

Anchorage: an excellent example of intelligence-led policing

Operation Anchorage, a recent ACT Policing campaign targeting burglary, has been recognised by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) as an excellent example of intelligence-led policing.

In a report on Policing Urban Burglary, Dr Jerry Ratcliffe from AIC said intelligence-led policing was a term “used and abused widely” across Australia but Operation Anchorage reached the core of what intelligence-led policing is about, more so than “much policing activity elsewhere”.

The four-month burglary campaign, which ran from February to July this year, was driven by a large intelligence cell, enabling police to target burglary hot spots and prolific offenders.

ACT Policing Commander Operations Ben McDevitt said: “Armed with that intelligence, we continue to make major inroads in reducing Canberra’s burglary rate.

“We had the most successful year ever last financial year and we continue to build on that success through the efforts of intelligence-led police patrols and special pro-active teams.”

The latest statistics show that the burglary rate in the ACT is down 19.6 per cent. At the end of last financial year, Operation Anchorage had led to a 21 per cent reduction in burglaries, the largest ever reduction in burglary rates achieved by ACT Policing.

“When you consider that all mainland police jurisdictions in Australia experienced an increase in burglaries last financial year, that’s a major achievement,” said Commander McDevitt.

ACT Policing invited Dr Ratcliffe to conduct an independent study of Operation Anchorage to provide valuable feedback on the mechanics of the campaign.

“It is vital as a police organisation that we seek evaluations from outside so that we can continue to build on our knowledge and experience and make the best possible use of resources and we will continue to work with the AIC in this way to evaluate future operations.

“One of the most valuable conclusions made by Dr Ratcliffe is the need for a whole-of-government or whole-of-community approach to reduce crime.



“Through our crime prevention arm we have been building strong relationships with many key government and community groups and introducing programs that address the causes of crime in our community,” Commander McDevitt said.

Chief Police Officer John Murray said he would be dismayed by any suggestion that Operation Anchorage was anything other than an enormous success.

“I say this especially from the point of view of the men and women of ACT Policing who have worked long hours to make Canberra a safer place.

“By any test, Canberra is the safest city in Australia to live.”