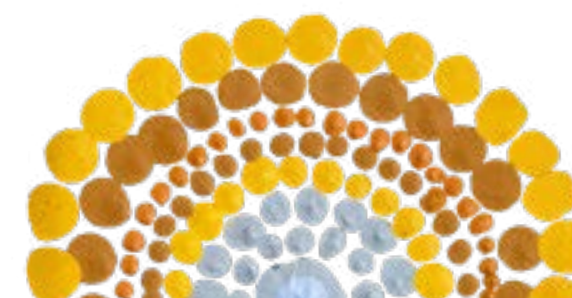
Visitors staying with a resident may consume alcohol under that resident's permit, provided they comply with its conditions. A breach may result in the resident's permit being revoked.

Trial Changes to Permit System

On 1 October 2023, the Gove Peninsula Harmony Group initiated trial changes to the takeaway liquor permit system, in collaboration with the NT Government. These changes were aimed at supporting community safety and reducing alcohol-related harm.

Following positive early outcomes, including a decrease in alcohol-related assaults and hospital presentations, the trial was extended for 12 months, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The trial continues to apply to Nhulunbuy, Gunyangara, and Yirrkala.

Key changes include the continuation of daily alcohol purchase limits and a four-tier permit system. Permit holders in Nhulunbuy may access all four tiers, while those in Gunyangara and Yirrkala are limited to the first three. Existing permits remain valid during the trial unless expired.





Each tier determines the maximum volume and type of alcohol a permit holder can purchase per day, ranging from light beer (Tier 1) to combinations including spirits and full-strength beer (Tier 4).

This extended trial period will allow for more comprehensive data collection to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the system in reducing alcohol-related harm in the region.

Interviews

NT Shelter Interview – 12 March 2025

NT Shelter is the peak body for affordable housing and homelessness that undertakes research and policy development, advocacy and communications.

Attendees –

- Mike Byrne, Regional Coordinator North Australia

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The issue of homelessness in the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin and Alice Springs, is complex and deeply intertwined with social, economic, and cultural

factors. A significant challenge is the burnout experienced by social service providers. Many workers remain within the sector but shift roles to escape the pressures and burnout. This turnover impacts service continuity and effectiveness.

Migration from remote communities to urban centres like Darwin occurs for various reasons, including seeking medical treatment, attending sporting events, escaping difficult circumstances, and engaging in drinking. However, there is a need for government intervention to address the conditions in remote communities that drive people into urban homelessness. Without this, the cycle of displacement will continue.

Studies indicate that rough sleepers in Darwin tend to stay for extended periods. While surveys suggest many regard themselves as temporary residents, with homes in remote communities, they end up staying far longer than initially intended.

Some individuals seek system solutions like incarceration or rehabilitation as a break from rough sleeping. While there is a common perception that some First Nations people are alcoholics, research indicates a tendency towards binge drinking

as they return home to dry communities on an ongoing basis for long periods of time where they do not drink alcohol. There are some who have substance use addiction and evidence suggests the longer someone is living in these conditions the more likely they are to develop substance abuse issues.

The response to homelessness in Darwin includes seasonal initiatives such as the wet weather response, where temporary shelters are opened. However, there are broader systemic issues that impact the number of people sleeping rough, such as the timing of the distribution of royalties, the numbers of people not receiving the appropriate or correct income support from DSS, and the high cost of transport to communities when roads are impassable. Ultimately, solutions require a shift in responsibility back to communities to support their people.

The debate around drinking restrictions highlights a lost opportunity; when Aboriginal communities were previously dry, efforts could have been made to educate residents were imposed on responsible drinking before restrictions were lifted. Policy interventions need to focus on sustainable, community-led approaches that balance cultural considerations with practical support mechanisms. Addressing homelessness in the Northern Territory demands a multifaceted approach that recognises the diverse needs and circumstances of those experiencing it.

There is a need for Land Councils to take greater responsibility for their people, particularly in cases where substantial mining royalties are available. Ideas have been proposed, such as investing in caravan parks or hotels that could accommodate people who need temporary shelter.

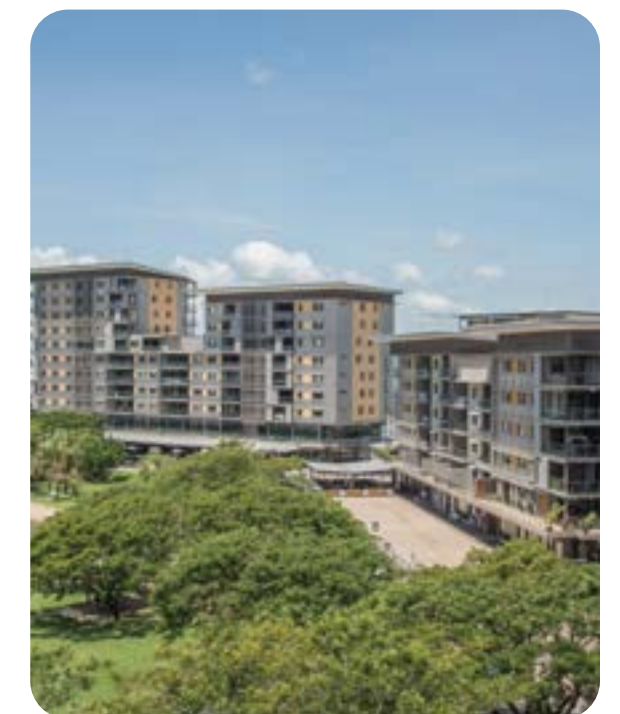
Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Government-funded facilities such as YiSSA, a short-stay accommodation program that offers accommodation for independent

visitors from remote communities who have not been able to obtain a place to stay, are in high demand. YiSSA has 50 ensuite rooms available as hotel rooms for independent visitors. Currently, YiSSA rooms are in such high demand that they do not take advance bookings, except for bookings made by registered service providers through purchase orders.

The Larrakia Nation, a community service organisation under the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, provides night patrol services to assist rough sleepers. In addition, the Darwin City Council runs a small assertive outreach team, and organisations like CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation also engage in outreach efforts. However, the By Name List, a tool used to track homelessness, is considered to be ineffective in Darwin due to the high mobility of rough sleepers who camp in vacant lots, dense bush and beachside areas.

Cultural preferences also play a role. Some Aboriginal people prefer camping over hostel accommodations, even when affordable options exist. For example, AHL offers lodging for \$36 per night, including meals, yet many choose rough sleeping to





save money. This could also be a result of Aboriginal visitors living in poverty and not having the financial resources to pay rent at home and tariffs in Darwin.

Existing facilities like St Vincent De Paul's Bakhita Hostel provide 33 accommodation units alongside a drop-in centre. However, conflicts can arise when individuals who wish to remain sober interact with those who continue drinking. Some argue for models similar to Irish wet hostels, where people can drink in controlled environments that prioritise dignity and social engagement through entertainment and community. This approach could potentially reduce excessive drinking and provide safer environments for those experiencing homelessness.

[Garnggulkpuy Lawurrpa Longgrassers on Larrakia Land.pdf](#)

This report explores the lived experiences of Yolŋu people living in the "long grass" in Darwin, revealing complex social, cultural, and economic factors driving their mobility. Conducted by Yolŋu researchers from the Yalu Marnghithinyaraw Centre in Galiwin'ku, the study employs a participatory action research methodology, ensuring both cultural sensitivity and practical support for participants.

The report was developed in 2004 (almost 20 years ago) but highlights the same issues being reported throughout this report today, indicating that few solutions have been identified in response to high-risk behaviours and transitional homelessness.

The research finds that alcohol consumption is often a symptom rather than a cause of rough sleeping, with many individuals leaving East Arnhem communities due to fear of violence, unresolved grief, health treatment needs, or dissatisfaction with local governance.

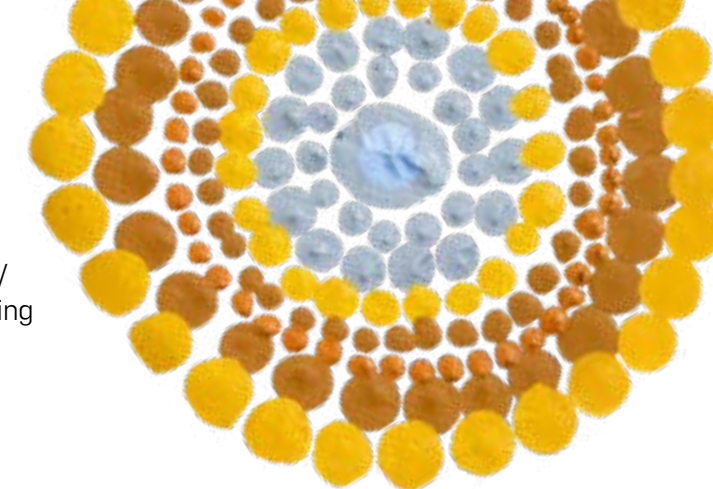
Barriers to returning home include financial constraints, lack of suitable services in communities, and entrenched social divisions. Key recommendations include improved transitional accommodation in Darwin, culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs involving Elders, enhanced outreach initiatives, and greater government support for homelands to provide viable alternatives to urban homelessness.

The report highlights the need for collaborative approaches combining Yolŋu and non-Indigenous perspectives. The project successfully repatriated 25 individuals to Galiwin'ku, demonstrating the effectiveness of culturally informed support networks. The findings stress the importance of addressing structural issues such as governance, employment, and education to reduce homelessness among Yolŋu people.

[NT Shelter – Rough Sleeper Initiative.pdf](#)

This paper, prepared for the NT Government/ NGO Partnership Group, addresses the ongoing challenges of rough sleeping in Darwin and Palmerston. It critiques current responses, noting that despite significant investment in housing and support services, rough sleeper numbers remain high. The report advocates for a more holistic approach, distinguishing between those genuinely homeless and those who are temporarily displaced, such as visitors from remote communities.

Key findings indicate that many rough sleepers travel to Darwin due to community unrest, lack of services, or health needs, while others become "stuck" due to financial difficulties. The paper stresses the importance of nuanced policy responses rather than blanket approaches that stigmatise homelessness. It calls for a multi-sector working group to review existing research and implement immediate reforms.



Recommendations align closely with those in the Yolŋu report, including support for homelands, better transitional accommodation, enhanced rehabilitation services, and improved pathways for returning to communities. The paper also suggests assertive outreach initiatives and a review of the PATS to prevent displacement due to health service access.

City of Darwin Interview – 12 March 2025

Attendees –

- Reece Ravlich, Executive Manager Regulatory Services
- Scott Waker, Manager Advocacy and Policy
- Andrew Aragala, Senior Coordinator Community Inclusion

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Alcohol regulations play a role in community management, with specific public areas designated as alcohol-permitted zones between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. This policy applies to the general public and is distinct from enforcement measures aimed at managing alcohol-related issues.

A proposed enhancement to the Banned Drinker Register is being considered, with the potential adoption of a permit system similar to that used in Gove and Nhulunbuy.



This model has been effective in other regions and could serve as a useful tool in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Katherine previously implemented a similar system, and while it may not be ideal for FIFO workers, they could obtain permits to comply with local regulations. Evidence from Gove suggests that restricting alcohol purchases to between 2:00pm and 6:00pm has led to a decrease in ambulance-related incidents, police callouts, and hospital presentations.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The City of Darwin has been actively working in collaboration with various stakeholders to address community safety and social issues. A coordinated approach involving private security, the NT Police, City officers, and service providers is in place to rapidly respond to identified hotspots.

This multi-agency initiative has been operating for several years, with daily meetings held to raise concerns and develop appropriate responses. For example, in cases of break-ins at City facilities, once the individuals

responsible are identified, a collective response can be actioned. Additionally, the Darwin/Palmerston Coordination Group meets fortnightly to further discuss and address ongoing community challenges.

A comparative example from Alice Springs highlights the effectiveness of in-person morning meetings, which are credited with stronger coordination efforts. However, it is evident that the role of City's private security provider is limited, as they are not authorised to directly address anti-social behaviour. Their enforcement capabilities are confined to issuing fines for littering and other ranger services.

City officers and outreach teams have a good understanding of the community and are able to allocate support based on identified needs at various hotspots. Both morning and evening public patrollers log engagement details into a cloud-based database, ensuring records of interactions. These teams also encourage individuals to clean up rubbish and set up safe temporary camps. While patrol teams technically have the authority to arrest, detain, and remove individuals, such actions are rarely exercised.

The working relationship between the Council and the police is good, particularly at the operational level, where the Officer in Charge and City Manager collaborate effectively. Ongoing advocacy by the City exists, with concerns raised about the persistent shortage of police resources, a situation that has remained unchanged for a number of years.

Of the 3,500 engagements per month managed by the City's security provider, only 2% are referred to police for an emergency response, even in cases of domestic violence. This demonstrates that the security firm is triaging and responding to a significant number of incidents which may otherwise have needed to be managed by the police.

Private security providers are increasingly relied upon to enforce alcohol-related regulations, but there is concern that this approach shifts policing responsibilities onto

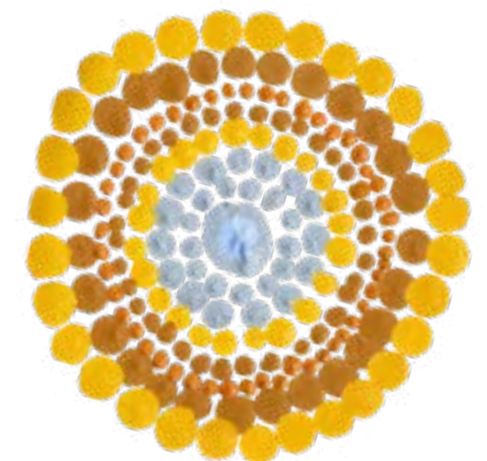
non-law enforcement entities. While the NT Government previously proposed granting City rangers additional enforcement powers, the City of Darwin opposed this move, contrasting with Western Australia, where local governments sought greater authority but were resisted by the State Government.

City outreach services play a vital role in community support, with a focus on education and referrals to essential services. A team of two officers work closely with rangers and public patrollers, going beyond relocation efforts to provide meaningful assistance. Their proactive and approachable nature has made them allies to those in need, and they employ a multi-pronged strategy to prevent homelessness. Outreach workers engage with families at risk of eviction, ensuring they are connected to support services before reaching a crisis point. Additionally, these teams maintain strong community ties and provide mental health referrals when early warning signs emerge.

Community paramedic programs were initially designed for Gove and Darwin but have not received funding from the Northern Territory Government due to concerns about hospital funding structures. Hospitals receive funding based on patient admissions, and diversion programs that reduce hospital visits could lead to financial shortfalls.

There have been calls for Federal funding to support an urgent after-care model, as paramedics can perform a wide range of medical interventions, often beyond what nurses are permitted to do under current licensing laws. A successful model exists within the mining industry in Western Australia, where permits are issued to Western Australian mines for paramedic services, though the feasibility of replicating this in an urban setting remains uncertain.

A separate initiative was explored to create a designated area where individuals could consume alcohol freely, with responsibility potentially falling under the health or housing departments. The main contention was the proposed location, which was not supported by stakeholders. However, proponents argue that such a space, if well-regulated, could consolidate services and provide an alternative to public drinking. A sobering-up shelter remains an option for those in need, though its location and accessibility continue to be debated.





Territory Community Safety (NT Police) Interview – conducted via Teams on 27 March 2025

Attendees –

- Zoë Langridge, Director
- Justin Mohay, Policy Officer

This interview was conducted via Microsoft Teams as a follow-up to Trip 3, providing an opportunity to further explore insights gathered during the on-ground component of the visit. The discussion focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the Northern Territory's community safety models, particularly those implemented in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Participants acknowledged that demand for policing and community safety services in Darwin is currently at an all-time high, driven in large part by complex social and structural challenges associated with homelessness and public intoxication. High levels of vulnerability among those experiencing homelessness mean that many individuals require support-based interventions, rather than enforcement-focused responses.

Anti-social behaviour is not always clearly defined across service sectors, and its perceived severity varies depending on community expectations and agency mandates. In many cases, behaviour that is considered anti-social may not constitute an offence, making it difficult for police to respond in the absence of other wrap-around supports. This highlights the importance of coordinated, whole-of-system responses beyond traditional law enforcement.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

Darwin has implemented a proactive, coordinated community safety approach that includes daily morning briefings at 8:30am, attended by 15 to 20 representatives from housing, transport, police, and various community service providers. These informal but consistent meetings provide a real-time forum for service providers to share operational insights, such as identifying new rough sleepers in the area and determining appropriate support responses.

These daily briefings create a culture of accountability and responsiveness and help ensure that next-days patrols are informed by data and observations from the previous evening. Information sharing is typically done by phone or email and is supported by strong interpersonal relationships established through regular contact between stakeholders.

In Alice Springs, a night-time strategy is used whereby teams assess people, place, and problem to determine where to best direct resources during evening operations, allowing for a responsive and flexible deployment of community safety staff.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

The daily coordination meetings in Darwin are complemented by a higher-level interagency group that works through systemic and strategic barriers raised by the frontline coordination group. This two-tiered structure of daily operational coordination and higher-level strategic oversight has proven effective in enabling timely responses on the ground while also addressing broader structural constraints.

Key to the success of these models is that participants attend as representatives of their organisations, rather than individuals, ensuring that decisions and information flow through appropriate institutional channels. Community perception is also factored in, for example, meetings are deliberately held outside police stations to avoid the impression of enforcement dominance and promote a sense of collaborative, civilian-led action.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The NT model suggests that local governments have an important facilitation and convening role in community safety, particularly in enabling regular interagency communication and shared accountability.

A local government-led group, rather than police, may be better placed to coordinate these meetings, as it avoids adding further reporting obligations to already overburdened police services.

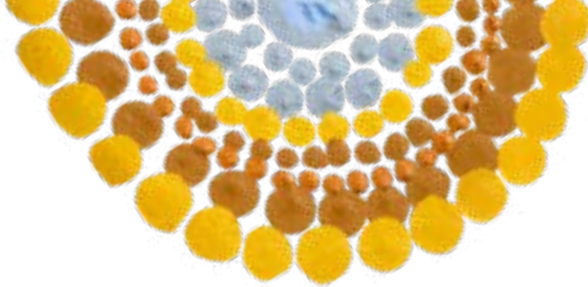
Minutes and clear documentation are recommended for all meetings to ensure transparency, define the group's scope, and set realistic expectations. However, these structures need not be over-engineered – success in the NT has come from frameworks that balance formality with flexibility, enabling timely, collaborative decision-making without unnecessary bureaucracy.

