

Beat Graffiti - Know How Workshop

Hosted by Local Government New
Zealand
& the Crime Prevention Unit, Ministry of
Justice



Local Government New Zealand
le pūtahi matakokiri

Who we are

- Viv Heslop - workshop facilitator
- Jane Johnston - Local Government New Zealand
- Brian Webster - Crime Prevention Unit, Ministry of Justice
- Yu Yi - Manukau City Council
- Sandy Beath-Croft - Hutt City Council
- Rob Shields & Michael Connell - Auckland City Council



Who you are



Purpose of this workshop

Provide you with the tools to:

- determine if graffiti is an issue for your communities
- develop a strategy for responding
- describe & select from a range of responses
- identify necessary relationships & partnerships
- successfully implement a strategy



What's planned for the workshop

- 9.10 Development of the Know How Beat Graffiti Guide
- 9.20 **Policy** - is a strategy needed? How can it be developed?
- 9.40 Case study of policy - Yu Yi, Manukau City Council
- 10.00 **Projects** - what are the range of responses in the tool box
- 10.15 Case study of projects - Sandy Beath-Croft, Hutt City Council
- 10.30 Working tea and coffee break



What's planned for the workshop cont.

- 11.00 **Enforcement** - what mechanisms are available
- 11.10 Case study of enforcement - Michael Connell & Rob Shields, Auckland City Council
- 11.30 **Establishing partnerships**
- 11.40 Open discussion session
- 12.10 Few words from Ministry of Justice
- 12.20 Few words from LGNZ
- 12.30 Wrap-up



Workshop etiquette

- ask questions whenever you like
- mobile phones off
- location of toilets
- emergency exits



Why worry about graffiti

- cities and towns are important to our economy
- NZ Urban Design Protocol signalled focus from central government
- growing concern among local authorities about impact of graffiti vandalism
- major problem for many urban areas
- costs of graffiti vandalism are substantial
- councils have a responsibility to its communities



The issue of graffiti

- those aged 10 - 45
- males & females
- employed & unemployed
- those in schools & truants
- children of stable & unstable families
- students
- artists
- political activists

