

Youth Pathways Network

SAY **"NO"**  
TO CRIME

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RESOURCE BOOK

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# Introduction

**Youth Pathways Network (YPN)** is an informal voluntary group made up of friends who want to reduce youth unemployment and crime in Western Sydney.

We believe that engaging in crime is simply not worth it. To help spread this message, this book (contributed by David Saliba) is a free resource informing young people about the main types of crime and the consequences that follow.

No matter who you are, or where you come from, you control your own path in life. And even if you do find yourself on the criminal path, there is always time to change for the better.

“Be a positive influence and inspire others to be better!”



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# Crime is not cool

There is a perception that crime is cool. Criminals are seen to make money, have power, and live life to the fullest.

**THIS PERCEPTION IS FALSE, AND THE REALITY IS FAR FROM THE CASE.**

Getting involved in crime, especially with friends, may at first seem cool, but it is a slippery slope that does not end well. This is because crime always has a victim and it is not cool to hurt others.

Even television's biggest criminal characters who seemly lived the glamorous life lost everything when involved in crime.



# Main crime types



DRUG DEALING



DRUG USE



DRIVING UNDER THE  
INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL  
AND/OR DRUGS



HOONING



VANDALISM



ROBBERY AND THEFT



CRIMINAL GROUPS  
AND GANGS



REVENGE PORN



ASSAULT AND  
OTHER VIOLENT ACTS



FRAUD



BULLYING AND  
CYBER-BULLYING





ISOLATION



DEPRESSION

STRESS



PHYSICAL  
HARM



CONFISCATION  
OF PROPERTY



MENTAL ILLNESS

GUILT

HOME  
DETENTION

IMPRISONMENT



EMBARRASSMENT  
/SHAME



FINE/FINANCIAL PENALTY

# GENERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIME

COMMUNITY SERVICE



CRIMINAL  
RECORD

UNEMPLOYMENT

HURT FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS



LEADS TO DIVORCE  
AND RELATIONSHIP  
BREAKDOWNS



DEPORTATION  
(IF NON-CITIZEN)

# The consequences of imprisonment

**LIMITED**

- EDUCATION
- A/C AND HEATING
- INTERNET
- FITNESS
- PRIVACY
- MEALS
- TV



**LO\$\$**

OF CAREER PROGRESSION AND INCOME

**ISOLATED**

FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS

**CANNOT DO WHAT YOU WANT**


**CONFINED**

TO SMALL ROOMS



**DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT**



MODEST BED

**MISS BIRTHDAY & SOCIAL EVENTS**


**HEALTH IMPACTS**



**SPORT**

## PRISON DAILY ROUTINE

<b>7:00AM</b>	Inmates released from cell, morning muster, collect breakfast before being locked back into cells
<b>8:00AM</b>	Inmates released from cells to the exercise yards
<b>8:30AM</b>	Selected inmates released from yards to workshops (e.g. saddlery, tailor's shop and laundry)
<b>9:00AM</b>	Inmates permitted access to library, education, training courses, counselling and phone calls
<b>11:30AM</b>	Lunchtime muster, inmates locked in their cells to eat lunch
<b>12:30PM</b>	Inmates released to exercise yards and workshops
<b>2:00PM</b>	Shower block open
<b>3:00PM</b>	Workshops close and those inmates to shower blocks
<b>4:00PM</b>	Inmates to yards with cells open for cleaning
<b>4:30PM</b>	Evening muster
<b>5:10PM</b>	Inmates take dinner to their cells and are secured for the night
<b>11:00PM</b>	Lights out

Source: [www.maitlandgaol.com.au](http://www.maitlandgaol.com.au)

Crime does not pay:

# Proceeds of crime



A serious crime is committed by a person



Money/property is made from that crime (which are now proceeds of crime)



The police arrest and charge the person who made the money/property from that crime



That money/property is restrained by the government



The court finds that the money/property made was from that crime



The money/property is forfeited to the government



The person can be found guilty of both the crime and/or dealing in proceeds in crime (possessing that money/property)