The NT team also commended the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Safer Streets Patrol, noting that the team has not recorded any incidents of assault, either perpetrated by or against patrol members, over a three-year period. This was recognised as a notable achievement and a testament to the City's approach to hiring based on attitude, with on-the-job training for technical skills.

Trials and programs implemented to address homelessness in your Shire

While not a local government in the traditional sense, the NT Community Safety team highlighted the success of its interagency daily briefing model and suggested that Kalgoorlie-Boulder consider adopting a similar structure. A future knowledge-sharing session between WA Police and NT Community Safety was proposed to further explore the benefits and implementation process of this model.





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour Palmerston

Key Points

- Limited local services leads to gaps in support for individuals with high and complex needs
- Lack of transitional housing and support programs designed specifically for young people and Aboriginal families
- City of Palmerston showing proactive engagement

Trip observations Page 181

Background – Palmerston

Palmerston is a satellite city located approximately 20km southeast of Darwin in the Northern Territory. Established in the early 1980s, it is one of Australia's youngest cities and has rapidly developed into a key residential and service centre for the Greater Darwin region. According to the 2021 Census, the Palmerston LGA had a population of 37,247 people.

The city is characterised by a high proportion of families, with 75.2% of households classified as family households. Palmerston has a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 13% of residents identifying as Indigenous, well above the national average of 3.2%. This reflects the city's role as a meeting place for Aboriginal people from surrounding communities in the Top End, many of whom travel into Palmerston for family, health, or social reasons

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Palmerston's SEIFA score is 998, placing it just below the national baseline of 1,000. Its national SEIFA rank is 421 out of 544 LGA also places it in the upper quarter of LGAs nationally and indicating a relatively higher level of socio-economic advantage overall.

However, this general position of advantage is not uniform across the city. Localised disadvantage remains evident, particularly in areas with higher concentrations of public housing, where residents face increased barriers related to employment, education, and access to support services.

While Palmerston does not experience the same scale of homelessness as Darwin, it faces emerging challenges related to itinerant homelessness, public drinking, and anti-social behaviour in shared spaces.



L-R: Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell, CEO Andrew Walsh and CEO Andrew Brien

Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

While smaller in population and newer in urban development, Palmerston shares several social challenges with Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Both cities operate as regional service hubs and contend with the impacts of transient populations, including visible street presence, housing stress, and youth disengagement.

Palmerston's SEIFA score of 998 places it just above Kalgoorlie-Boulder's score of 980. However, its national SEIFA rank of 421 is higher than Kalgoorlie-Boulder's rank of 378, indicating that Palmerston is positioned slightly more favourably in relative national terms, despite both being situated below the national baseline of 1,000.

Unlike Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which is located almost 600km from Western Australia's primary centre of Perth, Palmerston benefits from its proximity to Darwin, providing greater access to metropolitan services and administrative infrastructure. Nevertheless, local stakeholders expressed concern about being overlooked in regional policy and funding decisions, highlighting a desire for increased autonomy to develop tailored, place-based responses to local needs.

Both cities demonstrate the importance of early intervention, community-led

partnerships, and coordinated responses across all levels of government to manage the complex and interconnected challenges of homelessness, anti-social behaviour, and youth well-being.

Palmerston Community Perception Report

While the City of Palmerston does not have community perception survey results available, its *Municipal Plan 2024 to 2025* outlines an outcome to be a safe and family-friendly community where everyone belongs.

Palmerston Crime Statistics

As in other parts of the Northern Territory, publicly available crime data for Palmerston is limited in scope, with assault offences



representing the most detailed and consistently reported category. This limitation restricts the ability to form a complete understanding of overall crime trends. However, as previously noted, the available assault data provides valuable insight into broader community safety concerns, particularly due to its strong correlation with key social drivers such as alcohol misuse, family violence, and localised socio-economic disadvantage.

Since December 2023, recorded assaults in Palmerston have remained relatively stable, ranging between 81 and 105 incidents per month. The highest number of assaults was recorded in January 2025 (105 incidents), with a notable earlier peak in March 2024 (101 incidents). These fluctuations reflect a complex interplay of alcohol use, domestic violence, and broader social pressures in the region.

Key month-on-month trends include:

Dec 2023 to Jan 2024 Assaults decreased by 8 from 89 to 81 (–9.0%)
Jan 2024 to Feb 2024 Assaults increased by 1 to 82 (+1.2%)
Feb 2024 to Mar 2024 Assaults increased by 19 to 101 (+23.2%)
Mar 2024 to Apr 2024 Assaults decreased by 9 to 92 (–8.9%)
Apr 2024 to May 2024 Assaults increased by 3 to 95 (+3.3%)
May 2024 to Jun 2024 Assaults decreased by 13 to 82 (–13.7%)
Jun 2024 to Jul 2024 Assaults increased by 8 to 90 (+9.8%)
Jul 2024 to Aug 2024 Assaults increased by 5 to 95 (+5.6%)
Aug 2024 to Sep 2024 Assaults decreased by 8 to 87 (–8.4%)

Sep 2024 to Oct 2024 Assaults increased by 11 to 98 (+12.6%)
Oct 2024 to Nov 2024 Assaults increased by 6 to 104 (+6.1%)
Nov 2024 to Dec 2024 Assaults decreased by 5 to 99 (–4.8%)
Dec 2024 to Jan 2025 Assaults increased by 6 to 105 (+6.1%)

Alcohol remains a contributing factor in a substantial proportion of cases, though the data indicates a slightly lower proportion than Darwin. Nonetheless, the general stability of monthly figures masks the underlying volatility in individual risk categories, particularly domestic violence.

Interviews

City of Palmerston Interview – 12 March 2025

Attendees –

- Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell
- Andrew Walsh, Chief Executive Officer
- Konrad Seidl, General Manager Community
- Nadine Nilon, General Manager Infrastructure

This summary is supported by the Service Overview – Community and Safety PowerPoint presentation slides, which were prepared and presented to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder by the General Manager Community.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Palmerston lacks a day centre where individuals experiencing homelessness can access support, guidance, or crisis

accommodation. Currently, Palmerston has one domestic violence shelter and one sobering-up shelter, as well as support from the Orange Sky, which provides free laundry and shower services.

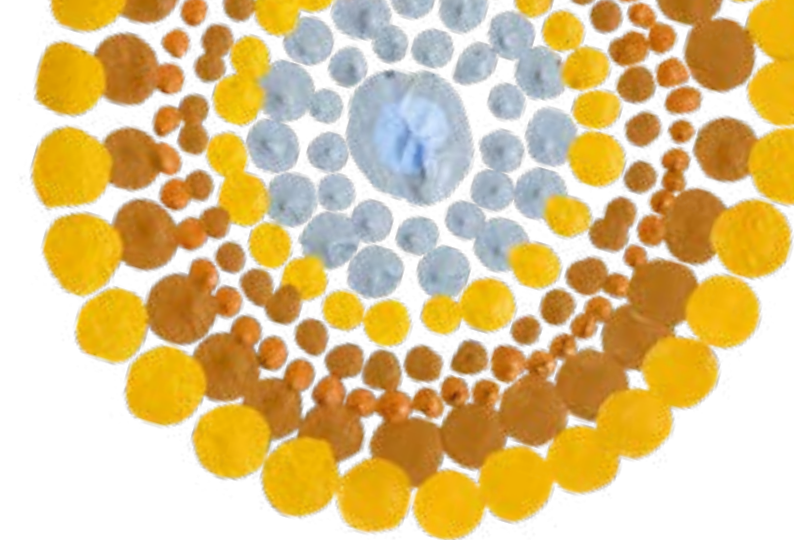
Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The City of Palmerston has a focus on prioritising community safety, with annual surveys consistently identifying community safety as the highest concern among residents.

The population of homeless individuals generally does not cause significant issues, however, itinerant camps, particularly those associated with alcohol consumption, contribute to community challenges.

Community Facilities and Social Impact

The City of Palmerston has taken steps to improve access to recreational and community spaces. A significant initiative is the \$20.4 million upgrade to the Swell Aquatic Facility, which has seen annual visitation increase from 10,000 to 100,000 due to the removal of entry fees. This initiative was noted to have an impact on youth crime reduction and public health. Research suggests that every visit to the pool saves approximately \$23 per person in national healthcare costs, a compelling figure for ongoing advocacy.



While aqua-aerobics and similar activities remain fee-based, the City partnered with the most disadvantaged school in the area to host a family fun day that attracted over 200 attendees. To further encourage participation, community halls and the recreation centres are available for free bookings.

The Youth Drop-in Centre, operated by the YMCA under a peppercorn lease with NT Government funding, provides essential support services, food, and cultural activities. Open seven days a week from 3:00pm to 10:00pm, it welcomes between 60 to 100 young people daily. The program collaborates with traditional custodians to ensure safe transportation home for participants.

A similar initiative, Youth Drop-in Sports, is managed by the local basketball association and provides structured after-school activities for 100 to 150 young people, including non-sporting options such as a gaming club.

Palmerston hosts a diverse range of community events, fostering engagement and inclusivity such as:

- Palmerston Youth Festival – a week-long event funded by the NT Government (\$300,000 per annum), planned and executed by council staff with community group involvement.
- Brekkie in the Park – provides an opportunity for residents to engage with Councillors and the Mayor while offering free dog registration or other incentives.
- Flicnics – outdoor movie nights complemented by food trucks.

- Street Art Festival which facilitates the creation of murals with permission from property owners.
- Christmas in Wonderland which attracts 15,000 attendees annually, including a designated low-sensory night.
- Palmerston Markets – the Council provides affordable space, allowing regular interaction with the community and Councillors.
- Seniors Fortnight which features Council-sponsored events fostering intergenerational connections and engagement.

Library Services and Community Funding

The Palmerston Library also continues to innovate by offering:

- Dementia-friendly initiatives
- Late-night library sessions (fortnightly on Fridays from 6:00pm)
- A community recording studio, which has contributed to local artists gaining national recognition, including airplay on Triple J.

The Community Funding and Sponsorship Program (\$250,000 annual budget) supports various initiatives from school awards to sponsorships.

Governance, Advocacy, and Social Infrastructure

Palmerston's community engagement is reinforced through multiple committees and networks, such as:

- Community Safety Advisory Committee
- Vibrant Economy Advisory Committee
- Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee

- Palmerston Kids Network
- Safe Communities Network
- Seniors Network
- Palmerston and Rural Youth Services
- Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group

City of Palmerston participates in Daily Patrollers Meetings with Northern Territory Government Agencies and related not-for-profit organisations. The City also contributes to discussions of the Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield Interagency Tasking and Coordination Group.

Ongoing advocacy efforts focus on police patrols, CCTV expansion, and alignment with the NT Government's Homelessness Strategy. Collaboration with NT Police, and non-profit organisations remains central to addressing social challenges.

Planning and Development Challenges

While the NT Government is responsible for statutory planning and regulation, challenges arise from the lack of coordination between land release and social infrastructure development.

An example of this is the recent allocation of 140 social housing dwellings (93 in Palmerston) without prior consultation, disregarding the existing planning framework. The Mayor, who sits on the Development Consent Authority, has highlighted the need to de-densify social housing to mitigate community risks.

Since its development in the 1980s, Palmerston's urban growth has led to unintended consequences, such as commercial service areas evolving into shopping centres. The decentralised development of the city centre has resulted in peripheral expansion at the expense of a cohesive CBD. The council is actively reviewing strategies to revitalise and consolidate the central business district to support long-term economic and social sustainability.

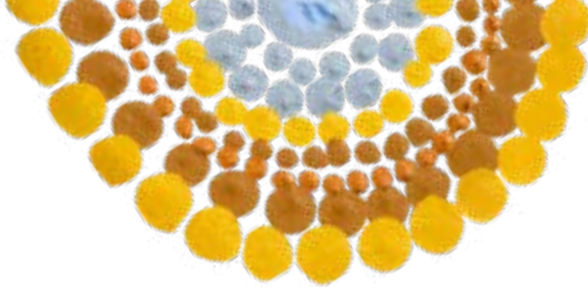
Public benevolent institutions have also sought rate exemptions, a matter currently under legal challenge at the Supreme Court level. This has significant implications for the council's revenue base, particularly given the high concentration of social housing. Similar concerns have been raised in Western Australia, where government-owned properties remain rateable, but community provider-managed housing is not.

Measuring Social Impact and Financial Sustainability

The City of Palmerston is reviewing the long-term sustainability of its free community facilities initiative, ensuring that measurable social benefits justify continued investment.

Research from Alice Springs and university studies indicate that every \$1 spent on primary healthcare in the community yields an \$18 saving in hospital costs. Similar research will be crucial in securing ongoing funding and assessing the broader economic impact.





Homelessness and Anti-social Behaviour

Kununurra

Key Points

- Challenges related to overcrowding, alcohol-related harm, and seasonal migration from remote communities
- Liquor restrictions supported by community resulting in some reduction of alcohol-fuelled violence
- Binarri-binyja Yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation, Wunan Foundation, and Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley key partners in responding to challenges

Trip observations Page 182

Background

Kununurra is a remote town located in the far north of Western Australia, approximately 3,214km northeast of Perth and 834km southwest of Darwin. It sits within the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley, a region known for its rugged landscapes, agricultural activity, and cultural significance to local Aboriginal communities. As of the 2021 Census, the Shire recorded a population of 7,477 people.

Kununurra has a significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with 22.9% of residents identifying as Indigenous—well above the national average of 3.2%. This reflects the town's strong cultural heritage and the central role that Aboriginal communities play in its social and civic life.

Community Approach

Proposed Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA) – Kununurra

The Kununurra ASSA project is part of the Western Australian Government's \$20 million Kimberley Recovery Plan, aimed at providing short-term accommodation for Aboriginal people visiting Kununurra from remote communities. The facility is expected to improve access to essential services, support economic participation, and create employment opportunities during construction and operation.

Engagement involved 33 stakeholder groups and over 80 participants from the East Kimberley region, including Aboriginal organisations, government agencies, and community service providers. The



L-R: CKB CEO Andrew Brien and WAPOL Kununurra Sergeant Kevin Hall.

consultation focused on key themes such as the need for the facility, design and location considerations, local construction capability, and operational requirements.

The stakeholder engagement confirmed a unanimous need for the Kununurra ASSA, with demand anticipated from both Western Australian and Northern Territory communities. The facility is expected to cater to Aboriginal people visiting Kununurra for medical appointments, funerals (sorry business), cultural events, family visits, and other essential purposes. Most stakeholders supported a maximum stay of 28 days, with some flexibility for extended stays in special circumstances such as education and training programs, or during the wet season when road access to remote communities is limited.

In terms of capacity, the proposed 70-bed facility was deemed appropriate to meet demand, with the potential for future expansion. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of a culturally safe and secure environment, with a preference for features such as outdoor cooking areas, meeting spaces, playgrounds, and internet access. While there was no consensus on room configurations, the inclusion of ensuite rooms was noted as beneficial, particularly in situations requiring isolation, such as during COVID-19 outbreaks.

Several potential sites in Kununurra were identified as suitable for the ASSA, with strong support for engagement with the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Traditional Owners in site selection and the cultural aspects of the project. Local construction capability was considered strong, with opportunities for Aboriginal employment during the building phase. However, stakeholders acknowledged the current challenges posed by rising construction costs in the region.

The operational and management aspects of the facility generated significant interest, with local service providers expressing a desire to be involved. There was a strong expectation that a high proportion of the workforce would be Aboriginal, ensuring the facility is managed in a culturally appropriate and community-driven manner.





Additionally, stakeholders highlighted the importance of integrating support services within the facility to enhance the experience and outcomes for residents.

Overall, the engagement process demonstrated strong community support for the Kununurra ASSA, with clear expectations regarding its design, management, and long-term sustainability. The insights gathered will be instrumental in shaping the next stages of the project to ensure it meets the needs of its users and the broader community.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The socio-economic profile of the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley is reflected in its SEIFA score of 934. This places the region below the national baseline of 1,000, indicating a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage. Nationally, the Shire ranks 192 out of 544 LGAs, placing it in the lower half in terms of socio-economic conditions.

Kununurra has faced challenges related to youth crime and anti-social behaviour. For instance, incidents such as rock attacks have raised concerns among residents and authorities²⁸.

To address these issues, initiatives like the Kununurra Empowering Youth (KEY) working party have been established. This collaborative effort includes government agencies, non-profit organisations, local ACCOs, and volunteers. The KEY initiative aims to:

- Improve the content and coordination of programs available for young people in Kununurra, especially during school holiday periods.
- Encourage children and young people to make positive choices.
- Promote positive family time and strengthen relationships between young people, their families, and the wider community.
- Include the views and ideas of local young people in planning and implementation.
- Reduce anti-social behaviour, juvenile offences, and periods of incarceration²⁹.

Transitional housing programs have also been implemented to support Indigenous families. These programs provide discounted rental homes to parents who maintain employment and ensure their children attend school, offering a pathway to home ownership and promoting stability within the community.

These initiatives reflect ongoing efforts to address the socio-economic challenges in Kununurra, aiming to reduce anti-social behaviour and support the Indigenous community through targeted programs and housing solutions.

²⁷ Rock attack in youth crime-prone Kununurra draws Alice Springs comparison – ABC News
²⁸ Kununurra Empowering Youth | Commissioner for Children and Young People WA

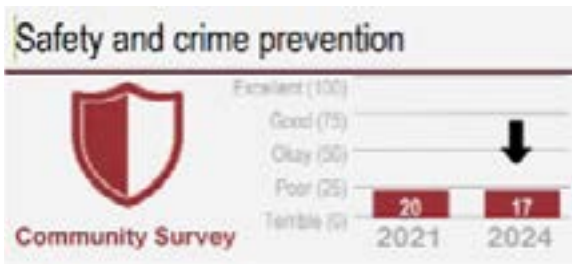
Comparison with Kalgoorlie-Boulder

When compared to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley, which includes the remote town of Kununurra, presents a more disadvantaged socio-economic profile. The Shire's SEIFA score of 934 and national rank of 192 place it within the lower half of LGA across Australia, indicating persistent disadvantage across key domains such as income, education, employment, and housing. In contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a SEIFA score of 980 and a national rank of 378, positioning it within the more advantaged half of LGAs nationally, despite falling below the national baseline score of 1,000.