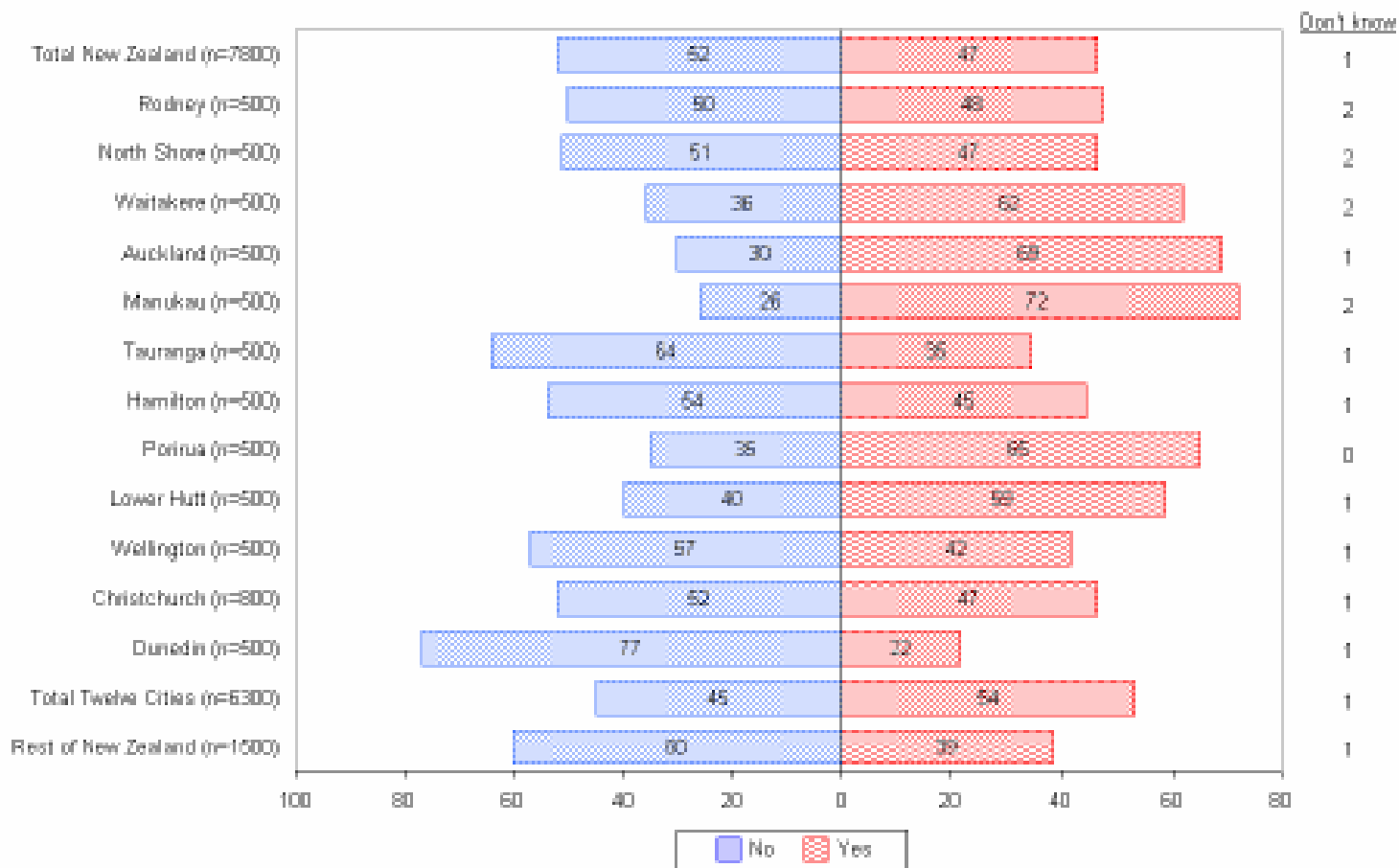


The issue of graffiti

- experience of councils in NZ - youth from 12 to 19 from any ethnicity, culture, gender & socio-economic background
- concerned with graffiti that is done without permission of property owner = graffiti vandalism
- while there is little NZ-specific sociological research on graffiti culture, there is perception information



Figure 10.16: Perception Of Graffiti Problem In Local Area - By Location (%)



Base: All respondents

Perceptions

- residents survey from Quality of Life project
 - 47% said was not an issue in their local area
 - most likely to be a problem in Manukau (72%) and Auckland (69%) cities
 - least likely to be a problem in Dunedin (22%)



Perceptions cont.

- community participatory appraisal by HNZC in Porirua
 - graffiti was largest single issue of concern
 - “graffiti is everywhere”
 - “play areas are full of graffiti and is shocking to the public”
 - “tagging ruins buildings”



What does this mean?

- no one approach will suit all councils
- not every council might need to be concerned about the issue
- councils need a fuller understanding of the issue of graffiti in their communities
 - who does it, where it occurs, its actual impact, being realistic about what can be achieved in terms of reduction



The Know How Beat Graffiti Guide

- funding from Ministry of Justice
- development by Local Government New Zealand
- a guide to assist councils in managing graffiti in their communities
- acknowledges there are other agencies involved in managing graffiti
- links with NZ Urban Design Protocol & Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines



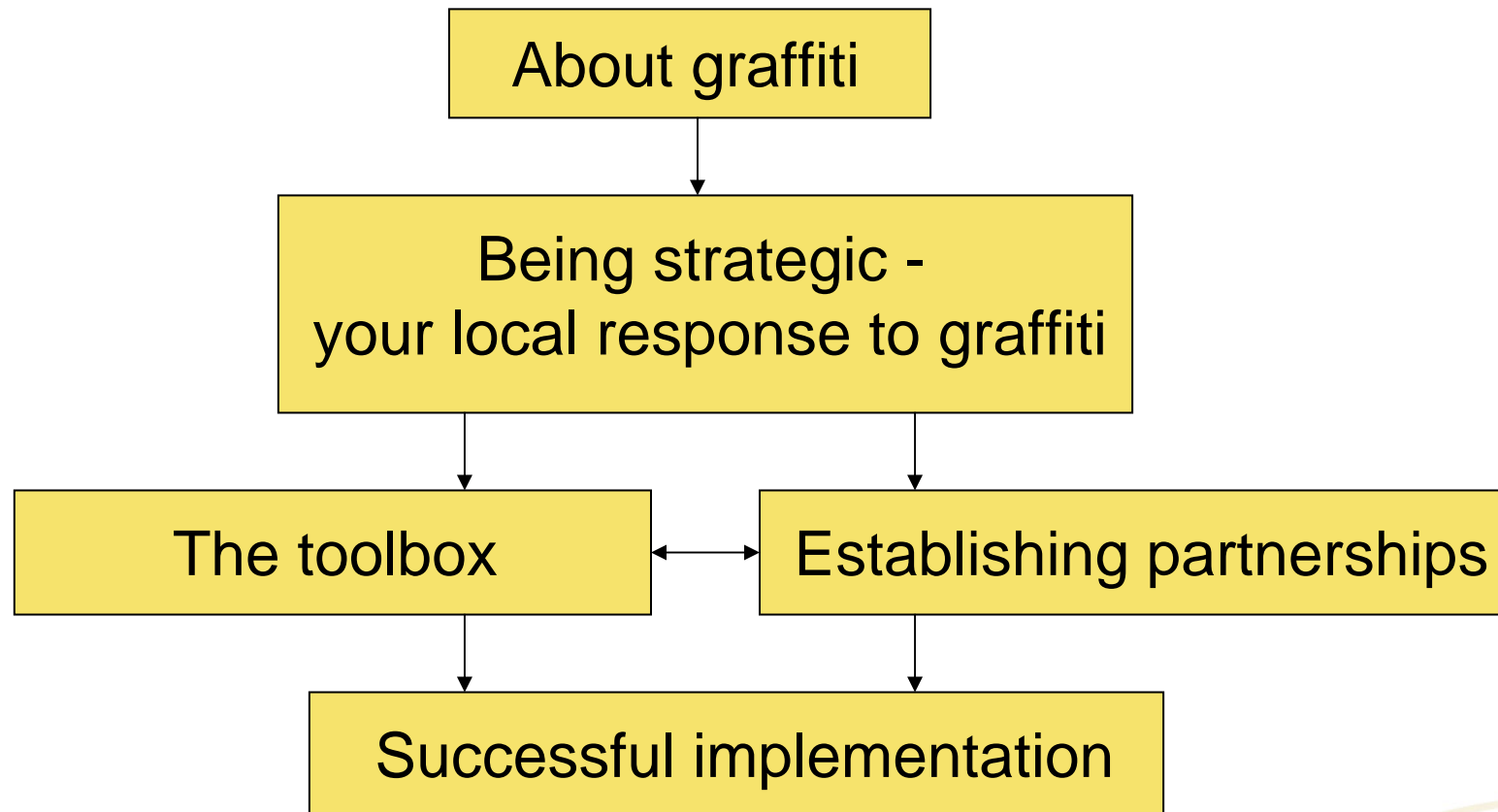
Project team

Role was to bring their knowledge & experience in local government to contribute to the guide, including case studies and reviewing guide:

- Sandy Beath-Croft, Hutt City Council
- Roger Blakeley, Porirua City Council
- Sharyn Craig, Hastings District Council
- Dallas Crampton, Porirua Community Guardians
- Rees Fox, South Waikato District Council
- Jennifer Laing, Wellington City Council
- Rob Shields, Auckland City Council
- Graham Turley, Porirua City Council
- Yu Yi, Manukau City Council



The structure of the guide



Is graffiti a significant issue for you?

- a response might be driven by concern from communities, costs to council of removal or pressure from politicians
- need to understand extent of the issue before developing a strategy
 - who, where, why, when



Where to get information

- council hotlines
- council staff
- prosecution records
- graffiti database
- talking to offenders
- talking to school children
- council contractors
- talk to local neighbourhood support
- talk to infrastructure providers
- talk to local posties





Developing a strategy

- vision statement of outcome council is seeking
- goal which sets target
- objectives - combining proactive, reactive and enforcement responses
- methods of implementation



Partnerships to consider

- police
- Keep NZ Beautiful, as well as local branches
- neighbourhood support groups
- infrastructure providers
- city safety advisors/officers
- community guardians or other community groups
- Housing New Zealand
- education representatives
- Maori wardens
- youth representatives
- past graffiti vandalism offenders
- youth justice authorities
- truancy officer
- salvation army



Hot tips from project team

- prioritise - it is sometimes better to select areas where you can make a difference
- involve staff from across the council when developing a strategy
- involve your politicians - need to promote message that graffiti is not acceptable in your communities



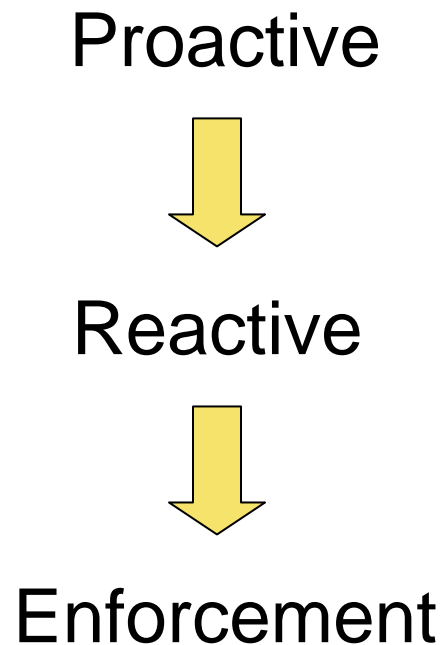
Guest speaker

Yu Yi, Manukau City Council

Council's Policy and Advocacy Role in Graffiti
Management



The toolbox



A multi-faceted approach is considered the most appropriate



Proactive

- Working in schools
 - educational strategies aimed at prevention of crime, makeovers of local streets, painting murals on surfaces that have been target, crime prevention through environmental design audits
- Working with communities
 - similar ways to schools



