

# Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy



I N F O R M A T I O N   S H E E T   ■   1   J U L Y   2 0 0 1

## What is the Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy?

The Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy is a comprehensive plan to tackle drug and crime problems in Cabramatta.

It includes:

- more police with more powers
- treatment for drug users and expansion of drug rehabilitation and treatment services in South Western Sydney
- the expansion of early intervention and prevention programs, and
- the City Watch program to bring community and police together to develop solutions to local crime.

The Government has allocated additional funding of \$18.8 million over four years to implement the Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy.

The plan is an all out effort to return Cabramatta to the people who live and work there.

The task is not an easy one. There are no quick fixes. It will require a genuine effort by everyone involved and a genuine commitment to work together.

Premier Bob Carr

## New powers and resources for police

The Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy ensures police have the powers and resources they need to tackle drug-related crime.

### New Police Powers

NSW Police have increased powers in relation to drug houses. These new laws and penalties apply Statewide.

- From 1 July 2001 police have new powers to arrest:
  - anyone who enters or leaves a suspected drug house – unless they can establish a lawful purpose
  - owners or occupants who knowingly allow the premises to be used as a drug house, and
  - anyone who organises or assists in the organisation of a drug house, such as lookouts.
- From 1 July 2001 police also have the power to 'move on' people who they suspect are trying to arrange drug deals.
- Police will be given new powers to search for drugs. This will include the power to detain an individual and have a medical practitioner perform a search where it is suspected that drugs have been swallowed or otherwise concealed internally. A search could be conducted via a medical imaging process, such as an X-ray, MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), ultrasound, CAT Scans.  
If the procedure reveals the presence of drugs within a suspect's body, police will have the power to detain the suspect for up to 48 hours – until the drugs are emitted.

### New Firearm Laws

Police report a link between illegal drug supply and firearms trafficking.

From 1 July 2001 new laws target the trade in illegal firearms and penalties have increased. This includes an increase in the penalties for the illegal possession of prohibited firearms and handguns from 10 to 14 years gaol.

A three month **Statewide amnesty** commenced 29 June 2001 to allow firearms to be either registered or surrendered to the police. Under the amnesty, anyone without a firearm license can surrender firearms to police without fear of penalty or prosecution. The amnesty applies to all firearms. Firearms may be handed in at any police station.

If you are unsure whether a firearm in your possession is registered or to get more information contact the **Firearms Registry Amnesty Information Line** toll-free on **1300 557 772**.

## Police Resources

Resources available to police in Cabramatta are being increased to include:

- 108 officers currently in the Local Area Command (up from 84 in 1995)
- ten extra drug detectives
- six extra bicycle patrols for a rapid street-level and alley-way response
- 90 officers from the Greater Hume Target Action Group, and
- a team of Drug Detection Dogs.

### Interpreters to assist police

The Community Relations Commission is working with police at Cabramatta to improve around-the-clock interpreter services. Interpreters will help police with interviewing suspects, victim support, routine inquiries and communication with the local business community.

### Cultural and language training for local police

The NSW Police Service and the Department of Education and Training are developing a customised TAFE course which will provide Cabramatta police with cultural awareness training and basic skills in languages other than English.

### The City Watch Program

Cabramatta City Watch will improve safety and policing in Cabramatta by bringing together local businesses, police and the community to develop solutions to local crime.

Membership of the Cabramatta City Watch Council includes the Local Area Commander (Chairperson), the Member for Cabramatta, the Mayor of Fairfield, and representatives from the Cabramatta Chamber of Commerce, Cabramatta Business Association, community groups, Premier's Department and the Community Relations Commission.

The City Watch Council will work with a network of 'link groups'. Each link group will include members of a community interest group, a police officer and member of the Community Relations Commission.