Both communities are key regional centres with high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and serve as important service hubs for surrounding remote areas. Each faces social challenges linked to youth disengagement, transitional homelessness, and anti-social behaviour. However, Kalgoorlie-Boulder benefits from a larger population base, broader infrastructure, and a more diversified economy, particularly through the mining sector, which contributes to its comparatively stronger socio-economic position.

In Kununurra, community-led initiatives such as the KEY working party and transitional housing programs work to address social pressures and promote long-term well-being. These efforts reflect a proactive and culturally informed response to challenges facing local families and young people.

While Kalgoorlie-Boulder has also implemented early intervention and community safety programs, its broader economic base and infrastructure capacity support more coordinated service delivery at a systems level. However, this regional advantage is not uniformly experienced across the population, with many residents continuing to face significant socio-economic disadvantage, highlighting the need for sustained, targeted, and culturally responsive interventions.



Shire of Wyndham – Perception of Safety and Crime Prevention

Kununurra Community Perception Report

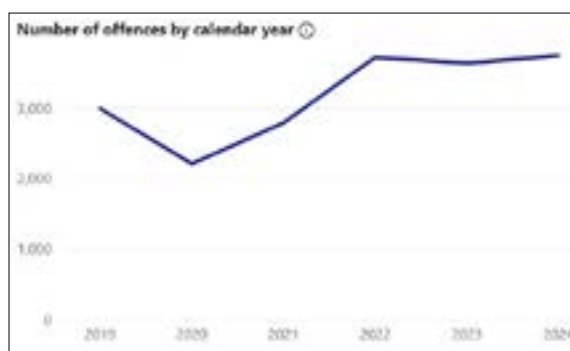
While the Shire of Wyndham does not have community perception survey results available, its annual report demonstrates a decrease in community perception of Safety and Crime Prevention through a community survey.

Kununurra Crime Statistics

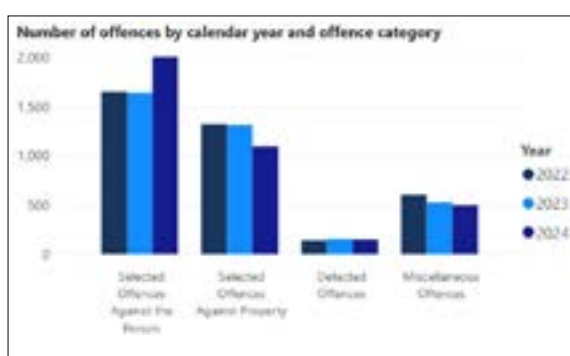
Since 2020, the number of recorded offences per calendar year in the Kununurra has significantly increased, rising from 2,205 offences in 2020 to 3,740 in 2024. This escalation in crime is particularly relevant in the context of rising anti-social behaviour and transitional homelessness across the region.

Key year-on-year trends include:

2019 to 2020	Offences decreased by 783 (–26.2%)
2020 to 2021	Offences increased by 582 (+26.4%)
2021 to 2022	Offences increased by 928 (+33.3%)
2022 to 2023	Offences decreased by 85 (–2.3%)
2023 to 2024	Offences increased by 110 (+3.0%)



Number of offences per calendar year (Kununurra)



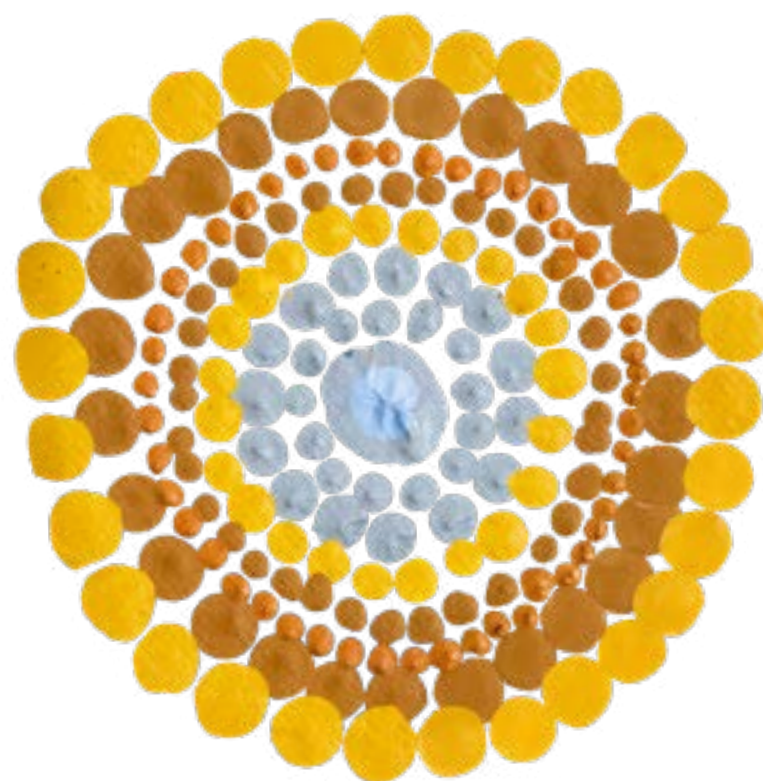
Number of offences by calendar year and offence category (Kununurra)

High-frequency offence categories in Kununurra include family-related assaults, non-family assaults, stealing, and breaches of violence orders. The marked drop in 2020 likely reflects public health restrictions and changes in service access during the pandemic. The subsequent increases highlight long-standing challenges in the region related to overcrowded housing, youth disengagement, and limited support services.

Kununurra Liquor Restrictions

Kununurra and Wyndham are subject to Liquor Restrictions under section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* as follows:

- Consuming liquor on public roads and in private vehicles is an offence (except where a permit or licence applies). This includes drinking in a motor vehicle on any public road or street.
- Consuming liquor in parks and other public places is an offence without the consent of the owner or controlling authority. This includes areas such as parks, reserves, beaches and so on.



- The sale and supply of liquor for consumption at hotel or tavern premises is prohibited before 12:00pm except where it is sold ancillary to a meal (or to a lodger at hotel premises).
- Takeaway alcohol restrictions are detailed below:

	Alcohol strength	Trading hours	Quantity (per person, per day)
a	Low strength alcohol (2.7% or less)	Monday to Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm	No limit
b	Mid to full strength alcohol (2.7% to 7%)	Monday to Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm	11.25 litres (e.g. one carton of beer)
c	Full strength alcohol (7% to 15%)	Monday to Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm	2.25 litres (e.g. three bottles of wine)
d	Greater than 15% (some spirits, wines)	Monday to Saturday 12:00pm to 8:00pm	1 litre

- Liquor may be purchased in the quantities specified in either (b) or (c) or (d) or a combination of (b) and (c).
- Special exemptions for takeaway liquor apply to:
 - station owners
 - liquor merchants
 - mail order sales; and
 - A person who has pre-ordered using a bulk purchase order form at least 72 hours in advance of pick-up/delivery.

Exemption for bulk purchases

The sale of liquor is not subject to the quantity restrictions imposed by these Section 64 Conditions (above) where a customer pre-orders liquor at least 72 hours in advance of pickup or delivery and:

- the customer has completed a bulk purchase order form
- the bulk purchase order form contains the following information:
 - name, address and licence number of relevant licence and signature of licensee or employee
 - name, address, phone number of customer
 - address where the liquor is being taken or delivered
 - description and quantity of liquor ordered and the reason for the bulk purchase.
- a copy of the bulk purchase order form is:
 - provided to the Officer in Charge of the local police station within 24 hours of the order being received by the licensee

- provided to the customer
- retained by the licensee and made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer.

Register of sales to exempt persons

- Licensees must maintain on the licensed premises, a register of purchases made by a tourist, station owner, pastoralist or a person operating or employed at a remote work site.
- The register must be made available for inspection at the request of an authorised officer and must contain:
 - name, address and phone number of the purchaser, including the residential address of a tourist
 - address where the liquor is being taken or delivered
 - description and quantity of liquor purchased
 - vehicle registration of the purchaser.

In addition to the liquor restrictions specific to Kununurra and Wyndham, the following liquor restrictions exist for the entire Kimberley region:

- Takeaway liquor may not be sold:
 - in individual containers of more than one litre of liquor with an alcohol content of 6% or more (for example, wine casks of more than one litre); and
 - in glass bottles of 400ml or more of beer.

Interviews

Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation Interview – 13 March 2025

Attendees –

- Peter Webster, Chief Executive Officer

The Binarri-Binyja Yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation (BBY) in Kununurra operates as a community-driven organisation, focusing on empowering its 30 member organisations by providing support tailored to their specific needs. BBY does not engage in direct service delivery but instead facilitates workshops and collaborates with relevant organisations to design and implement community-led projects.

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

One of the critical challenges in Kununurra is youth offending, particularly among children under the age of 10. A group of 22 to 25 high-risk youth have been identified as repeat offenders, often stemming from families facing long-term social issues. Boredom is seen as a major contributing factor, along with a lack of structured activities.

Alcohol remains a significant driver of social issues, with data indicating that when police enforce ID checks, incidents of family violence and hospitalisations decrease, as do the number of children on the streets and issues requiring night patrol intervention.



Kununurra

A concerning issue is the lack of data-sharing between organisations. Many families receive overlapping services from multiple providers, leading to inefficiencies and service duplication. Efforts are underway to develop a digital mapping system to streamline service provision.

Education remains a persistent challenge, with truancy continuing among the same 10 families. As older children age out, younger siblings follow the same pattern, perpetuating the cycle of disengagement.

Housing and homelessness are also pressing concerns. Kununurra experiences significant transient movement, with people arriving from Darwin, Balgo, and Broome. With no available housing, many individuals are forced to sleep in parks, contributing to social tensions and conflicts, particularly during the wet and dry seasons when communities migrate into town. “Long grass” sleeping remains a reality, with police frequently moving people on due to restrictions on camping in public spaces. The Ranch Reserve and garden area, where housing is entirely Indigenous-owned, operates off-grid using power cards, similar to the model in Tjuntjuntjara.

Employment opportunities exist, but significant barriers prevent community members from securing stable work. While there is no real unemployment, vacancies remain unfilled due to housing shortages, overcrowding, and lack of access to basic amenities such as laundry facilities.

Orange Sky provides mobile laundry services, but limited access means workers may only be able to wash their uniforms once a week. Transitional housing is available, but without permanent housing options to move into, the system remains bottlenecked. High rental prices further exacerbate the issue, with two-bedroom homes costing around \$550 per week and three-bedroom homes reaching \$800 per week.

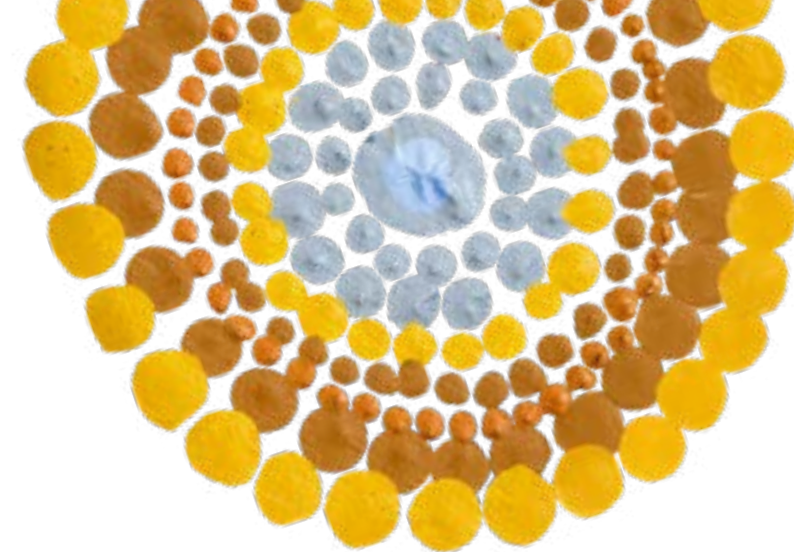
The alcohol restrictions in neighbouring communities have led to an influx of individuals coming to Kununurra to dry out. Unfortunately, this has also resulted in the introduction of drugs, which are strongly opposed by the local community and traditional owners. A recent incident where a single needle was found in a park sparked significant community concern, underscoring the rarity of drugs in the town.

Census data collection remains a challenge, with only 14 people recorded as living in Wyndham, a figure that does not reflect the actual population. Many community members are either hesitant to participate or lack the knowledge required to complete the census, leading to underrepresentation in government statistics.

Government grant processes also pose difficulties, often requiring external evaluators, which adds to the already heavy workload of overburdened non-profits. Addressing these systemic challenges requires continued advocacy, policy reform, and community-driven solutions to ensure sustainable progress in Kununurra and surrounding regions.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The community garden plays a vital role in providing social support, relying entirely on volunteers and grants. It hosts programs that engage community members, including a Sunday lunch initiative that has operated consistently for seven years. Other support services include churches distributing food



vouchers and a local op shop offering a \$1 bag-fill program.

The introduction of a youth safe house in Broome has been viewed as a potential model for Kununurra. The State government has indicated that a similar facility will be developed in Kununurra, with BBY receiving promising figures regarding its potential impact. The community sees this as a crucial step in addressing youth safety and crime prevention.

Short-stay accommodation is available near the hospital, offering transport services and an alcohol-free environment. Additionally, Kununurra-Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation (KWAK) operates the Sobering Up Shelter, which provides 15 beds. Those unable to access the shelter often resort to sleeping rough in the bush, with a bus service transporting them 15-20km out of town.

Night patrol services play a crucial role in community safety, with KWAK managing the service, which was initially established by Aboriginal community members. Separate youth night patrol services also operate, with organisations such as child rights organisation 54 Reasons involved in these initiatives. However, there is growing discussion around transitioning these programs to ACCOs to strengthen community ownership and cultural relevance.

Local government's role in addressing anti-social behaviour and homelessness

The local Shire of Wyndham has contracted a youth diversionary worker who splits their time between KWAK and the Shire, supporting efforts to engage at-risk youth.



Vernon Lawrence, CEO, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and Andrew Brien, CEO, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder at Yajany Yarawoo Ngoondebtha meeting

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Interview – 14 March 2025

Attendees –

- Vernon Lawrence, Chief Executive Officer

Challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

Communities in the East Kimberley region face ongoing challenges related to seasonal population shifts, social issues, and service provision. These dynamics shape the region's needs and require adaptive, locally driven solutions.

During the dry season, many people return to their home communities, leading to a temporary decrease in population pressures. However, in the wet season, a significant number of people relocate to the area, often resulting in increased tensions and conflicts. This seasonal migration has led to heightened instances of rough sleeping and overcrowded houses, where all-night gatherings and alcohol-related disturbances can become common. These challenges are not unique to Wyndham or the East Kimberley region but are experienced across the Kimberley.

Unlike some other regions, the Shire has not observed significant drug-related issues, rather, alcohol remains the primary substance contributing to social disturbances.

Youth crime remains a concern, though it is generally opportunistic rather than premeditated. Most incidents involve breaking into houses to access food, rather than stealing property. While some cases of car theft occur, these are typically spur-of-the-moment crimes. The WA Police have responded by increasing public awareness efforts especially for visitors. Additionally, the lack of services operating at night exacerbates the issue, as WA Police are the only government agency actively working in this space after 8:00pm.

Education in the region also faces major hurdles. In Halls Creek, approximately 80% of high school-aged children do not attend school. Despite discussions with government ministers, proposed educational investments, such as a science lab, did not align with local needs.

The Shire advocated for more regionally relevant initiatives, such as cattle mustering programs, but these were dismissed in favour of standardised metropolitan-style solutions. This highlights the ongoing struggle for tailored approaches to community development, as many government programs are designed with a one-size-fits-all methodology that fails to account for the unique circumstances of each region.

Accommodation remains another significant issue, particularly regarding rough sleepers. The sanitation challenges associated with homelessness during the wet season place additional strain on the Shire, as with the City Kalgoorlie-Boulder during the summer season, which must manage an increased volume of cleanup efforts.

Proposals to establish basic shelters with ablution facilities have been discussed, but there is uncertainty regarding their location and design. The repurposing of a former workers' camp into a short-stay facility was explored but ultimately abandoned when the camp was sold for a reported \$120,000, and the site was deemed unusable. Efforts to identify alternative locations have been hindered by a lack of available State-owned land, leading to frustration among local stakeholders.

Overview of any partnership models in place with government agencies and service providers to address homelessness and anti-social behaviour

Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach, and the Yajany Yarawoo Ngoondebtha (YYN) group, which meets fortnightly on Fridays, has proven to be highly effective. This group comprises representatives from the Department of Justice, WA Police, health services, ACCOs, and the Shire, fostering valuable information sharing. The trust built through these meetings has helped break down silos, improved referrals, and enhanced the efficiency of service delivery. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was invited to observe the meeting as a guest of the YYN group.

Despite the presence of a wide range of not-for-profit organisations in the region, many face ongoing uncertainty due to insecure funding. One critical program, the 54 Reasons night patrol, receives \$70,000 annually to operate a two-person vehicle every night of the week. With this funding a regular service is not possible. While volunteers assist in maximising resources, the most impactful work happens the following day through intervention with families. Unfortunately, funding for follow-up services was discontinued eight years ago, despite the continued need for such support. The effectiveness of these programs underscores the necessity for adequate and sustained funding.

Local solutions are essential, as needs vary significantly between communities such as Wyndham and Halls Creek. Programs designed in Canberra often lack the flexibility required to address the most pressing issues on the ground. The command-centre approach from Perth has similarly proven ineffective. The Shire fully supports motions previously raised by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder advocating for more regionally informed policy development.

Addressing these complex issues requires a collaborative, locally driven approach that respects the unique circumstances of each community. Ongoing engagement between local governments, service providers, and community members is critical to developing sustainable, effective solutions for the East Kimberley region.

