

Community Violence Reduction Project (CVRP)

Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms

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Chaos on the Strip



Project Overview

- Crime Reduction Strategy – Priority Area 2 – to reduce violence and sexual violence
- 2 year project developed and implemented by the Christchurch interagency licensing team under the Safer Christchurch Strategy and funded by the Crime Prevention Unit

Goal:

- Reduce the incidence of alcohol-related community violence in the Christchurch CBD by **10%** over the 2 year project period

Objectives

- Reduce the incidence of violence where the perpetrator and/or victim are affected by alcohol
- Improve local level responses to alcohol-related violence
- Increase the safety of environments where alcohol consumption occurs/licensed premises

Tasks

1. Identify high risk and problem licensed premises, through data analysis, to assist and enhance capacity to police the compliance with the SOLA within the target area
2. Identify areas where people are likely to be victimised and identify and develop appropriate solutions (e.g. CPTED)
3. Enhance/increase training of licensed premise staff, security staff and police staff in the target area
4. Enhance/increase monitoring of licensed premises in target area
5. Enhance communication with security staff and licensed premises staff

Target Locations

- Central Christchurch within the 4 avenues: Bealey Ave, Fitzgerald Ave, Moorhouse Ave and Hagley Park
- Based on data from the last police scan the hot spot areas within the 4 avenues have been defined as Colombo St, Cashel St, Hereford St, Worcester St, Manchester St, Oxford Tce and Cathedral Square
- Inside this area bounded by and including Oxford Terrace (The Strip), Lichfield St, Manchester and Armagh is where **66%** of reported crime is occurring within the 4 avenues

Project Team

The project team is made up of members of the **Christchurch Police liquor licensing team, Community and Public Health** and the **Christchurch City Council**.

Position 1 Training and monitoring support officer.

Aim: to reduce crime through reduced intoxication on licensed premises.

Peter Shaw started work in Dec 05 in the training and monitoring role. He will take a best practice approach to education around the SOLA compliance in terms of training bar, security and police staff.

Position 2 Project manager.

Aim: to reduce alcohol-related crime & violence in the Christchurch CBD through increased information support and identification and development of interventions eg. CPTED, alcohol accords.

Dr Rachel Palmer has been employed from Feb 06 to analyse the incidents of violence in the central city and look at interventions that can be put in place that would support the reduction of alcohol-related crime.

Safety and Our Night-time Economy

- In a 2004 Christchurch City Council survey 79% of respondents stated that they felt unsafe by themselves at night in the city.
- The **New Zealand Police, Community and Public Health** and the **Christchurch City Council** are tasked with reducing the 'crime spike' occurring in Christchurch central city between **2.00am** and **4.00am**.

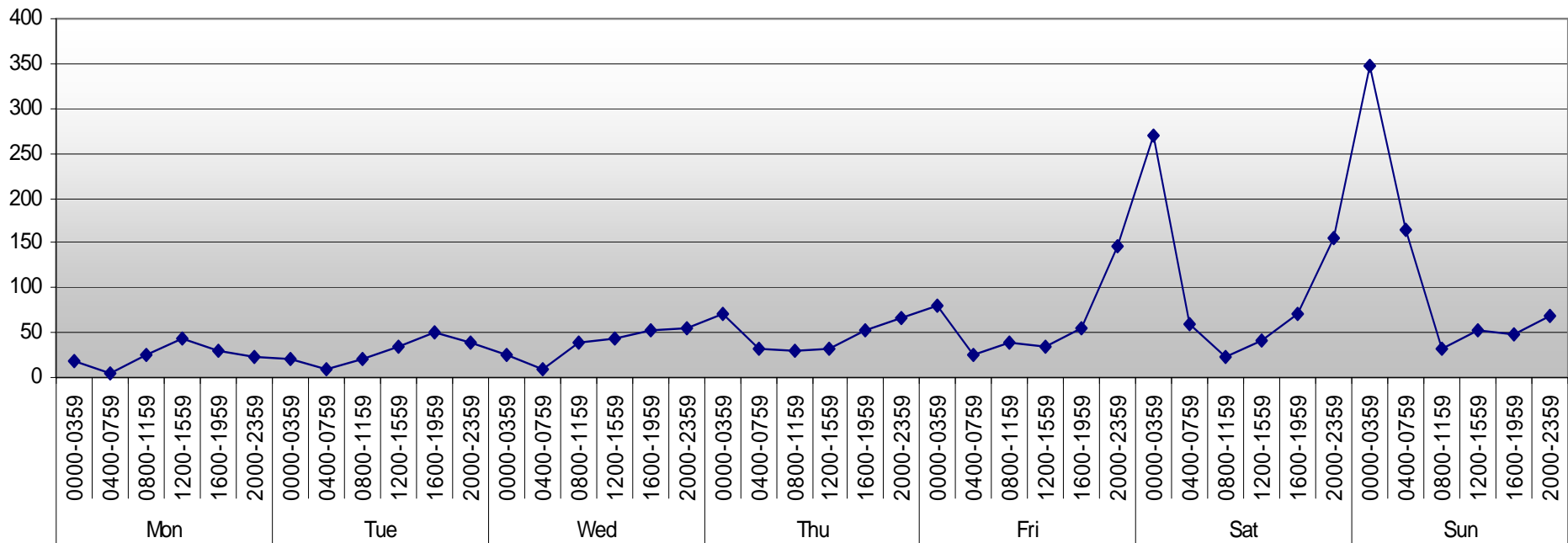
The Root of the Problem...