Proactive

- Working with role models & mentors
 - youth mentors, ex-taggers, elders in the community, teachers in schools
 - work with those who tag in order to help them understand the impacts of it on communities
- Working with youth networks
 - look at peer to peer with those who are into graffiti



Proactive

Art diversion programmes

- legal opportunities for doing graffiti as form of artistic expression
- direct interest towards legal outlets



Proactive

Working with retailers

- those who sell the ‘tools’, store behind the counter so purchasers need to ask for them, responsible retailing agreements
- use industry associations to educate retailers on rapid removal, support those who refuse to sell graffiti material if believe to be used for unlawful purposes



Proactive

Using community networks

- volunteer graffiti removal programmes, greater reporting of graffiti, civic pride
 - remove graffiti from own property
 - ‘adopt’ a wall, signal box, phone box, fence etc
 - help neighbours remove, especially if less mobile
 - plant screen bushes/trees



Proactive

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
 - restrict access to the ‘canvas’
 - minimising solid vertical surface areas
 - use rough textures
 - improve lighting
 - improve natural surveillance



Guest speaker

Sandy Beath-Croft, Hutt City Council

Workshop session

Helping you to plan your response



Overview of session

This is your opportunity to bring forward a project ideas and during this session we will create a project plan together which is guaranteed to succeed!

- task briefing from Sandy
- break out into small groups (up to 6 per group)
- identify the problem you want to solve
- work as a group on completing the worksheet
- come back together as a group to discuss the exercise
- remember you can ask questions at any time



Reactive

- rapid removal
 - within 24 hours
 - reduces recognition that they are after
 - shows an area is being looked after
- protective coatings
 - applied to the surface, graffiti sticks to coating instead of surface
 - need to consider cost & 'best fit' product, seek professional advice



Reactive

- removal tips
 - will depend on material used and type of surface 'tagged'
 - test removal on small area first
 - try to remove when fresh
 - paint walls or fences in dark colours - it makes it easier to cover tags using one coat of paint
 - painted walls are easier to keep graffiti free as they can be painted over
 - clean unpainted wall or fence by sanding or waterblasting



Reactive

- graffiti removal kits
 - graffiti remover
 - safety glasses
 - gloves
 - instructions
 - safety information



Hot tips from project team

- work with property owners to get them to take responsibility
- protective coatings can be expensive so check price before including policy
- may be easier to manage removal if only one contractor
- need to get permission of property owner before removing graffiti
- if removal is free then uptake greater
- if using volunteers then use small well organized groups rather than large numbers of volunteers



Hot tips from project team cont.

- recognise the great work of volunteers
- if your council is a member of KNZB then you get paint at discounted price from Resene
- kitty litter is good for soaking up spilt paint
- might consider owning own graffiti removal cans
- look for funding option through community grants, trusts etc
- always supervise community paint outs to ensure good quality job



Enforcement

- Summary Offences Act 1981
- Crimes Act 1961
- Local Government Act 2002
 - can make by-laws although no examples in place currently



Hot tips from project team

- develop an information sharing network
- councils can get reparation
- the court system is often looking for sponsors for community service - use for removal
- collection of photos may help prosecution of offenders



Guest speakers

Michael Connell & Rob Shields, Auckland City
Council

Auckland City's Graffiti Tracker Database



Outline of presentation

The 'graffiti tracker' database was developed as a tool to enhance the City's Zero Tolerance to graffiti vandalism strategy.

- talk about how the database is used
- show a preview of the database
- answer questions



Establishing partnerships

The project team identified a number of key partnerships in managing graffiti, including:

- vital to get **internal support** within council before any initiatives are implemented - this includes senior management and politicians.
- **regional officers working party** - share information, plan joint initiatives. A key part of capacity building for smaller, less resourced councils
- **Keep New Zealand Beautiful** - delivers programmes using volunteers, schools, community groups etc



Establishing partnerships cont.

- **Neighbourhood Support New Zealand** - work closely with the Police and others on reduce crime in communities
- **retailers and business associations** - work with retailers on strategies to reduce the sale of graffiti materials, working on rapid removal from their premises
- **infrastructure providers** - their assets are often targets so a good working relationship can with timely removal, councils can also provide advise on CPTED techniques



Establishing partnerships cont.

- **Housing New Zealand** - significant landlord
- **school & education representatives** - role in implementing proactive strategies, as well as being a source of information on offenders
- **youth justice agencies & courts** - agencies for proactive, reactive and enforcement strategies
- **New Zealand Police** - good source of information on when, where and who, as well as apprehending offenders



Open discussion session



Few words from LGNZ



Few words from Ministry of Justice



Wrap Up