Wunan Foundation Interview – 14 March 2025

Attendees –

- Ian Trust – Executive Chair, Wunan Foundation

The Wunan Foundation is an Aboriginal development organisation in the East Kimberly region of Western Australia. It drives long-term socio-economic change for Aboriginal people through a variety of programs. The Wunan Foundation has developed long-lasting partnerships with the community, business sector and Government.



Ian Trust, Executive Chair, Wunan Foundation, Andrew Brien, CEO and Mia Hicks, Director Advocacy and Strategy, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder



Background to challenges associated with Aboriginal homelessness

The introduction of welfare in 1967 marked a significant turning point in the Kimberley region, fundamentally altering the socio-economic landscape for Aboriginal communities. Prior to this, Aboriginal people were integral to the pastoral industry, working on stations under conditions that, while often inequitable especially in pay, provided them with a sense of purpose and economic participation.

The Australian Workers Union played a pivotal role in advocating for equal pay for Aboriginal workers on pastoral and grazing stations. When the case was won, station owners, unable or unwilling to meet these new financial obligations for Aboriginal workers, chose instead to evict them, displacing families from lands they had lived on for generations.

This period coincided with significant advancements in industry technology, such as the introduction of helicopters for cattle mustering, replacing traditional horseback methods. Aboriginal workers, who had once been the backbone of station operations, found themselves left behind by these rapid changes, exacerbating their displacement.

As a result, many Aboriginal people ended up in towns like Halls Creek, experiencing a newfound yet disorienting sense of 'freedom'. A key memory from this era that Ian Trust recalls is Aboriginal people

walking the streets, stating their freedom as they were simultaneously subject to strict regulations, including having to apply for permission to consume alcohol.

Despite the nature of previous employment conditions, Aboriginal stockmen were highly respected within their communities — akin to modern-day sports stars like Michael Jordan. Their economic contribution bolstered family structures, but with the shift to welfare payments, traditional family dynamics were disrupted.

Welfare payments were directed primarily to mothers and children, diminishing the economic role of Aboriginal men in their households. Many perceived this as a situation where women were, in effect, 'married to the government', while men lost their status and purpose.

The impact of these changes was far-reaching. Between Wyndham and Kununurra, approximately 1,900 individuals were receiving welfare payments as a direct consequence of the 1967 policy shift. This systemic reliance on welfare contributed to a cycle of crisis and stagnation within communities.

Another critical aspect of this challenge is identity transformation. To transition from crisis to flourishing, individuals may need to distance themselves from ingrained social and cultural dynamics. Historical case studies, such as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the United States, illustrate this phenomenon. When a New Orleans prison was flooded, 1,000 inmates and their families were relocated to other cities. Research from institutions such as Harvard found that two-thirds of those who returned to New Orleans reoffended, whereas those who remained in new locations successfully reintegrated into society, with improved educational and employment outcomes for their children.

The broader implications of welfare dependency include a devaluation of education, work, and child-rearing responsibilities. Policymakers often search for a 'silver bullet' solution, yet the reality is that a multifaceted approach is required.

This welfare dependency is not unique to Aboriginal communities in Australia but is observed globally. The pathway from crisis to flourishing is complex, requiring a redefinition of success. Core elements of success include having a role and purpose, fostering strong relationships, maintaining good health, and practising effective financial management.

Belonging—having a place to call home and someone to share it with—is a critical component. However, achieving these outcomes requires perseverance and self-discipline. While some critics argue that such measures equate to assimilation into a 'white' lifestyle, some assert that these values transcend race and are fundamental human aspirations. Addressing these challenges requires greater accountability within schools, innovative community-driven programs, and long-term strategic planning.

Solutions implemented with service providers to address the issues of anti-social behaviour associated with transitional homelessness

The Wunan Foundation's Empowered Communities initiative has sought to address these issues through a framework based on core values: paying rent, ensuring the safety and well-being of Elders and children, and prioritising education. However, an assessment of community well-being indicates that approximately 75% of individuals remain in crisis, 5% are stable, 5% are ready for change, and 15% are flourishing. Success within this model largely depends on leadership and advocacy within each community.

Give to Get Program

One proposed initiative to address these challenges is the concept of the introduction of a 'Give to Get' program, which would incentivise positive community participation. Interested individuals would actively sign up, and the program's first steps would involve practical improvements, such as cleaning up yards or acquiring furniture.

Participation would require children to attend school and refrain from street activity, while volunteers would assist with

literacy development. Households would also need to be free from domestic violence. Incentives such as air-conditioning and Wi-Fi access could be incorporated to encourage participation or the "get". Church groups have offered to assist by collecting and distributing donated furniture through Wunan, further supporting the initiative.

Addressing the complex issues relating to homelessness and anti-social behaviour requires a balance of empathy and pragmatism. Effective policy solutions must be targeted and measurable, moving beyond generalised approaches to ensure tangible improvements in community well-being.

Collaborative efforts, such as the 'Give to Get' program, would provide a potential pathway forward by fostering responsibility, engagement, and sustainable change within Aboriginal communities.

Cashless Debit Card

A revised model of the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) was also discussed. While some political perspectives maintain that a better lifestyle can be achieved without reforming the welfare system, others argue that significant changes are necessary to move individuals from crisis to stability. The reluctance of many welfare recipients to transition to employment is evident in the reliance on foreign labour; despite 1,900 locals receiving welfare, farm workers from East Timor are being recruited due to labour shortages in the area.

Royalty Payments

The role of royalty payments in community prosperity is another area of concern. Simply distributing cash does not lead to sustainable development. Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest's approach is of linking royalties to measurable outcomes, rather than unconditional cash hand-outs. The Kimberley Land Council has similarly expressed a preference for structured support over direct cash payments.

Observations



Alice Springs

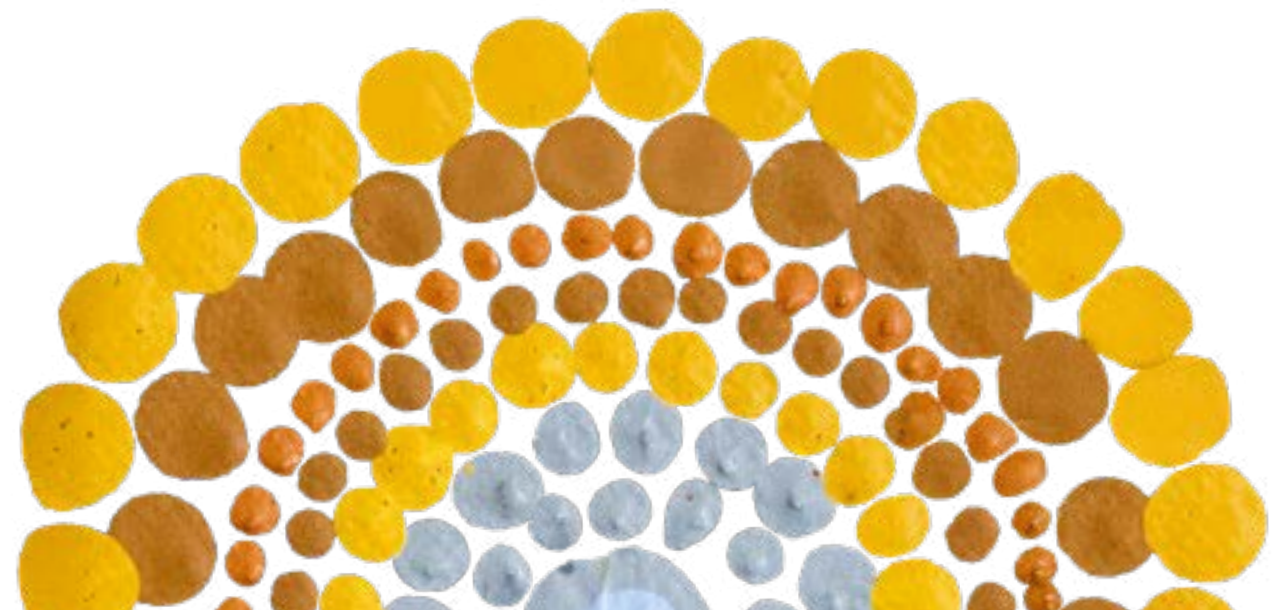
- Alice Springs continues to experience significant issues relating to homelessness and anti-social behaviour, with visible impacts in the CBD and surrounding areas. These issues are exacerbated by the high level of transience from remote communities and, whilst there is accommodation, there are limited accommodation pathways in this space.
- A strong network of Aboriginal-led organisations operates in Alice Springs, including Community Housing Central Australia, Mission Australia, and Aboriginal Hostels Limited, each delivering services such as transitional housing, outreach, and wrap-around support.
- Liquor restrictions, including the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) and the Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS), are in place, although significant enforcement by police is required.
- Short-stay and crisis accommodation models exist but are often at capacity. There is a clear need for low-barrier options that cater to individuals with complex needs and those disengaged from conventional services.
- Crime and safety concerns have escalated in recent years, particularly in relation to property offences and youth-related disturbances. While enforcement measures are in place, they are not sufficient alone to address underlying drivers of behaviour.
- Stakeholders consistently called for more integrated, community-based services and Aboriginal leadership in decision-making processes. Coordination between providers was seen as critical but often fragmented due to funding silos and inconsistent communication between agencies.

Darwin

- Darwin's inner-city areas, particularly the CBD, experience high levels of street presence, homelessness, and associated anti-social behaviour. This is often linked to visitors from remote Northern Territory communities where service access is limited.
- Housing supply remains critically low, especially for transitional and supported accommodation. Some facilities operate strict criteria that inadvertently exclude those most in need, perpetuating rough sleeping.

Palmerston

- Palmerston, while geographically close to Darwin, presents different community dynamics and a somewhat less visible street presence.
- Local services are limited compared to Darwin, particularly in terms of crisis accommodation and intensive case management. This leads to gaps in support for individuals with high and complex needs.
- The City of Palmerston has shown proactive engagement in the space, including collaboration with the City of Darwin.





- A notable challenge is the lack of transitional housing and support programs designed specifically for young people and Aboriginal families, who are more vulnerable to cyclical homelessness.
- Outreach and transport services are limited. Many individuals become stranded in Kununurra due to vehicle breakdowns, missed connections, or lack of return transport to community.

Kununurra

- Kununurra faces challenges related to overcrowding, alcohol-related harm, and seasonal migration from remote communities. Public drinking and anti-social behaviour are highly visible in town areas.
- Liquor restrictions are in place and largely supported by the community, with some improvement in reducing alcohol-fuelled violence.
- The Binarri-binyja Yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation, the Wunan Foundation, and the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley are key partners in responding to these challenges, although funding uncertainty hampers service continuity.

Analysis

Alice Springs, Darwin, Palmerston, and Kununurra share a common set of challenges including homelessness, mobility from remote communities, and systemic disadvantage. However, their responses and capacities to manage these challenges differ based on local leadership, governance structures, and resourcing levels.

Alice Springs represents a high-need, high-capacity environment with a diverse range of service providers. Despite this, service fragmentation and housing shortages undermine the ability to address anti-social behaviour in a sustained and culturally appropriate manner. The town is under significant strain and system-wide coordination is not fully in place.

Darwin, as the capital of the Northern Territory, benefits from greater service infrastructure, but still struggles to address the scale and complexity of its homelessness and community safety issues. Liquor controls such as the Banned Drinker Register and TAMS have been important tools, but gaps in transitional housing and culturally responsive supports continue to impact outcomes.

Palmerston provides an example of how smaller regional centres are affected by policy and population pressures in neighbouring urban areas. With limited services of its own, Palmerston relies heavily on coordination with Darwin-based agencies.

Kununurra stands out for the strength of its Aboriginal partnerships and its efforts to co-design long-term accommodation solutions, such as the proposed ASSA model. However, like the other towns, Kununurra faces rising pressures associated with mobility from dry communities, lack of transitional housing and limited transport options. Expanded investment in transport, outreach, and supported accommodation is required.



Overall, the experiences of these four locations point to a pressing need for place-based, community-led solutions that prioritise cultural safety, housing stability, and integrated service delivery.

While law enforcement plays a role, the consistent message across jurisdictions is that wrap-around support and Aboriginal leadership are more effective in delivering lasting change. These findings should directly inform future strategies in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, particularly in strengthening interagency collaboration, expanding housing options, and investing in community-controlled service models.



Learnings and Actions

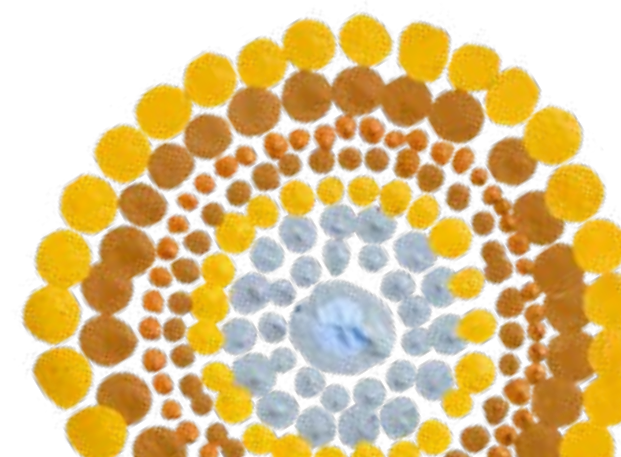
This research project aims to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing efforts in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to address anti-social behaviour and Aboriginal transitional homelessness.

Learnings	Action	Closing the Gap Alignment
Broome		
Child hunger is a recognised issue in Broome and one that is also apparent in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.	Goldfields ACCO Ngunyrtju Tjitji Pirni (NTP) Aboriginal Corporation is re-establishing themselves as a culturally safe space for women and families (particularly victims of family and domestic violence), through inclusive programs that support self-determination, and improve social and emotional wellbeing.	Priority Reform Two: Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.
Over the years, many service providers have attempted to establish meal programs for children but no long-term sustainable program has been established to date.		
The Feed the Little Children initiative in Broome, that continuously provides opportunities for fundraising, is a model that could provide a level of sustainability for an interested organisation.	The initiative (Feed the Little Children) was sent to NTP for Board consideration – with the potential for funding through the Community-led Support Funding.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including through dietary factors).

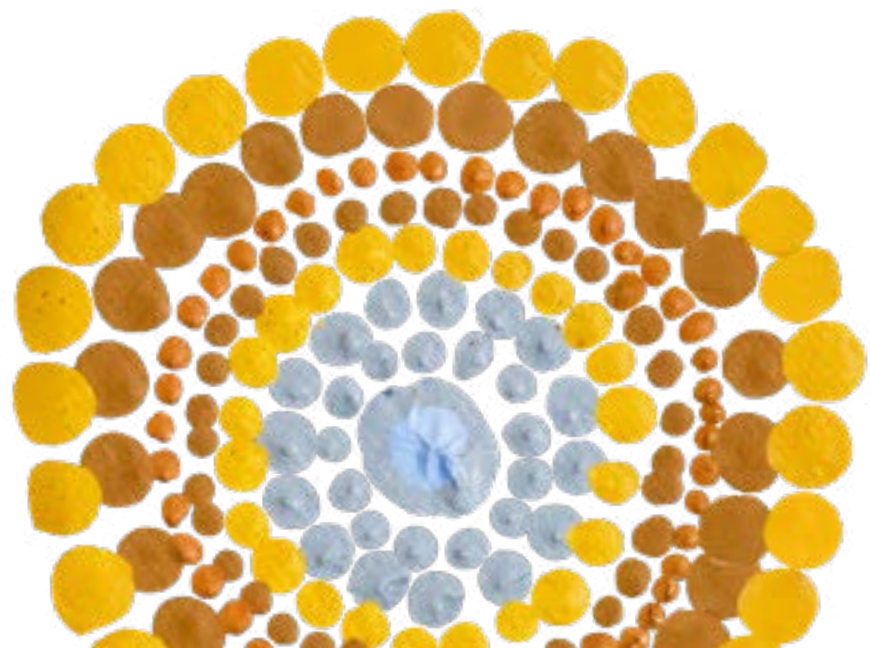
Broome		
There is only one service for vulnerable people to access transport in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and it is not clear if the service would accommodate people who are intoxicated. The service runs from 8:00am until 8:00pm Monday to Friday and 8:00am until 5:00pm Saturdays.	Work more closely with MEEDAC and other ACCOs to develop transportation solutions to return people home, to their temporary accommodation, or to the sobering up shelter.	Priority Reform One: There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in place in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives, including place-based partnerships based on a specific region.
In Broome, the Kullarri Patrol Service is an ACCO-operated service that will only pick up individuals that are intoxicated and individuals with disabilities, who are stranded and in need of assistance to a safe place including home, a Sobering Up Centre, or the refuge. Patrol hours are from 8:30am to 9:00pm (Monday to Friday) and 3:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday and Sunday.	Service should permit pick up of individuals who are intoxicated and have extended hours at night.	Priority Reform Two: Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.
In Karratha, the Mingga Patrol is a night patrol service in Roebourne which ensures the safety and security of intoxicated people who may be at risk of harm by transporting them to a safe place.		Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
In Port Hedland, patrols run by ACCOs are provided until 8:00pm in the evening ensuring that vulnerable individuals, especially those affected by alcohol, are safely taken home or to a sobering up shelter.		

Broome		
LGAs have neglected the required maintenance and replacement of CCTV systems or the systems are subject to re-occurring vandalism.	Ensure appropriate budget allocation for upgrading and maintaining the City's CCTV infrastructure which is considered one of the best in regional WA.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development. Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
The Shire recently upgraded Chinatown and whilst there was an initial concern that these improvements might inadvertently attract homeless individuals to sleep in the area, increased lighting has deterred this.	Investigate City facilities which would benefit from lights, sound and voice warnings when activated.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.
Pathway Lighting – Hotspot Locations	Investigate solar pathway lighting in consultation with WA Police for installation in hotspot locations.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.