- In a 2004 Christchurch City Council survey **79%** of respondents stated that they felt unsafe by themselves at night in the city.
- The problem is not necessarily gross intoxication
- The problem is the **migration and presence of people**
- The migration of people moving from one location to another escalates the risk of them becoming victims or offenders
- The more people on the streets = more potential for disorder and violence
- There are **62** licensed premises in the CBD that may operate later than 3am and who may participate in the Accord

Inner City Crime Spike

45% of all offending occurs between the hours of midnight and 8am

Time of Day by Day of Week



One-Way Door

- Just **part** of the solution to reducing alcohol-related violence
- Will commence as of 4am Thurs-Sun where no new patrons will be admitted to the premises or re-admitted once they leave. Alternatively a cover charge of \$5 may be imposed.
- The One-Way Door intervention will be in affect for a trial period of six months at which time its' effectiveness will be re-evaluated

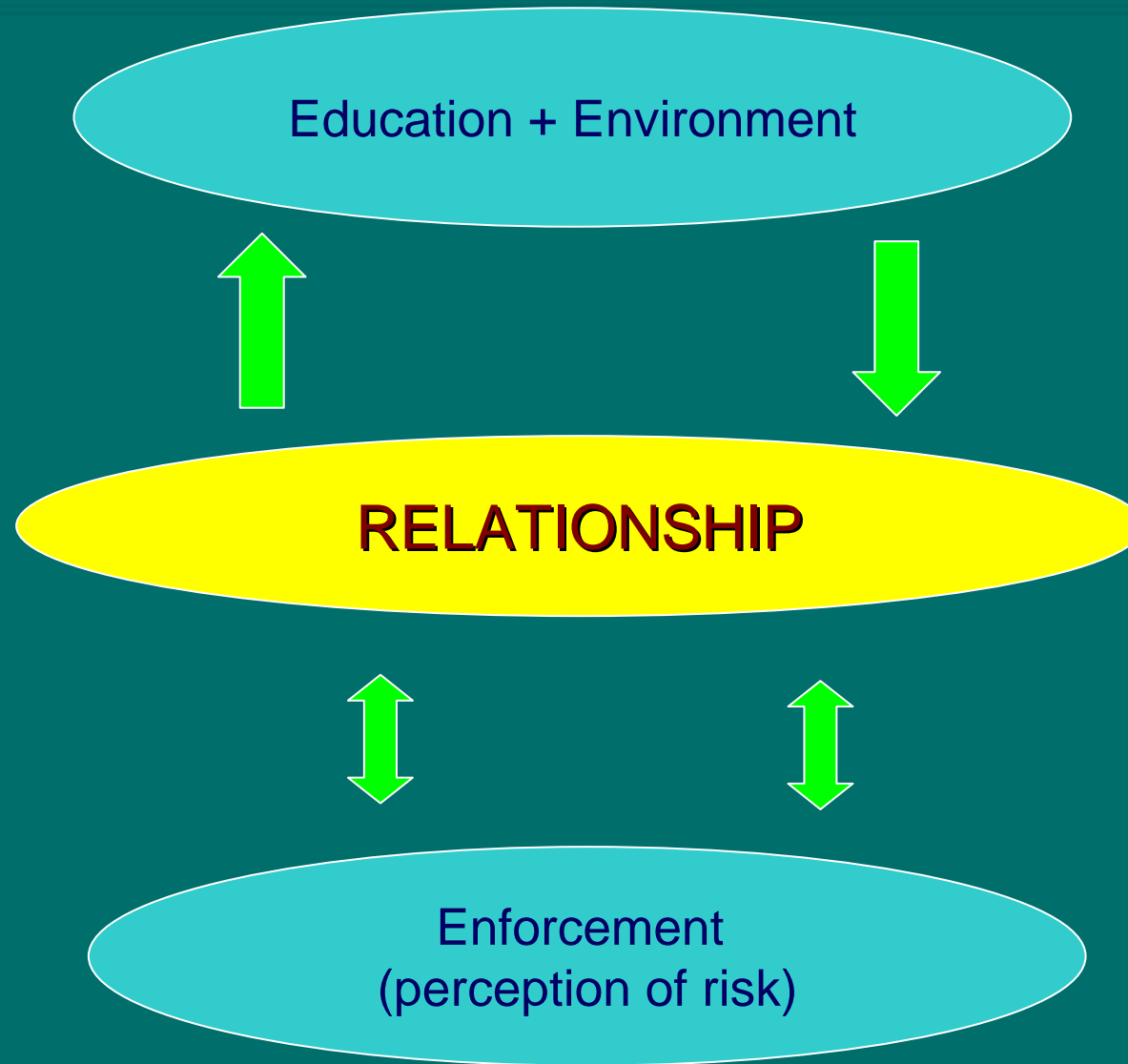
A Holistic Approach

Best evidence has shown that enforcing the SOLA is most effective when a collaborative and holistic view is taken.

The strategy includes:

- Training and monitoring
- Tri-agency collaboration
- Co-location of Agencies
- Best practice
- Sustainability

The aim of a holistic approach is to gain willing compliance



What We Hope to Achieve

Improving inner city safety will have benefits for the night-time economy by reducing the fear of crime and increasing the perception of safety, resulting in more people frequenting the inner city

More people in town = more business

Implementing the Accord

- The first Liquor Accord meeting between the Community Violence Reduction Team, the Hospitality Association of New Zealand and Bar Licensees took place on 6th July 2006.