*For more information on the Cabramatta City Watch program contact Rosa Droescher at the Community Relations Commission on tel 9716 2327.*

## Treatment and rehabilitation

From 1 July 2001 two new programs – Police Drug Bail and Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) – will operate in Cabramatta. These programs steer offenders with drug problems into treatment and rehabilitation services to prevent further drug-related crime, and improve the individual's health and well-being.

## Police Drug Bail

Under Police Drug Bail:

- local residents charged with drug offences may be assessed for treatment as a condition of bail, and
- if a person is from outside the area, it will be a breach of bail to return to Cabramatta.

*For more information contact Cabramatta Police on tel 9725 8999.*

## Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) – Cabramatta

The Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) allows magistrates to make drug treatment a condition of bail.

Participants are closely case-managed. The magistrate receives regular reports on their progress.

*For more information contact the South Western Sydney MERIT Team on tel 9602 6777.*

## Expansion of rehabilitation and treatment services

The success of programs such as Police Drug Bail and MERIT depend on access to effective treatment. The Government is working with the local community to create additional rehabilitation and treatment services.

Additional services available from 1 July 2001 include:

- A **Central Assessment Team** at Fairfield Hospital to provide assessment and treatment planning. This service will refer clients into health, drug treatment and welfare services.
- Three beds located at Liverpool Hospital and four beds at GROW, Austral, for people with complex mental health and drug problems.
- Eight extra beds located at Fairfield Hospital to provide short-term rehabilitation for clients referred from other drug treatment or health services.

Additional treatment services will be available. They will be properly managed and government run. A **Treatment Services Monitoring Committee** will be established to monitor the operation of these services.

*For more information contact the South Western Sydney Drug and Alcohol Co-ordinator on tel 9828 4877.*

## Crisis Housing Places

The Department of Housing will provide extra crisis accommodation, including:

- temporary accommodation for clients while other housing options are explored, and
- assistance for clients to secure private rental.

*For more information contact the Fairfield Office of the Department of Housing on tel 9754 6840.*

In addition, up to 40 short-term leases and 10 medium-term leases are to be provided for clients referred from support services.

*For more information contact Hume Community Housing Association on tel 9724 0554.*

## Early intervention and prevention programs

### Cabramatta Street Team

A seven person Department of Community Services team will assist adolescents and others with drug problems. The team will:

- help re-connect people with their families, and
- link homeless people to services that will help them.

The team will visit areas popular with young people in Cabramatta and will be co-located at the Cabramatta Police Station.

*For more information contact Fairfield Community Service Centre, Department of Community Services on tel 9728 1911.*

### Gateways

**Gateways** is a prevention program that provides drug education for all primary and secondary students in the Cabramatta area. It also provides additional support for secondary school students at risk of not completing Year 12 or at risk of taking illegal drugs.

From Term Three 2001, 600 'at risk' students will have access to case management including an Individual Education Plan to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, school attendance and homework habits.

For additional support, over 70 teachers are being trained to be mentors for students.

The Department of Education and Training will also provide an extra **Drug Education Consultant** to support drug education in all government schools in the district.

*For more information contact Fairfield District Department of Education and Training on tel 9793 4900.*

### Primary Connect

The new **Primary Connect** school program will be trialled in a small number of primary schools, including the Cabramatta area. Primary Connect will provide youth development for 5-12 year olds and parenting support for their families.

*For more information contact Department of Education and Training on tel 9561 8311.*

### Families First

The **Families First** program will support 100 families with children under 8 years of age in Cabramatta, Canley Vale, Bonnyrigg and Fairfield.

Under the program local schools become hubs for parents and the community, providing:

- opportunities for families to meet with each other
- contact with services in the local community
- information on parenting and childhood development, and
- information about the school system and how to support their children in preparing for school.

This program will be in place during Term Four 2001.

*For more information contact Families First on tel 9797 8133.*

### Cabramatta Mobile Child Care and Family Counselling Service

From September 2001, Uniting Care-Burnside are funded to provide family counselling services, intensive family support and a mobile childcare service to help a further 350 families in the area each year.