Broome		
Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) engage with community members, helping to prevent issues before they arise. Broome's CLOs will soon be increasing from one to four officers.	Discuss with the WA Police the number of CLOs in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to ensure appropriate levels are provided and that the City-run Safer Streets Patrol is not subsidising CLO numbers.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
Should there be significant anti-social behaviour throughout Broome, the police will run a Point of Sale (POS) operation to bring respite for the community and WA Police Officers. This is an extremely resource-intensive operation and there is no legislative powers to run them all the time in Broome.	Investigate, in partnership with the WA Police, the mechanics of POS operations and what would be required to facilitate this in Kalgoorlie-Boulder when needed.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.



Broome		
CCTV Partnership Program – the City was investigating this program in 2022, but it did not launch due to issues sourcing an installer. Broome Police believe this should be revisited as CCTV off-the-shelf solutions have significantly improved in the last two years making this a more cost-effective option for enhanced CCTV in neighbourhoods and the CBDs.	CKB to advocate for a State funding mechanism to support off-the-shelf CCTV solutions for CBD businesses.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
Community perception of safety can be provided through regular patrols throughout CBDs and other areas. In Broome, the visibility of the WA Police driving around hotspots creates a sense of security.	Ensure that the new Safer Streets Patrol vehicles conduct visible patrols in hotspot areas. Discuss with WA Police options around increased visibility and numbers of patrols around hotspot areas.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

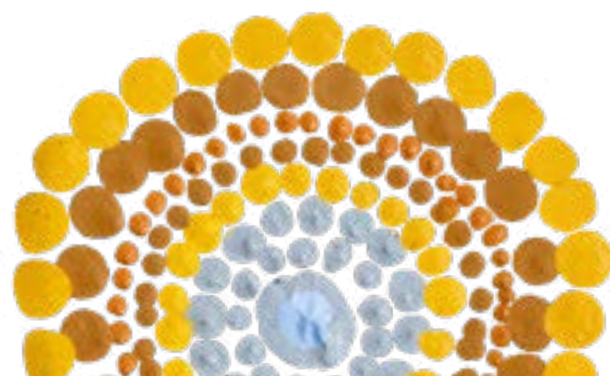


Port Hedland		
In all regional areas visited, the Liquor Accords that worked extremely well were self-governed and administered in consultation with the WA Police. This was particularly the case in Port Hedland through its Liquor Strategy. The bottle shop owners and licensees were proactive in self-regulation to ensure appropriate service of alcohol and community betterment. There was also a very strong relationship between the bottle shop owners, licensees and WA Police.	Kalgoorlie-Boulder to consider an introduction of a hierarchy of alcohol restrictions to address anti-social behaviour, including trading hour modifications. Avoid complete restrictions but investigate Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS) and modification of trading hours – targeting take away and street drinking not licensed premises. Look at options to decrease hard spirits and wine, and increase allocation of beer.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use). Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
Collaboration between the WA Police and the Town of Port Hedland has led to the development of an advanced CCTV system throughout the town with the next stage of rollout to be providing police with real-time access to footage from their mobile phones. There are clear opportunities to work more collaboratively with the WA Police (Goldfields) including establishing access to real-time CCTV on mobile phone apps.	Investigate with WA Police (Goldfields) a revised MOU to include enhanced CCTV monitoring and joint Safer Street Patrols.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development. Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.

Port Hedland		
The CKB recently purchased a CCTV trailer (in 2024) but a second one should be considered as it has demonstrated an impact on the reduction of anti-social behaviour in Port Hedland – very few local governments in WA have only one trailer.	Investigate the purchase of a second CCTV trailer which has a demonstrated impact on the reduction of anti-social behaviour (Port Hedland) – include in the City’s 2025/26 FY budget considerations.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development. Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.
In Port Hedland, the absence of short-term housing exacerbates anti-social behaviour, as people often remain in the town for extended periods, especially during prison visiting hours or when inmates are released. The Port Hedland Police indicated that this trend is also particularly pronounced in places like Kalgoorlie-Boulder, where the large transient population and isolation from other communities increases the strain on local resources. There are broader social impacts of regional prisons on local towns, highlighting the need for improved accommodation and services for visitors to reduce the negative community impacts.	Additional work including a study needs to be considered in collaboration with the State Government to ascertain if there are any broader social impacts on the city from the Goldfields Regional Prison and what can be implemented to support release.	Socio-economic outcome 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.

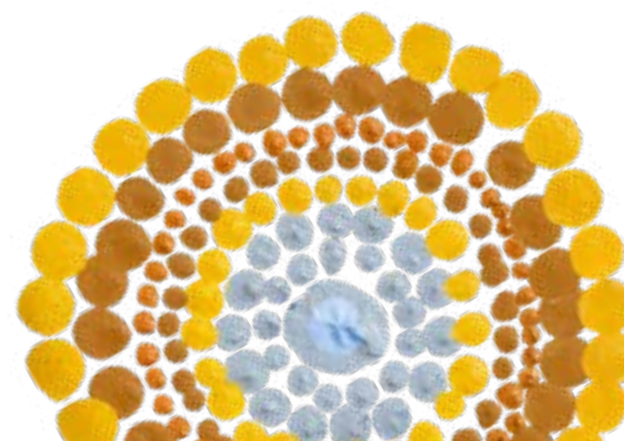
City of Karratha		
To manage community perceptions of crime, police in Karratha regularly engage with the community through media appearances, including weekly radio interviews and updates in local newspapers. This ensures that residents have accurate information about crime trends and are aware of the ongoing efforts by police to keep the community safe and secure.	WA Police (Kalgoorlie) to consider enhancing radio and media appearances to provide community members with information on crime statistics and initiatives.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.
Carnarvon		
The Broome and Carnarvon Police have placed people on the Banned Drinkers list where there is a domestic violence (DV) incident to restrict purchases in order to target the harm correlation between DV and alcohol (these bans can range from three to 12 months).	In 2024, Family Violence was the number one criminal offence in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The Goldfields Women's Refuge saw a 30% increase in crisis accommodation and is anticipating a 60% increase in women/children accommodated by the end of 2025. Discuss, in collaboration with the Goldfields Women's Refuge and WA Police, what resources or legislation would be required to connect the Banned Drinkers list to domestic violence incidents relating to alcohol.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use). Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Carnarvon		
Carnarvon recently received \$1.3 million in justice reinvestment funding which included a project to conduct service mapping, a process designed to identify gaps in community services. The Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC) has taken a lead role in this project which is not currently a public document.	For many years, there has been an ongoing request from Kalgoorlie-Boulder stakeholders for a service mapping exercise to better understand funding being provided to not-for-profits and services provided to the community. Discuss with the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission the option of their undertaking a service mapping exercise to identify gaps in State and Federal funded community services.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.
Geraldton		
There is significant financial support in Geraldton in terms of funding allocated to rough sleeping, including \$28.5 million to Geraldton Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation, and \$5.2 million in funding to boost the number of social homes and the engagement of a Homelessness Officer. In Geraldton they have a similar strategy to Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Summer Response Strategy called the Rough Sleeper Coordination Group.	Investigate the establishment of a Rough Sleeper Coordination Group to attract funding, better coordinate services and transport (consider renaming the Summer Response Strategy). The Regional Executive Director of Geraldton will also oversee the Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Department of Communities – ensure early engagement and advocate for Boulder Camp and a dedicated Kalgoorlie-Boulder Homelessness Officer (as at March 2025, it was confirmed that a Homeless Officer would be employed in Kalgoorlie-Boulder).	Socio-economic outcome 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.



Geraldton		
A comprehensive database known as the "Geraldton By Name" list is used to monitor and engage individuals, and an updated vulnerability survey is conducted to track individual needs more effectively. It is considered one of the most comprehensive and accurate By Names lists in the state.	The By Name project in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is currently being held by Goldfields Women's Health, the Women's Refuge and GIHO. Training is due to commence in May/June 2025.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.
In Geraldton, the Department of Communities (DOC) has a Homelessness Project Officer that leads regular coordination meetings where agencies can discuss individuals of concern who are sleeping rough and coordinate appropriate interventions.	With the DOC Geraldton and Kalgoorlie-Boulder being combined, there is enough evidence to demonstrate the need for a dedicated Homelessness Project Officer for Kalgoorlie-Boulder alone. Noting as at March 2025, it was confirmed that a Homeless Officer would be employed in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.	Outcome (c) Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund. Socio-economic outcome 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.
Ceduna		
Ensuring Aboriginal community representation in discussions relating to the Liquor Accord is critical to ensuring that policies affecting the community are shaped through engagement rather than imposed externally.	The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord to consider inclusion of community members, including First Nations people, to ensure that policies are shaped through engagement.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use).
Strong social programs for visitors to Ceduna include outreach services, building relationships with individuals, understanding their reasons for staying, and guiding them through the process of returning home.	Re-establishing support mechanisms (like the Summer Response Strategy Hub) to ensure visitors to Kalgoorlie-Boulder are supported.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

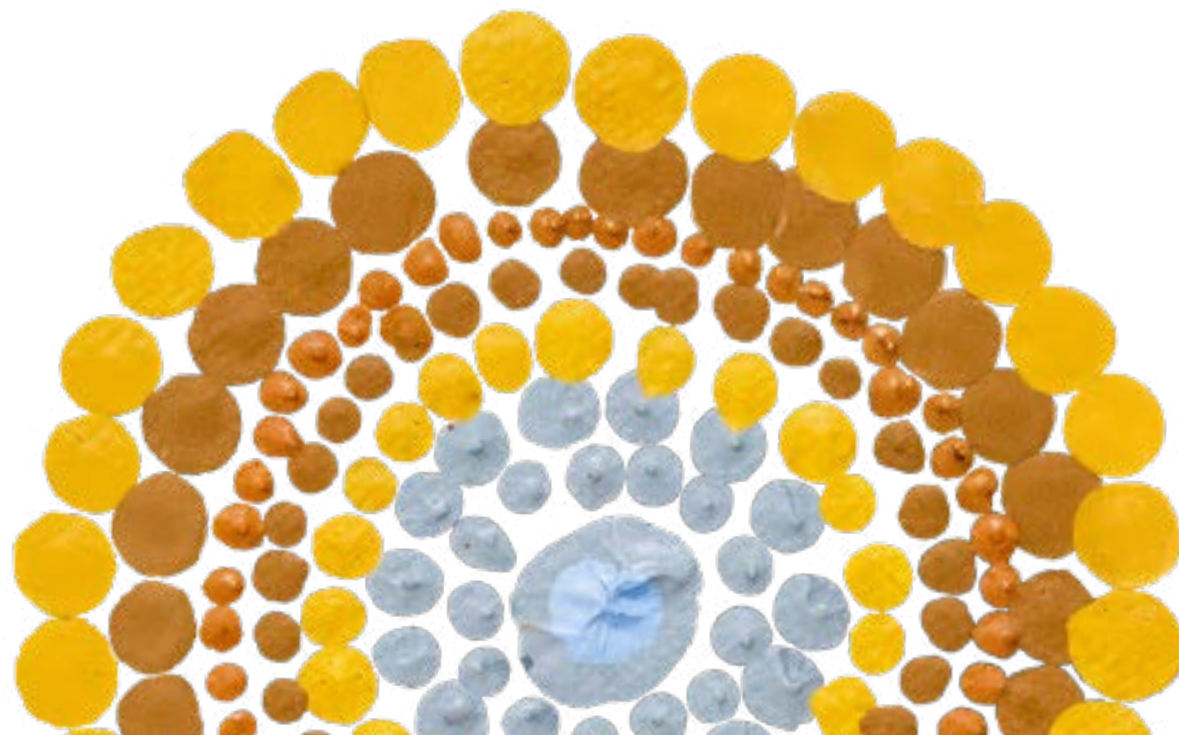
Ceduna		
South Australia's identification scanning system is highly effective, with police and civil barring orders playing a crucial role in enforcement. In addition to these measures, welfare orders, including doctor-initiated and domestic violence-related orders, can extend barring for up to 12 months.	Determine what the barring order numbers are in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, including whether welfare orders (doctor-initiated and domestic violence-related orders) are being implemented or can be implemented for the Banned Drinkers List.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use). Socio-economic Outcome 10: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
Many service providers in Ceduna use their project funding to purchase food for their clients including distributing to communities when travelling for outreach programs.	Identify how people access the Foodbank in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, given a noted increase in food insecurity is being reported in the community.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including through dietary factors)
The SA Foodbank is also looking to store non-perishable food in shipping containers in locations should transport routes become impassible and leave regional towns without food stock.	Investigate if WA Foodbank would consider this model to enhance food security in the Goldfields region.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including through dietary factors)
The Shire of Ceduna does not currently provide youth services, having withdrawn its Youth Development Officer role after 18 months of working with the Youth Hub. The governance requirements associated with youth services can be a barrier to direct Council involvement. However, the Council strongly advocates for the Youth Hub, recognising its contributions without providing funding.	Consider if the CKB is best placed to provide youth services – what is the service trying to address and what is the impact. Consider if developing a tender for these services to be provided by service providers working in this space would be a more appropriate and effective model.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.



Ceduna		
The Wangka Wilurrar Transitional Accommodation Centre (WWTAC) in Ceduna, operated by the SA Housing Trust, accommodates up to 45 people, with an average occupancy of 28-36 people nightly. The centre is open daily from 8:00am to 4:30pm and has a 21-day maximum stay, with extensions available upon approval.	Further discuss the WWTAC accommodation model with PTAC for the reimagined Boulder Camp, as the Tjuntjuntjara community requested for this model to be considered. Carefully consider the alcohol entry requirements for any transitional housing model that is developed in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.	Socio-economic outcome 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need. Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use).
Ceduna has a community paramedic program funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care for the last 10 years that is specifically targeted to assist transient visitors in the community. Their role is to administer prescribed drugs, provide water on the weekends when services are closed, educate people in health, and assist with wound care.	Investigate this model for Kalgoorlie-Boulder in partnership with Department of Health and Aged Care and WA Primary Health Alliance.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use).
Like the M25 model in Kalgoorlie, the Ceduna Community Hub is a place for the community to connect, seek help and support or as a safe place for people to come. It is a partnership between Red Cross and the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation; the Hub serves as support and referral gateway for community in need.	Investigate this model for Kalgoorlie-Boulder, including the development of a simple support service contact list for street present people. Investigate an additional support hub in Boulder for people from Tjuntjuntjara.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

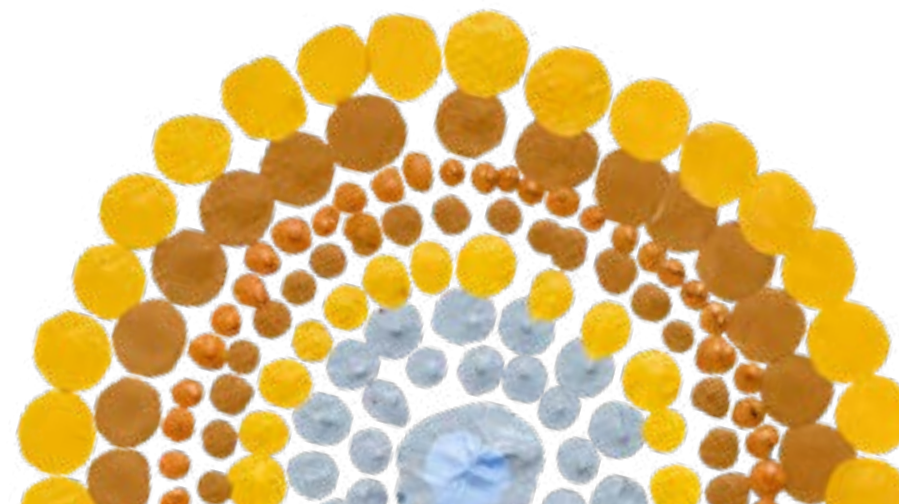
Port Augusta		
The Beyond Bars Report recommends transitional accommodation, centralised social and health hub, and the following to reduce recidivism: promote community safety, and community-based “wayfinding champions” to create more effective, responses to short custodial stays.	It is recommended that the City, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, consult with the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison in terms of social services and infrastructure required for prisoners being released back into the community.	Priority Reform Four: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development. Socio-economic outcome 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.
Since 1987, the Port Augusta Council has enforced dry areas under the <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1997</i> to curb alcohol consumption in public spaces. A city-wide dry area was implemented in 2005 and extended until 2010. Currently, three broad dry areas remain in place. To address high-risk behaviour, youth crime, and alcohol-related issues, the CBD was designated a Declared Public Precinct for six months (October 2024 to April 2025), granting police enhanced powers.	In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, it is recommended that the City continue working with the WA Police to ensure effective enforcement of Section 64 restrictions. Enquiries could be made about the suitability of Section 175 restrictions for broader Kalgoorlie-Boulder areas.	Socio-economic outcome 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives (Close the Gap in life expectancy, including by addressing health risk factors such as alcohol and drug use).