- The general feedback from Licensees toward the Accord was positive.
- Some Licensees showed signs of hesitation about implementing the *One-Way Door*, their main concern being loss of revenue.
- The critical issue for any Accord is review and maintenance. Without active and constant reinforcement, any Accord will fail. If an Accord is maintained through regular meetings, stakeholders have an opportunity to express their concerns and offer solutions.

Perceived Barriers to the Accord

1. “I will if they will ...”
2. Strategy for non-participants
3. Publicity
4. Sustainable promotions
5. Timing of commencement date of One-Way Door
6. Implication of entertainment-style licenses and Casino
7. Transport
8. Active policing around/after One-Way Door

Progress

- An industry-led management team has been created to advance the Accord
- An Accord document has been agreed upon
- To date, 3 meetings have been held
- The Accord will be launched in early October

Evaluation

- \$60,000 from ALAC and ACC to fund evaluation of One-Way Door
- Six month trial for evaluation purposes
- October '06 to March '07

Where to From Here?

- Buy-in from other stakeholders
- Launch of the Liquor Accord
- Panel Surveys
- Monitoring and Liaison
- Trial Period
- Evaluation Period

Conclusion

One-Way Door is not the total answer to eradicating after-dark crash and crime but it is part of a collaborative overall strategy to reduce these problems and fits into a 'holistic' approach taken by the three regulatory agencies.

Conclusion cont'd

The accord is a strategy that has been implemented after consideration of international evidence-based practice.

With the business and public communities working hand in hand, we should expect to see declines in incidents of alcohol-related crime and abuse in and around licensed venues.