The **Family Counselling Service** will provide counselling in a place where people and their families feel most comfortable. This may include the family home.

## Cabramatta Place Project

In April 1997 the Premier's Department, in collaboration with Fairfield City Council and other agencies, established the **Cabramatta Place Project** to tackle illicit drug use and its impact upon the Cabramatta community.

The **Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy** builds on the achievements of the Cabramatta Place Project and the work of the Fairfield Community Drug Action Team (see over).

The Project has contributed to positive outcomes, including:

- increased community safety
- improved police relations
- more treatment for drug and alcohol users
- more employment and training opportunities for young people
- promotion of Cabramatta as a tourism destination
- cleaner and safer streets.

As part of Stage Two of the Project, the Premier's Department is leading and facilitating the Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy.

*For more information contact Senior Project Manager, Cabramatta Place Project on tel 9724 7811.*

**Intensive family support** will work more closely with families, linking them with the services they need to help them with their family member's drug problem.

To assist families to access these programs the **Mobile Child Care Service** will provide child care to families involved with family counselling and intensive support services.

Intensive Family Support and Family Counselling work with referrals from the Cabramatta Street Team.

*For more information contact the Department of Community Services on tel 9797 8133.*

## Community information and action

### Youth Action Team

A **Youth Action Team** has been established by the Cabramatta Place Project to better co-ordinate services for young people, and to work on improving:

- recreation and sport opportunities
- police and youth relations, and
- accommodation, health and other support services.

It includes government, non-government and community representatives.

*For more information contact Senior Project Manager, Cabramatta Place Project on tel 9724 7811.*

### Multicultural Drug Education Program

In Cabramatta it is imperative that drug education resources meet the needs of non-English speaking background (NESB) communities.

The **Multicultural Drug Education** program will:

- produce multi-lingual material providing practical advice on addressing drug-related issues
- help schools, local agencies and the Fairfield Drug Action Team to work with NESB communities.

*For more information contact Senior Project Manager, Cabramatta Place Project on tel 9724 7811.*

### Drugs and Community Action Strategy

The **Drugs and Community Action Strategy** was developed as an outcome of the NSW Drug Summit held in 1999. The Strategy helps set up local teams and partnerships – Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) – to work with communities to respond to local drug problems.

The Fairfield CDAT was established in 1997. Its success contributed to the establishment of the Strategy. This group has initiated a number of

projects such as Café Horizons, Adra Café, and the production of the multi-lingual resource *Drugs, Young People and the Law*.

*For more information contact the Project Manager, South Western Sydney on tel 9793 1577 or visit the Drugs and Community Action website at [www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs\\_action](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action)*

### Expansion of Syringe Clean-Up Teams

Offenders serving Periodic Detention Orders do regular patrols to remove discarded needles from the streets. This program will be expanded.

If you find discarded needles please call the **Needle Clean-Up Hotline** toll-free on **1800 633 353**.

## Further Information

### Need Help?

If you, or someone you know, needs confidential help or advice about drugs, call the **Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)** on tel **9361 8000** (Sydney metropolitan only) or toll-free on **1800 422 599** (outside Sydney).

ADIS is open 24 hours a day, providing confidential advice, information and referrals to local agencies.

As a parent, tackling drug issues can be very challenging. For advice about how to talk to young people about drug use or behavioural problems please contact **Parent Line** toll-free on **13 20 55**.

### Reporting Drug Crime

Any information you have about drug crime, even if you think it's unimportant, may help the Police make an arrest. To report drug-related crime call **Crime Stoppers** toll-free on **1800 333 000**.

### Want to know more?

If you would like more information about the NSW Government's response to the drug problem, visit **[www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au)**.

At **[www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au)** you will find more information about drugs, projects and measures being taken to address drug problems. Copies of the NSW Government's Drug Summit Plan of Action, other resources and links to other relevant sites are also available at the web site.