Alice Springs		
Shelter NT plays an important role in regional homelessness policy through advocacy and the provision of policy advice to both government and community stakeholders.	CKB to engage with Shelter WA to strengthen regional advocacy for housing and homelessness. This may include collaboration on regional housing policy, input into submissions, and co-design of locally responsive advocacy campaigns for funding and service equity.	Priority Reform Two: Increase the sector’s capacity by investing in ACCOs and regional service partners Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing
In Darwin, police have responded pragmatically to the needs of rough sleepers by installing external power outlets at the front of the station. This allows access to power for charging phones and medical devices in a safe and controlled environment.	Given the ongoing damage to City-owned assets in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (e.g. public toilets and power boxes) from people accessing electricity for phone charging, the City should investigate safe and secure locations to install designated external power points. These should be situated in well-lit, high-visibility areas and monitored through Safer Streets patrols.	Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
Accommodation at hostels is offered at a flat rate of \$38 per day across all AHL facilities, and some beds are prepaid by companies or communities, such as the APY Lands, which simplifies administration and ensures ongoing support for those in need.	Investigate the capacity of the Ng Land Council, Department of Health and PTAC to pay for community members accessing hostel facilities in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (demonstrated sustainability model for operational costs as per Mission Australia and Aboriginal Hostels Limited).	Priority Reform One: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing



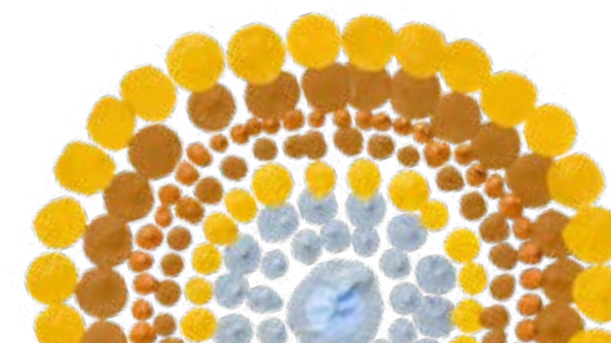
Alice Springs		
In Alice Springs, a team of 15 Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) plays a critical role in supporting culturally safe engagement between police and the Aboriginal community. This significantly enhances communication, de-escalation, and trust-building. By contrast, Kalgoorlie-Boulder currently has only two Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), despite being a major regional centre with a significant and highly mobile Aboriginal population. Other jurisdictions have greater resourcing – for example, Broome has four CLOs for a population of just under 17,000. The disparity highlights a gap in service provision and the potential benefit of additional CLOs for the Goldfields region.	CKB to advocate to the WA Police and the State Government for the appointment of at least two additional Community Liaison Officers in the Goldfields region. These roles are essential to delivering culturally responsive policing and improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. It is recommended that the City's CEO and Mayor lead this advocacy in partnership with the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC), positioning the request as a regional need and aligning it with Closing the Gap priorities.	Priority Reform Three: Transform government mainstream institutions Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
The public telephone at the entrance to Boulder Camp currently presents safety and accessibility concerns, particularly for women, Elders, and people with disabilities.	As part of the reimagined and relocated Boulder Camp, the CKB should work with Telstra to move the public telephone to a safer and more accessible location within the new site design.	Priority Reform One: Shared decision-making with Aboriginal communities Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing Outcome 17: Aboriginal people have access to information and services

Alice Springs		
Alice Springs lacks accessible short-stay accommodation for transient Aboriginal visitors. Town camp governance structures limit accommodation for non-residents, which contributes to rough sleeping in public areas.	Examine governance and policy arrangements around Aboriginal town camps as a case study for informing tenancy and access models. Kalgoorlie-Boulder can use this to better understand how to support culturally safe short-stay options without displacing existing residents.	Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing.
Substance misuse, particularly alcohol and inhalants, continues to fuel visible anti-social behaviour and strain public safety resources in Alice Springs.	Work with health providers and Aboriginal-led services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to expand harm minimisation models and increase access to therapeutic and social support services. This could include assertive outreach programs and case coordination targeting substance use in public spaces.	Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives.
Darwin		
In some jurisdictions, such as the Northern Territory, a permit-based alcohol management system, such as the Banned Drinker Register (BDR), has been introduced to mitigate alcohol-related harm while maintaining individual rights. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, there has been low or limited community and stakeholder appetite for restricting takeaway liquor trading hours.	In partnership with WA Police, ACCOs, and local stakeholders (including major employers and mining companies), CKB to investigate the viability of introducing a permit-based alcohol management model in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This could offer an alternative to full trading hour restrictions, while still allowing for targeted harm minimisation measures and community safety benefits.	Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system Priority Reform One: Shared decision-making with Aboriginal communities



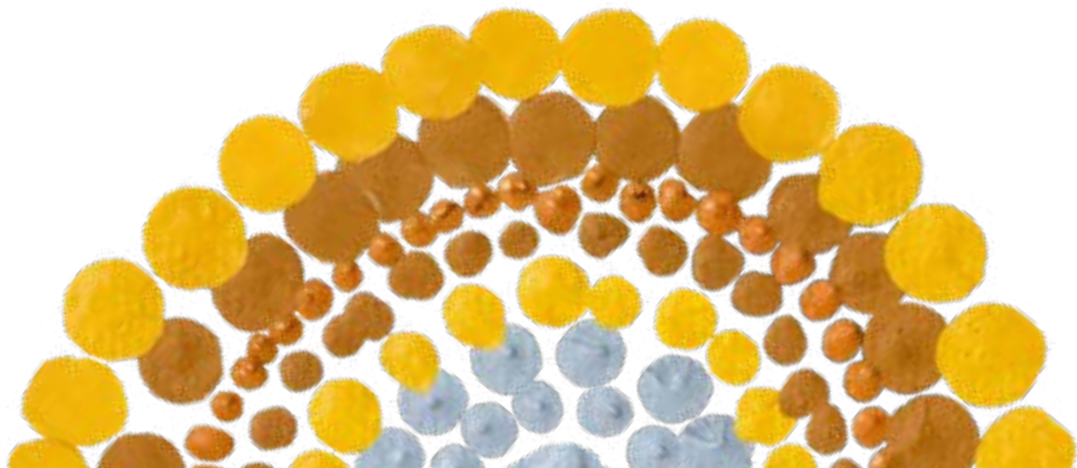
Darwin		
Darwin conducts regular Strategic Patrollers Meetings, typically held face-to-face at 7:00am, to bring together police, outreach services, homelessness providers, and local government to plan coordinated daily responses. These meetings help build shared accountability and rapidly address emerging issues.	Consider developing a Strategic Patrollers Meeting (7:00am, face-to-face) as an effective option for stakeholders to work more collaboratively in Kalgoorlie-Boulder especially due to the increased number of CKB Safer Streets Patrol Officers, introduction of Bega support workers on the streets, the By Names List, and the Department of Communities' Homelessness Officer.	Priority Reform One: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
Increased reliance on Darwin's council-run outreach and safety patrols has led to confusion over roles and raised concerns about those teams absorbing tasks traditionally performed by police. There is a recognised need to clarify remit and avoid shifting core law enforcement responsibilities to local government.	Review the role and operational remit of the Safer Streets Patrol (SSP) initiative to ensure it does not function as a policing service. Align SSP with community engagement, harm reduction, and de-escalation objectives, and maintain clear coordination with WA Police.	Priority Reform Three: Transform government mainstream institutions Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
There is strong support in Darwin for police presence at takeaway liquor outlets as a harm minimisation strategy. Officers engage with patrons, check IDs, and provide informal interventions to prevent secondary supply or escalation of incidents.	Investigate options with the WA Police for increased police visibility and engagement at bottle shops during peak trading hours in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This could include ID checks and proactive conversations with at-risk individuals, building a more preventative approach to alcohol-related harm.	Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
Stakeholders in Darwin noted the importance of Aboriginal representation in patrol teams and community-facing safety initiatives. Cultural credibility and connection improve community trust and service uptake.	Increase recruitment of Aboriginal staff within the Safer Streets Patrol. Consider creating cultural advisory roles to further embed cultural safety into patrol operations.	Priority Reform Two: Strengthen the Aboriginal community-controlled sector Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

Darwin		
Despite investment in services, Darwin's housing and crisis accommodation supply remains insufficient, with restrictive intake criteria excluding those most at risk.	CKB to advocate for additional low-barrier accommodation models that do not exclude clients based on sobriety or behavioural issues. These should be culturally appropriate, flexible, and designed with input from Aboriginal community members and service providers.	Outcome 9: Secure and appropriate housing.
Palmerston		
Palmerston is experiencing displacement effects from Darwin, with transient populations accessing limited local services.	Monitor displacement trends in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and assess the capacity of existing services during peak periods (e.g. summer). In consultation with the Summer Response Strategy Working Group, develop an escalation plan and expand support networks to accommodate population surges.	Priority Reform Two: Investing in ACCOs.
Kununurra		
Stakeholders support the proposed Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA) facility, which includes on-site services and culturally inclusive infrastructure.	Use the Kununurra ASSA proposal as a reference model for short-stay accommodation development in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.	Outcome 9: Affordable and appropriate housing.
While liquor restrictions have reduced alcohol-related harm, there is growing concern about increasing methamphetamine use as an alternative.	Under the City's AOD brokerage funding, source programs to expand harm reduction efforts and respond to emerging trends in substance use. This may include education campaigns, and culturally specific drug diversion programs.	Outcome 1: Long and healthy lives.



Kununurra		
The Kimberley Community Crime Prevention and Safety Plan demonstrates a strong, evidence-based approach to linking alcohol use with community violence, crime, and public safety concerns.	Review the Kimberley Community Crime Prevention and Safety Plan to identify elements applicable to Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Goldfields context.	Priority Reform One: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making Priority Reform Three: Transform government mainstream institutions
General Actions		
Across all jurisdictions, there was a consistent emphasis on the need for local coordination mechanisms, strong Aboriginal leadership, and sustained funding support.	The Summer Response Strategy Working Group should formally incorporate lessons learned from this national study. The CKB to continue advocating to the State and Federal Governments for extended and place-based funding models similar to the Community-Led Support Fund, with flexibility to support culturally appropriate service design. Improved data collection and transparency—particularly in relation to crime, homelessness, and service uptake—should be a shared priority across all agencies. Industry partnerships, particularly with mining and resources companies, should be leveraged to fund social initiatives that align with community safety and housing needs.	Priority Reforms One through Four; Outcomes 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11.

General Actions		
Many of the strategies identified through this study align directly with the outcomes and reform priorities of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. However, this alignment is not always explicit in local planning and implementation.	Ensure that all actions arising from this Study, including strategic recommendations, funding proposals, and governance reforms, are clearly tied to relevant Closing the Gap outcomes and reform priorities. This alignment will strengthen advocacy efforts and support funding eligibility under national policy settings.	Priority Reform Four: Data access and use
Regardless of the population size or resource base of the local government, the scale and complexity of challenges related to Aboriginal homelessness and anti-social behaviour were found to be remarkably consistent across jurisdictions.	CKB to develop a motion for submission to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Assembly. The motion should call on the Commonwealth Government to establish a coordinated, national approach to high-risk behaviour and homelessness. This aligns with the City's Advocacy Framework and strengthens its leadership role.	Priority Reform One: Shared decision-making with communities Outcome 9: Secure and appropriate housing Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the justice system
There is an opportunity to build on the relationships established through this multi-jurisdictional study by continuing dialogue and collaboration with other local governments facing similar challenges.	The Mayor of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to formally invite representatives from the study locations to participate in a national think tank, hosted in Kalgoorlie-Boulder or another host location. The event would include a presentation of the research findings, case studies from each jurisdiction, and the co-development of practical, place-based solutions. This would elevate the issue nationally and support the creation of a unified local government voice on these issues.	Priority Reform One: Shared decision-making and partnership Priority Reform Two: Strengthen the community-controlled sector



General Actions		
Across multiple jurisdictions involved in the study, youth crime has emerged as a persistent and often seasonal challenge, particularly during school holidays or in the absence of accessible recreational and support services.	Undertake a review of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's existing youth crime response mechanisms, including early intervention, diversion programs, after-hours services, and interagency coordination, to determine if they are adequate should youth-related offending increase.	Outcome 3: Aboriginal youth are engaged in education or training
In some communities, youth crime escalated beyond the capacity of local services to respond adequately, resulting in increased contact with the justice system.	The review should consider resource gaps, after-hours coverage, culturally appropriate engagement, and escalation pathways.	Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
Kalgoorlie-Boulder must assess whether its current youth crime response framework is sufficiently resourced and adaptable to respond to a potential increase in incidents.	Findings should inform future investment in youth services and crime prevention initiatives and may be used to support advocacy for enhanced State support.	Outcome 11: Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
In regional communities where extractive industries operate, there is growing recognition that mining royalties and resource sector revenues should contribute more directly to local social infrastructure and community well-being.	Advocate to the State and Federal Governments for a framework that ensures a proportion of mining royalties and resource sector contributions are reinvested into local communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by homelessness and high-risk behaviours.	Priority Reform Two: Strengthen the community-controlled service sector
Several stakeholders across jurisdictions expressed frustration that, despite the scale of resource extraction, there is limited reinvestment in addressing critical issues such as homelessness, housing, and community safety	This may include establishing a regional social impact trust, Aboriginal-led community benefit agreements, or legislated royalty-for-region models.	Outcome 8: Aboriginal people have access to economic opportunities
	The CKB should take a leadership role in this advocacy as part of its broader resource sector engagement strategy.	Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing
		Priority Reform One: Shared decision-making and investment with Aboriginal communities

General Actions		
In Canada, several jurisdictions have made significant progress toward reducing or eliminating homelessness by focusing on early intervention strategies that specifically target youth.	Investigate leading international youth homelessness prevention models, with a focus on Canadian jurisdictions that have achieved zero or near-zero youth homelessness.	Outcome 3: Aboriginal children are engaged in education or training
These models recognise that preventing homelessness before it becomes entrenched, through education, family reconciliation, housing support, and tailored wrap-around services, can break the cycle before it escalates into long-term disadvantage.	The review should examine program design, governance, cultural relevance, service integration, and measurable outcomes. Findings should be used to inform future youth-focused initiatives in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and support the development of early intervention programs tailored to young people.	Outcome 6: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
		Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing
		Priority Reform Two: Strengthen the community-controlled sector to deliver youth services

Local Government Role

A recurring theme throughout this study was the unclear, under-resourced, and often undervalued role of local government in responding to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and anti-social behaviour.

While most local governments consulted, acknowledged that these issues fall predominantly within State and Federal responsibilities, such as housing, policing, and health, there was also a recognition that local governments are increasingly absorbing the cost and operational burden of the consequences.

Many local governments reported that, although they are not funded or legislated to deliver housing, health, or social support services, they are increasingly bearing the financial burden of responding to the visible impacts of homelessness and anti-social behaviour in their communities. Councils are allocating ratepayer funds toward public cleaning, community safety initiatives, lighting upgrades, CCTV, and the employment of private security, often in the absence of adequate investment

or operational support from State and Federal governments. In many cases, local government becomes the default responder when service systems fail or when public space concerns escalate, despite lacking the mandate or resources to address the underlying causes.

Importantly, this study also highlighted that leadership from local government is critical in the absence of coordinated responses from other levels. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the City has recently taken on this leadership role by chairing the Summer Response Strategy Working Group, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord, and leading advocacy for transitional housing and Aboriginal-led short-stay accommodation.

There remains a clear disconnect between the policy intent of State and Federal governments and the reality on the ground. Despite commitments under the Closing the Gap Agreement and through numerous state-based strategies, frontline stakeholders repeatedly reported an absence of effective coordination and a lack of visibility of government-funded services. There is an urgent need for an independent audit of State and Commonwealth investments to determine who is delivering what in regional communities, and whether these investments are meeting their intended outcomes.

Equally critical is the need for place-specific data. In many jurisdictions, stakeholders identified the lack of reliable data as a barrier to designing and resourcing effective services. This gap undermines the Closing the Gap commitment to data transparency and shared accountability and limits the ability of local governments to plan with confidence or advocate effectively.

In response to these issues, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has drafted a motion for submission to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly. The motion calls on

the Commonwealth Government to lead a nation-wide response, in partnership with First Nations leaders, to address transitional Aboriginal homelessness and high-risk behaviour. It recommends the development of culturally appropriate temporary accommodation models, funding for wrap-around support services, and recognition of the role local governments already play in this space.

To further strengthen cross-jurisdictional collaboration, it is proposed that the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder host a national think tank, inviting local government representatives from the study locations and key stakeholders to discuss the report findings, share models of best practice, and jointly advocate for a national framework.

Local government cannot and should not shoulder these challenges alone. But in the absence of coordinated leadership, it continues to act as the de facto response mechanism for complex social issues. A new, nationally coordinated approach is needed, grounded in community partnerships, cultural safety, and an equitable distribution of responsibility and funding across all tiers of government.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

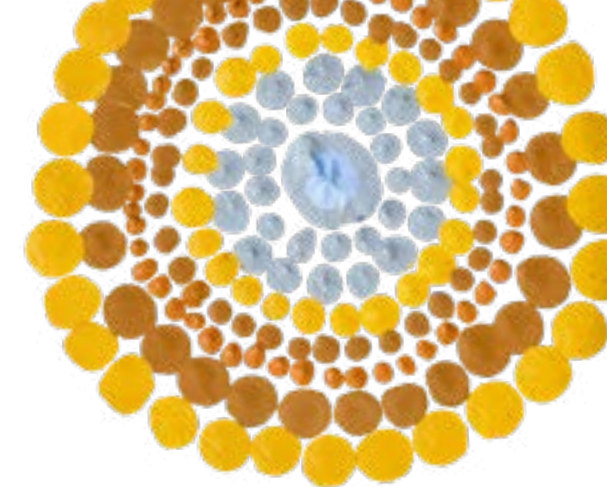
Formal partnerships and an increase in funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled (ACCOs) organisations are the founding principles of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Agreement takes a new approach to positively impact the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a commitment from all parties.

This new approach pledges to listen to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and change way the Federal Government works in response. The National Agreement notes that ACCOs are better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and are often preferred over mainstream services.

Priority Reform Two, to increase government funding for ACCO programs and services, received the strongest support in the 2019 engagements. Priority Reform Three, in which parties committed to systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government organisations, was also strongly supported in the 2019 engagement process.

The formal partnerships sought through Closing the Gap include place-based partnerships based on a specific region, to drive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led outcomes and support additional community-led development initiatives.

The multiple services, projects and initiatives observed through this research project, and the learnings from interviews with services and providers throughout regional Australia, have led to actions and recommendations which align with Closing the Gap principles and could transform the way services are developed and delivered to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Summary

This research project has observed multiple examples of authentic programs that are positively impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Some of the most powerful are First Nations-informed, designed and delivered, including those of ACCOs.

The strongest theme to emerge from the research project was the need for local solutions to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and associated anti-social behaviour, recognising the complex issues and background that surround that.

Needs vary significantly between communities, and programs designed in Canberra often lack the flexibility required to address the most pressing issues on the ground. Additionally, the lack of bipartisan consensus in government leads to frequent changes in policies and programs, preventing long-term solutions from taking root. The issues seen in regional areas are not mirrored in metropolitan areas, highlighting the need for region-specific approaches to tackling issues such as homelessness.

As cited by one local government Chief Executive Officer during the study, the “command-centre” approach from Perth has similarly proven ineffective. Effective policy solutions must be targeted and measurable, moving beyond generalised approaches. A common theme from the report was the need for ongoing advocacy for more regionally informed policy development, and rejection of the “one-size-fits-all” approach often delivered.





Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation

A particularly powerful example of successful models and delivery was seen in Ceduna. Ceduna's success in finding solutions to transitional Aboriginal homelessness and associated anti-social behaviour is largely attributed to its integrated service model, strong Aboriginal leadership, and culturally sensitive responses, whereas Port Augusta's progress has been hindered by fragmented governance and inconsistent service delivery.

Ceduna's experience offers important insights into how locally driven, culturally safe models can assist in the reduction of anti-social behaviour and improve outcomes for Aboriginal visitors and residents. Its emphasis on empowerment, service collaboration, and community accountability has led to change that could inform broader regional strategies, including those in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The work of ACCOs observed through this research report was inspirational and transformative, especially in Geraldton and the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley. Informed by respected Aboriginal leaders and service providers, those with on-the-ground knowledge of what their communities needed were developing and delivering practical, grassroots, culturally appropriate programs that assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with housing, transport, sobering up facilities, healthy food, youth activities and community support networks.

By fostering cultural awareness and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, ACCOs are pivotal organisations within their regions.

However, this report also observed various ACCO and other local programs that had funding cuts from Federal Government; others that needed to keep reapplying for government funding year after year; and others that needed volunteer support to keep operating. Many valuable locally-developed and led programs were in a situation where limited funding, jurisdictional authority, and reliance on State and Federal agency support restrict their capacity to lead systemic change.

All organisations observed in this report confirmed that a lack of stable housing and appropriate accommodation leads to challenges such as overcrowding and temporary homelessness, which in turn may contribute to anti-social behaviour in public spaces. There was a need for sufficient policing resources and robust CCTV systems to assist in this area, but it was noted there was also a community expectation placed on police to act beyond their traditional role as discussed in Carnarvon, which adds another layer of complexity. The provision of sufficient and appropriate wraparound services was vital.

The learnings from this report have led to multiple actions which would align with broad Closing the Gap priorities and intended outcomes. However nationally, despite numerous Closing the Gap initiatives, many key indicators such as those in education and health continue to decline. The recurring approach to these issues has not yielded meaningful change, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current policies. There is a pressing need for government policies that focus on tangible results rather than extensive consultations that fail to drive meaningful change.

Policymakers often search for a "silver bullet" solution, yet the reality is a multi-faceted approach is required. Addressing these complex issues requires a collaborative, locally driven approach that respects the unique circumstances of each community. Ongoing engagement and coordination between all tiers of government, service providers, First Nations and other community members is critical to developing sustainable, effective, place-based solutions. There is a clear need for multi-tiered, place-based approaches that align local strategies with broader government support.

This report recommends a new approach, where local organisations such as ACCOs have increased levels of funding and authority to develop and deliver locally informed solutions to anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness. It recommends an increased role for local government in terms of facilitating and forming partnerships and projects with relevant organisations, potentially through new brokerage opportunities.

The Closing the Gap agreement pledges to listen to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and change the way Federal Government works in response. The voices in this report are seeking a commitment from

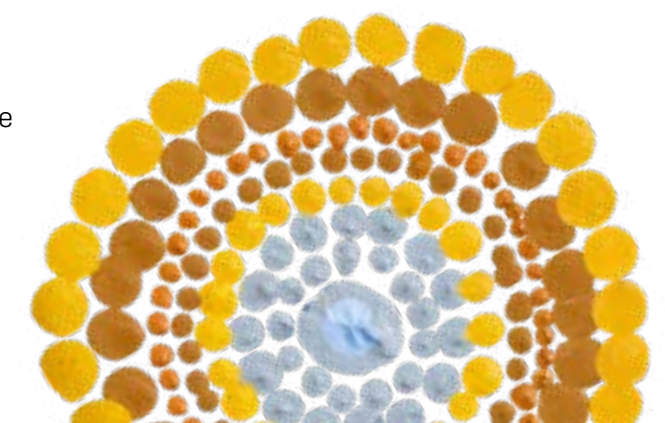
the Federal Government to honour the priorities and intended outcomes of Closing the Gap by committing to transformation of mainstream government organisations. Authentic, sustainable change will only come through allowing a regional approach with local partnerships, including with local governments; transfer of more funding to ACCOs; and First Nations design or co-design of services and programs.

Recommendations

This study has reinforced that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to addressing anti-social behaviour and transitional Aboriginal homelessness. Each of the locations visited during the research project present a distinct set of challenges and opportunities, influenced by factors such as population size, remoteness, available resources, and the cultural make-up of the community.

For context, LGA range from as small as Ceduna with a population of approximately 3,500, and Carnarvon with around 4,400 residents, to significantly larger urban centres such as Darwin with over 150,000 residents. These differences impact the scale of service provision and the nature of community needs.

Despite the diversity, several consistent themes and priorities emerged across jurisdictions that are directly relevant to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Commonalities include the ongoing need for culturally appropriate wrap-around services, the critical role of partnerships with ACCOs, the impact of unstable housing and overcrowding, and the importance of coordinated service delivery. These shared learnings present





opportunities for Kalgoorlie-Boulder to adapt and implement strategies that have demonstrated success elsewhere.

Strengthening Partnerships with Indigenous Communities

A recurring recommendation across all locations was the importance of building and maintaining meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, underpinned by respect for cultural perspectives in both the design and delivery of services.

Aboriginal-led initiatives and programs were consistently more effective where strong partnerships with ACCOs were in place, enabling culturally safe support, trust-based engagement, and targeted outreach.

Recommendation 1 – In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, existing relationships with organisations such as the Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation (PTAC), Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO), and Bega Garnbirringu Health Services could be formalised and expanded, ensuring Indigenous voices are central to all decision-making processes.

Establishment of Integrated, Wrap-Around Service Hubs

A significant gap identified across many communities, including Kalgoorlie-Boulder, is the lack of fully integrated service delivery hubs that offer coordinated, wrap-around support.

Many people experiencing homelessness or at risk of anti-social behaviour face multiple, compounding challenges that require support across housing, health, alcohol and drug services, legal aid, and transport.

Several jurisdictions, including Geraldton and Alice Springs, have demonstrated the benefits of co-located service hubs, where clients can access holistic, multidisciplinary support in one place.

Recommendation 2 – In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, additional or new service delivery hubs should be considered and build on the foundations laid by the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation's Summer Response Hub (which closed following the cessation of funding on 30 June 2024). They should involve co-design with Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure cultural safety and accessibility.

Prioritisation of Stable and Appropriate Housing

Across all sites visited, the lack of stable, secure and appropriate housing was consistently identified as a key driver of overcrowding, rough sleeping, and associated anti-social behaviour in public spaces. The absence of suitable accommodation options was particularly acute in communities with high levels of mobility, such as Broome, Ceduna and Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The implementation of additional transitional and supported accommodation is essential to alleviate pressure on short-stay facilities and reduce public space conflict. This includes family-friendly, crisis, and low-barrier housing options that allow people to stabilise before transitioning into long-term housing.

Recommendation 3 – The continued work towards implementation of the By Name List in Kalgoorlie-Boulder will provide a practical mechanism to identify and prioritise the needs of rough sleepers, and should be supported with adequate housing stock and support services.

Continuation and Expansion of Safe Passage Home (Return to Country) Models

The importance of reliable and culturally safe transport services was raised in every location with a transient Aboriginal population. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Safe Passage Home model operated by Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO) has provided a vital pathway for visitors from remote communities such as Warburton to return home, particularly during periods of seasonal migration.

This service not only assists individuals but also reduces the burden on local services, decreases rough sleeping, and mitigates the risk of people becoming stranded in urban areas.

Recommendation 4 – Building on the Safe Passage Home model, efforts should focus on securing long-term funding, increasing service frequency, and expanding the model to additional communities. The recent funding for a second GIHO-operated bus is a positive step and should be matched with service continuity planning.

Implementation of Harm Minimisation and Community Safety Measures

The use of harm minimisation strategies and liquor restrictions emerged as a critical component of community safety in many locations, particularly where alcohol-related harm was prevalent. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the reactivation of the Liquor Accord and the introduction of more stringent takeaway alcohol conditions has been a significant step forward.

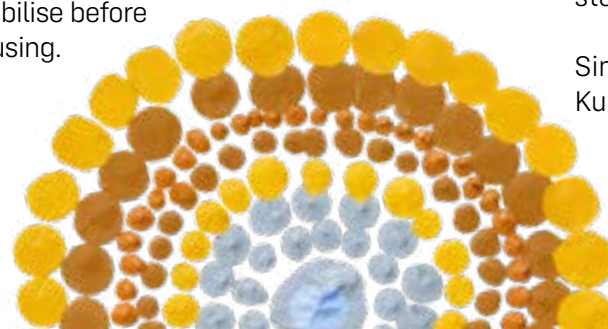
Similar measures in Broome, Ceduna, and Kununurra, such as Section 64 restrictions,

Banned Drinker Registers, and Takeaway Alcohol Management Systems, have been implemented to limit access to high-risk products and reduce the incidence of alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour. Continued support for these measures, alongside the expansion of sobering-up centres and mobile safety patrols, will be essential.

Recommendation 5 – The City should advocate for consistency in restrictions across regional centres to support a region-wide approach to alcohol harm reduction. This should be done in collaboration with First Nations people.

Community Sentiment on the Cashless Debit Card

The Cashless Debit Card (CDC) was another recurring theme in stakeholder discussions. While views were mixed, there was strong support for the program in some locations, particularly where anti-social behaviour and alcohol misuse had significantly impacted the community.





In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, a 2019 survey by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry found that 71.95% of business respondents reported a decrease in anti-social behaviour following the implementation of the CDC, and 86.59% supported the continuation of the trial.

In Broome, stakeholders expressed a desire to explore alternative measures similar to the CDC, particularly in light of the increasing impact of methamphetamine use following alcohol restrictions.

However, with the national abolition of the CDC in 2022, future policy settings will need to focus on funding place-based, community-led alternatives that offer the same level of control, but with greater flexibility and cultural appropriateness.

These models should enable place-based, community-led interventions that are responsive to the complex and evolving needs of regional communities such as Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Recommendation 6 – *The \$10 million Local Services Plan Community Support Fund represents a valuable starting point, and the City will continue to advocate to both State and Federal Governments for the extension of this initiative or the development of similar, long-term funding models.*

Crime Data Availability Across Jurisdictions

A significant constraint in conducting inter-jurisdictional analysis of crime trends is the variation in the availability, accessibility, and granularity of crime statistics across Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory.

Western Australia offers the most comprehensive and user-accessible crime data among the three jurisdictions. The WA Police Force maintains an online Crime Statistics Portal that provides monthly updates at the suburb level. Data is categorised by major offence types, including offences against the person, property crime, drug offences, and anti-social behaviour. The portal supports historical comparisons and includes interactive tools for users to customise views and download datasets. This high level of transparency facilitates detailed local analysis and longitudinal trend monitoring.

South Australia Police also publishes crime statistics on a monthly basis. However, the data is reported at the Local Service Area level, and typically provided in static PDF formats. While major offence categories are reported and some year-to-date comparisons are available, the overall granularity and interactivity of the data are more limited compared to Western Australia. Nonetheless,

the consistency of monthly updates provides a reasonably sound foundation for trend analysis at a regional scale.

The Northern Territory presents the most significant limitations in terms of publicly available crime data. The NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) publishes annual crime statistics reports, which summarise data at a regional level. Monthly or quarterly reporting is not publicly available, and there is limited access to disaggregated or community-level datasets. This restricts the capacity for timely or detailed spatial analysis and presents a challenge for evidence-based policy development in regional and remote areas.

The lack of consistency in crime data reporting across jurisdictions poses challenges for comparative analysis and coordinated policy responses.

Recommendation 7 – *Standardisation in reporting frequency, format, and geographic resolution should be developed to enhance the quality of cross-jurisdictional research and support more targeted interventions in high-need communities.*

Strengthening Alcohol Management through the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord

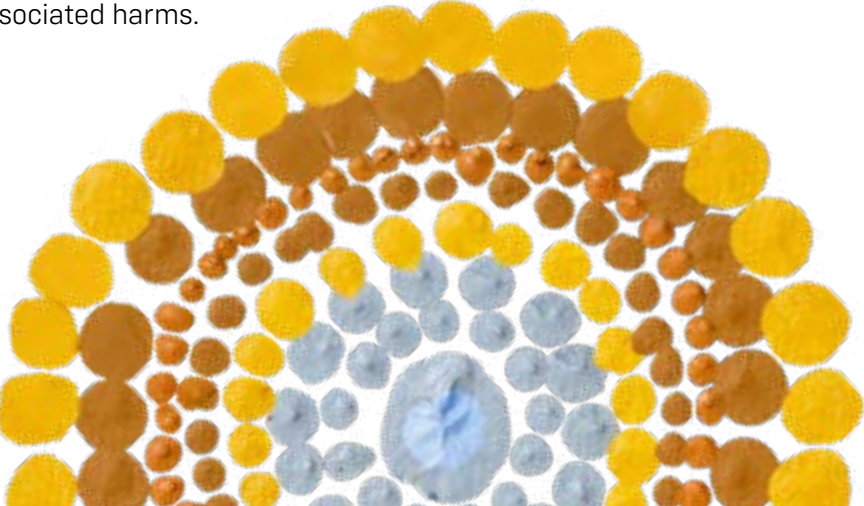
Alcohol misuse continues to be a key driver of anti-social behaviour, community safety concerns, and transitional homelessness across all study locations. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the reactivation of the Liquor Accord and establishment of the Packaged Liquor Sub-Group in 2024 marked a renewed commitment to local harm minimisation. However, further coordinated and evidence-based measures are required to effectively limit access to high-risk alcohol products and mitigate the associated harms.

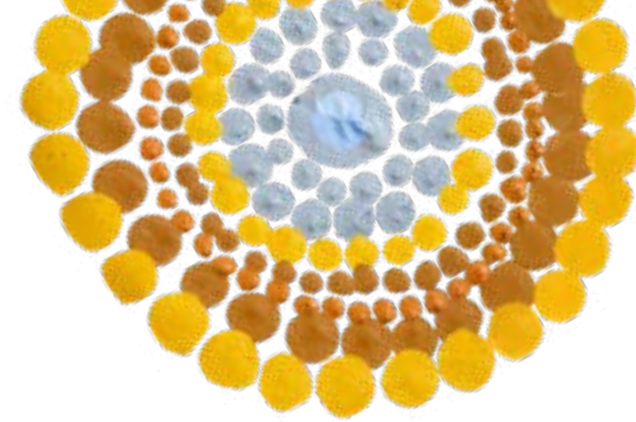
Other jurisdictions, including Broome, Kununurra, and parts of the Northern Territory, have demonstrated that tools such as the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) and Takeaway Alcohol Management Systems (TAMS) can significantly reduce alcohol-related violence, rough sleeping, and street-based anti-social behaviour. While it is acknowledged that further liquor restrictions are unlikely to receive broad community support, and may be perceived as penalising the wider population, the individual and community-level harm associated with alcohol misuse demands urgent and targeted intervention.

Reducing alcohol-related harm is a shared responsibility. The introduction of strengthened controls must be accompanied by a clear communications strategy that explains the rationale and evidence base underpinning these measures, highlights the disproportionate impact of alcohol misuse on vulnerable individuals, and frames the initiative as a necessary, compassionate step towards a safer and healthier community for all.

Recommendation 8 – *The City should work with WA Police, liquor licensees, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to strengthen local alcohol management by pursuing the introduction of a Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS) and integration with the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) under the framework of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Liquor Accord.*

These measures should be developed in consultation with Aboriginal community leaders, accompanied by a targeted public communications strategy, and framed around the imperative to protect individual well-being over broader community inconvenience.





Attachment 1 – Crime Statistics

Tables/Appendices

Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Binduli 6430
- Boulder 6432
- Broadwood 6430
- Brown Hill 6431
- Bulong 6431
- Cundeelee 6434
- Emu Flat 6431
- Feysville 6431
- Forrest 6434
- Hannans 6430
- Kalgoorlie 6430
- Kanowna 6431
- Karlkurla 6421
- Kurnalpi 6431
- Lakewood 6431
- Lamington 6430
- Mullingar 6430
- Ora Banda 6431
- Parkeston 6434
- Piccadilly 6430
- Rawlinna 6434
- Somerville 6430
- South Boulder 6432
- South Kalgoorlie 6430
- Trafalgar 6431
- Victory Heights 6432
- West Kalgoorlie 6430
- Williamstown 6430
- Yilkari 6430
- Zanthus 6434.

Statistics are not available for:

- Boorara 6431
- Fimiston 6432

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	4	1	3	3	2	0
Recent Sexual Offences	78	75	56	134	75	108
Historical Sexual Offences	5	30	52	57	44	78
Assault (Family)	494	695	757	886	955	1008
Assault (Non-Family)	324	378	442	491	492	538
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	46	77	120	161	216	267
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	63	107	102	146	153	161
Deprivation of Liberty	7	4	4	8	13	13
Robbery	19	15	17	31	35	14
Burglary	690	423	515	456	399	339
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	138	122	154	138	165	154
Stealing	1117	696	1022	1253	1163	1111
Property Damage	889	751	1015	888	863	724
Arson	25	36	26	29	57	34
Drug Offences	491	468	361	392	560	785
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	111	61	55	51	74	70
Regulated Weapons Offences	71	65	28	55	104	110
Graffiti	8	11	27	22	19	14
Fraud & Related Offences	320	224	225	434	487	397
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	258	269	260	406	548	536
Total of all offences	5158	4508	5241	6041	6424	6461

Broome LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Broome
 - Biligurr
 - Cable Beach
 - Coconut Well
 - Dampier Peninsula
 - Djugun
- Eighty Mile Beach
 - Lagrange
 - Minyirr
 - One Arm Point
 - Roebuck.

Statistics are not available for Morrell Park.

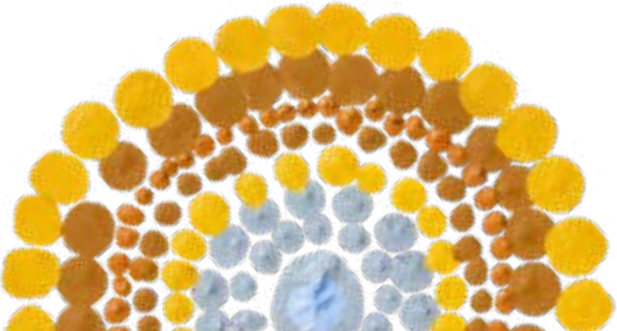
Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	1	2	4	2	2	0
Recent Sexual Offences	58	82	89	95	75	97
Historical Sexual Offences	10	15	19	22	51	31
Assault (Family)	907	1050	1263	1360	1604	1562
Assault (Non-Family)	285	362	390	384	501	500
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	129	136	205	313	504	442
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	54	76	69	85	157	157
Deprivation of Liberty	2	8	7	17	11	19
Robbery	27	18	25	21	20	22
Burglary	831	568	989	1012	998	739
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	239	180	300	247	228	242
Stealing	842	631	941	737	932	1201
Property Damage	633	618	764	643	689	694
Arson	62	42	39	44	36	32
Drug Offences	364	316	290	312	510	583
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	43	31	40	51	63	107
Regulated Weapons Offences	23	20	23	25	73	92
Graffiti	29	14	22	17	19	15
Fraud & Related Offences	168	228	256	243	342	358
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	371	382	445	654	627	656
Total of all offences	5078	4779	6180	6284	7442	7549

Carnarvon LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Babbage Island 6701
 - Brockman 6701
 - Browns Range 6701
 - Carnarvon 6701
 - Coral Bay 6701
 - East Carnarvon 6701
 - Greys Plain 6701
- Inggarda 6701
 - Kingsford 6701
 - Morgantown 6701
 - North Plantations 6701
 - South Carnarvon 6701
 - South Plantations 6701

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	0	0	2	0	0	0
Recent Sexual Offences	23	21	22	22	31	15
Historical Sexual Offences	22	4	1	4	6	15
Assault (Family)	215	272	265	353	384	394
Assault (Non-Family)	85	113	144	150	186	196
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	44	56	51	92	139	198
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	17	43	24	49	75	124
Deprivation of Liberty	3	7	3	5	4	5
Robbery	2	4	12	12	3	11
Burglary	237	311	340	396	174	222
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	20	28	53	44	24	45
Stealing	268	186	239	312	331	417
Property Damage	330	347	359	389	318	374
Arson	8	6	5	14	12	6
Drug Offences	263	139	72	194	272	250
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	15	13	15	17	35	15
Regulated Weapons Offences	5	15	9	15	20	10
Graffiti	2	9	24	12	11	6
Fraud & Related Offences	49	20	67	87	42	37
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	72	69	55	108	182	171
Total of all offences	1680	1663	1762	2275	2249	2511





Karratha LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Baynton 6714
 - Bulgarra 6714
 - Cossack 6720
 - Dampier 6713
 - Gap Ridge 6714
 - Karratha 6714
 - Karratha Industrial Estate 6714
- Millars Well 6714
 - Nickol 6714
 - Pegs Creek 6714
 - Point Samson 6720
 - Roebourne 6718
 - Whim Creek
 - Wickham 6720.

Statistics are not available for:

- Baynton West 6714
- Jingarri 6714
- Madigan 6714

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	3	3	0	3	2	0
Recent Sexual Offences	94	58	69	45	64	64
Historical Sexual Offences	71	5	35	13	17	35
Assault (Family)	410	584	582	726	987	911
Assault (Non-Family)	200	203	208	237	262	278
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	48	71	76	106	213	245
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	59	38	27	49	98	140
Deprivation of Liberty	2	6	2	3	4	5
Robbery	14	8	12	11	14	11
Burglary	338	204	270	465	236	224
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	47	61	134	178	55	50
Stealing	495	433	510	489	524	479
Property Damage	462	401	457	472	497	473
Arson	11	13	29	25	27	18
Drug Offences	918	560	348	385	390	680
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	37	29	47	22	38	52
Regulated Weapons Offences	48	29	34	46	41	83
Graffiti	27	10	26	14	17	33
Fraud & Related Offences	84	63	70	154	148	139
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	141	210	226	211	341	419
Total of all offences	3509	2989	3162	3654	3975	4339

Port Hedland LGA Crime Statistics

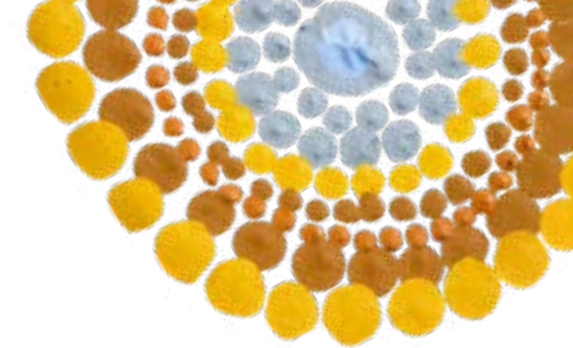
The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Port Hedland 6721
 - Redbank 6721
- South Hedland 6722
 - Wedgefield 6722

Statistics are not available for:

- Cooke Point 6721
- Pretty Pool 6721
- Yandeyarra 6722

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	3	4	1	3	1	4
Recent Sexual Offences	66	58	41	59	69	51
Historical Sexual Offences	9	15	17	22	19	17
Assault (Family)	641	556	734	719	761	788
Assault (Non-Family)	193	182	240	227	251	349
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	79	73	74	119	139	180
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	25	23	44	57	69	93
Deprivation of Liberty	5	4	3	2	2	6
Robbery	4	8	11	17	12	12
Burglary	295	227	413	479	347	340
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	102	92	160	209	142	106
Stealing	613	390	437	603	561	502
Property Damage	505	395	524	506	472	447
Arson	15	24	20	22	28	29
Drug Offences	358	305	320	259	350	517
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	56	21	25	28	47	66
Regulated Weapons Offences	48	14	14	29	42	52
Graffiti	15	8	24	22	10	31
Fraud & Related Offences	204	94	262	85	239	263
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	202	156	241	201	227	251
Total of all offences	3438	2649	3605	3668	3788	4104



Geraldton LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Beachlands 6530
 - Beresford 6530
 - Bluff Point 6530
 - Bootenal 6530
 - Bringo 6530
 - Burma Road 6530
 - Cape Burney 6530
 - Deepdale 6530
 - Devils Creek 6630
 - Drummond Cove 6530
 - East Chapman 6532
 - Ellendale 6532
 - Eradu 6532
 - Eradu South 6532
 - Georgina 6532
 - Geraldton 6530
 - Glenfield 6532
 - Greenough 6532
- Karloo 6530
 - Kojarena 6532
 - Mahomets Flats 6530
 - Meru 6530
 - Minnenooka 6532
 - Moonyoonooka 6532
 - Moresby 6530
 - Mullewa 6630
 - Mt Hill 6528
 - Mt Tarcoola 6530
 - Narngulu 6532
 - Northern Gully 6532
 - Pindar 6631
 - Rangeway 6530
 - Rudds Gully 6532
 - Sandsprings 6532
 - South Greenough 6528
 - Spalding 6530
- Strathalbyn 6530
 - Sunset Beach 6530
 - Tarcoola Beach 6530
 - Tardun 6628
 - Tenindewa 6632
 - Utakarra 6530
 - Waggrakine 6530
 - Walkaway 6528
 - Wandina 6530
 - Webberton 6530
 - West End 6530
 - Wicherina 6530
 - Wicherina South 6530
 - Wongoondy 6630
 - Wonthella 6530
 - Woorree 6530

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	0	5	0	0	0	3
Recent Sexual Offences	84	95	125	123	137	109
Historical Sexual Offences	28	92	102	21	86	72
Assault (Family)	898	820	864	973	1422	1455
Assault (Non-Family)	348	343	388	486	592	647
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	228	184	197	193	476	644
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	111	94	117	185	258	296
Deprivation of Liberty	8	7	11	3	12	16
Robbery	27	21	34	39	48	58
Burglary	1133	589	773	785	693	832
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	118	66	135	174	173	174
Stealing	1778	888	1303	1480	1729	2278
Property Damage	1018	892	1230	1242	1338	1412
Arson	41	22	37	50	50	41
Drug Offences	666	753	794	727	738	785
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	99	55	90	92	91	73
Regulated Weapons Offences	75	92	123	76	86	72
Graffiti	18	32	249	29	51	50
Fraud & Related Offences	361	387	655	370	307	419
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	541	478	373	367	498	588
Total of all offences	7580	5915	7600	7415	8785	10024

Kununurra LGA Crime Statistics

The following areas are included in calculated crime statistics:

- Kununurra
- Wyndham

Offence Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	2	0	2	0	2	0
Recent Sexual Offences	28	52	55	48	41	56
Historical Sexual Offences	18	9	12	4	8	23
Assault (Family)	642	660	781	1067	1013	1187
Assault (Non-Family)	150	138	143	262	285	309
Threatening Behaviour (Family)	96	104	76	213	202	317
Threatening Behaviour (Non-Family)	39	34	27	48	80	97
Deprivation of Liberty	1	2	0	1	0	8
Robbery	9	4	6	6	6	5
Burglary	466	216	408	434	358	222
Stealing of Motor Vehicle	131	46	146	106	126	68
Stealing	388	169	256	324	313	284
Property Damage	462	281	332	439	503	507
Arson	22	14	27	20	13	14
Drug Offences	103	184	109	104	122	126
Receiving and Possession of Stolen Property	12	23	20	19	22	9
Regulated Weapons Offences	20	24	16	18	11	13
Graffiti	35	9	46	25	47	34
Fraud & Related Offences	152	11	29	94	108	60
Breach of Violence Restraint Order	212	225	296	483	370	401
Total of all offences	2988	2205	2787	3715	3630	3740

South Australian Crime Statistics

Crime statistics in South Australia are primarily accessed through resources provided by SAPOL and the South Australian Government’s Open Data Portal.

SAPOL maintains a publicly accessible online crime mapping tool that enables users to view monthly data on crimes against the person and crimes against property at a suburb or

postcode level. This interactive platform is updated regularly and presents crime data in a visual, geographic format, allowing for localised comparisons. In addition to the map, SAPOL also publishes monthly rolling state-wide crime data, which provides insight into broader crime trends across South Australia.

For more detailed statistical analysis, the South Australian Government’s data portal (data.sa.gov.au) hosts a range of

downloadable datasets, including suburb-level statistics for various offence types and datasets specifically related to family and domestic abuse offences. These resources are typically available in CSV format, supporting further analysis and reporting. However, users should note that some offence types, such as sexual offences, are excluded from suburb-level reporting to protect privacy. Together, these tools provide a valuable evidence base for researchers, policymakers, and service providers seeking to understand crime patterns and inform strategic responses at both local and regional levels.

SAPOL – Crime statistics

Jan-2025-Public-release-rolling-stats.pdf

Northern Territory Crime Statistics

Crime statistics for the Northern Territory (NT) are compiled by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the NT Police. These statistics are updated monthly and are accessible through the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) website. The data provides insights into various offence categories, including crimes against persons and property, and is disaggregated by regions such as Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, and the broader NT Balance area.

NT Crime Statistics Jan 2025 Website.
xlsx

Table 1 – Community Approach

Local Government Area (LGA)	Liquor Restrictions	By Names	Banned Drinkers	Dry Precincts	LGA Funded Patrol Service	Non-LGA Funded Patrol Service	Short Stay ¹	Sobering-up Shelter	Transport to remote communities
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Carnarvon	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Geraldton	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Port Hedland	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Karratha	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓ ²	✓	✓
Broome	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Shire Wyndham East Kimberley (includes Kununurra)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁴
Darwin	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palmerston	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓ ³	✗	✗
Alice Springs	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Ceduna	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Port Augusta	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

¹ excludes backpacker accommodation

² Yaandina Family Centre Sobering Up & Short-Term Support (Roebourne) – while not branded as a short stay hostel, the facility supports crisis/short-term accommodation.

³ Palmerston has a Youth Accommodation and Support Service (YASS) which Provides short-term accommodation for up to 13 weeks for young individuals

⁴ There are Regular public transport air services which operate from Kununurra to remote communities such as Kalumburu, Halls Creek, and Balgo, improving accessibility for residents.

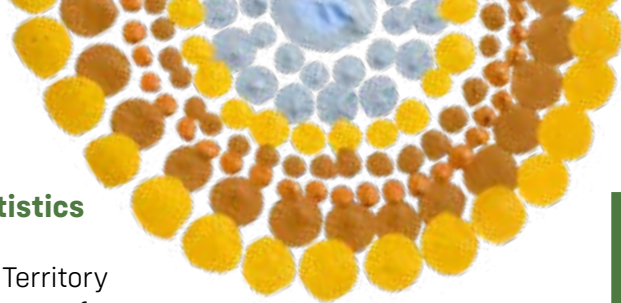
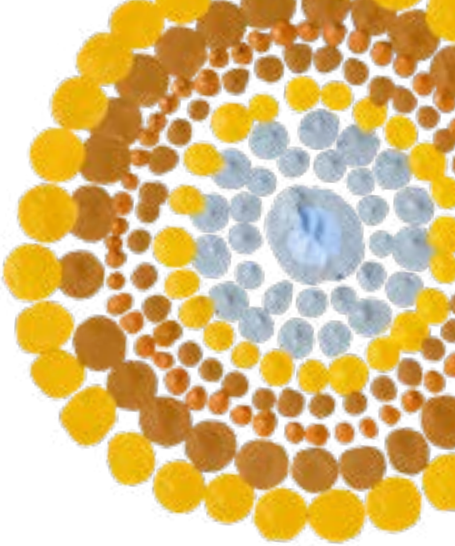


Table 2 – Population/Demographics

Location	Population	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders	Median Age	Household composition	Median Weekly Household Income	Employment in Labour Force	Top (3) Employment Industries	SEIFA
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	29,306	2,244 (7.7%)	34	Family Households – 69%	\$2,324	15,837 (69.4%)	Gold Ore Mining – 20.4%	Score: 980
				Single (or lone) person households – 27.3%			Primary Education – 3.2%	Rank: 378
				Group households – 3.7%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 3.0%	
							Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.9%	Score: 983
Broome	16,959	4,847 (28.6%)	34	Family Households – 70.9%	\$2,091	8,291 (63.9%)	Accommodation – 4.9%	Rank: 391
				Single (or lone) person households – 24.4%			Primary Education – 4.0%	
				Group households – 4.8%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.1%	Score: 941
							Primary Education – 3.7%	Rank: 218
Geraldton	39,489	3,814 (9.7%)	40	Family Households – 69.2%	\$1,536	18,941 (59.9%)	Supermarket and Grocery Stores – 3.1%	
				Single (or lone) person households – 28.0%			Vegetable Growing (Outdoors) – 5.7%	Score: 918
				Group households – 2.8%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.7%	Rank: 130
							Accommodation – 4.7%	
Carnarvon	5,251	857 (16.3%)	40	Family Households – 63.1%	\$1,401	2,396 (56.0%)	Iron Ore Mining – 12.4%	Score: 1,035
				Single (or lone) person households – 33.3%			Other Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying – 5.8%	Rank: 470
				Group households – 3.6%			Oil and Gas Extraction – 5.4%	
Karratha	22,199	2,594 (11.7%)	32	Family Households – 75.1%	\$3,158	11,459 (69.2%)		
				Single (or lone) person households – 21.5%				
				Group households – 3.4%				

Location	Population	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders	Median Age	Household composition	Median Weekly Household Income	Employment in Labour Force	Top (3) Employment Industries	SEIFA
Wyndham-East Kimberley (LGA) (includes Kununurra)	7,477	2,515 (33.6%)	33	Family Households – 70.1%	\$1,858	3,321 (57.6%)	Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.5%	Score: 934
				Single (or lone) person households – 25.8%			Accommodation – 4.7%	Rank: 192
				Group households – 4.1%			Secondary Education – 4.0%	
							Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 6.2%	As above
Kununurra	4,515	1,306 (28.9%)	32	Family Households – 68.8%	\$1,987	2,141 (62.0%)	Secondary Education – 4.1%	
				Single (or lone) person households – 26.4%				
				Group households – 4.8%			Accommodation – 3.9%	
							Iron Ore Mining – 22.7%	Score: 997
Port Hedland	15,684	2,916 (18.6%)	32	Family Households – 70.7%	\$2,865	8,071 (68.4%)	Road Freight Transport – 5.6%	Rank: 420
				Single (or lone) person households – 25.9%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 3.6%	
				Group households – 3.4%				
							Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 8.8%	Score: 1,004
Alice Springs	25,912	5,343 (20.6%)	34	Family Households – 67.2%	\$2,142	14,220 (69.3%)	State Government Administration – 6.4%	Rank: 430
				Single (or lone) person households – 27.1%			Other Social Assistance Services – 4.7%	
				Group households – 5.6%				
							State Government Administration – 8.3%	Score: 1,036
Darwin	80,530	7,003 (8.7%)	35	Family Households – 67.8%	\$2,188	46,020 (70.1%)	Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 6.5%	Rank: 472
				Single (or lone) person households – 25.4%			Defence – 4.3%	
				Group households – 6.9%				

Location	Population	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders	Median Age	Household composition	Median Weekly Household Income	Employment in Labour Force	Top (3) Employment Industries	SEIFA
Palmerston	37,247	4,844 (13%)	31	Family Households – 75.2%	\$2,199	20,109 (72.2%)	State Government Administration – 7.3%	Score: 998
				Single (or lone) person households – 20.7%			Defence – 4.8%	Rank: 421
				Group households – 4.1%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 3.3%	
Ceduna	3,505	870 (24.8%)	40	Family Households – 68.0%	\$1,381	1,664 (59.6%)	Combined Primary and Secondary Education – 6.4%	Score: 927
				Single (or lone) person households – 29.5%			Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.4%	Rank: 167
				Group households – 2.5%			Supermarket and Grocery Stores – 3.8%	
Port Augusta	13,829	\$2,825 (20.4%)	38	Family Households – 64.0%	\$1,275	5,965 (52.9%)	Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals) – 5.8%	Score: 877
				Single (or lone) person households – 33.1%			Correctional and detention services – 4.2%	Rank: 54
				Group households – 2.9%			Other social assistance services – 3.9%	





**City of
Kalgoorlie
Boulder**

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

577 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430
PO Box 2042 Boulder, WA 6432

T: (08) 9021 9600

E: mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au

W: www.ckb.wa.gov.au

V2_0625