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



You cannot spend money made on property (motor vehicle, house, watches etc.) or anything worthwhile



Whatever you make from crime will eventually be confiscated (even years after the crime took place)



Crime does not pay:

# Unexplained wealth

A person accumulates money/property (wealth) from crime



The police reasonably suspect that person's total wealth exceeds the value of the person's wealth that was lawfully acquired



That person must appear before the court to determine whether the police are right



Court finds that the whole or part of the person's wealth was because of crime



That whole or part of the wealth derived from crime must be paid to the government

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



You do not need to be arrested and charged by the police for a crime to have that wealth confiscated by the government

# What does a **criminal record** mean?

- Rejection from job applications
- Limited job promotion prospects
- Affects ability to get a loan for a home
- Affects ability to rent a home
- Restricts ability to travel overseas (e.g. the US has a strict visa entry policy)
- Limited business partnership opportunities
- Affects ability to adopt a child
- Reputation in the community damaged
- Affects social relationships



IF YOU DO GET A CRIMINAL RECORD, YOU CAN TURN  
IT AROUND - **YOU NEED TO WORK HARD FOR IT!**



# Drug dealing

*Selling drugs, including passing them on to friends*

## Why?

- Money
- The lifestyle
- Do not want to work
- Struggling to get a job
- To support a drug addiction
- Adrenaline rush/to feel powerful
- To be part of a criminal group/gang

## Consequences

- Criminal friends will abandon them (drug dealing is about money not friendship)
- Their family and friends will disassociate themselves from them
- Actual and threatened violence from other criminals/gangs:
  - To steal their drugs and money
  - To take over their drug business
- Drugs they sell can injure and/or kill drug users
- Contributing to the addiction of drug users and ruining their lives
- They will be highly stressed about:
  - The police arresting them
  - Other criminals wanting to hurt/rob them
  - The safety of their family and friends

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

**FIND A LAWFUL JOB YOU ENJOY, WORK HARD AND  
ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS (YOU WILL BE HAPPIER IN  
THE LONG-RUN)**



# Drug use

*Includes abusing prescription medicine*

## Why?

- Bored
- Want some form of pain to go away
- Want to experience a new feeling/high
- Want to fit into a group
- Be perceived to be cool
- Eventually, they will be addicted and will do anything to support that addiction

## Consequences

- Ruins their physical appearance (especially premature ageing)
- Changes their personality (erratic, volatile and/or angry)
- Leads to poor school/work performance
- Leads to financial problems
- Can lead to mental health issues
- Catch infectious diseases
- Leads to violence (especially against family and friends)
- Unemployment
- Deteriorates their health (death or serious injury)
- Affects their relationships and friendships

## KEY MESSAGE

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE:** STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS TO AVOID ADDICTION. IF ADDICTED, ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO BEAT IT





# Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs

*Includes riding a push bike or skateboard*

## Why?

- Think they will be fine and justify the risk
- No other transport arrangements available
- Pressured by friends

## Consequences

- Suspension/loss of licence:
  - Cannot drive to work
  - Loss of job and income
  - Cannot attend social functions and other events
- Motor vehicle accident leading to death or serious injury of others and themselves:
  - The family and friends of the person injured/killed will suffer emotionally
- Financial consequences:
  - Damage to motor vehicle/s and other property
  - Insurance premiums increase

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

**DO NOT BE TIGHT, PAYING FOR A TAXI IS CHEAPER  
THAN LOSING YOUR LICENCE AND PAYING A FINE**



# Hooning

*Street racing, burnouts or reckless driving*

## Why?

- Adrenaline and fun
- Pressured by friends
- Think they are an excellent driver/racer
- Look cool

## Consequences

- Suspension/loss of licence:
  - Cannot drive to work
  - Loss of job and income
  - Cannot attend social functions
- Motor vehicle confiscated
- Motor vehicle accident leading to death or serious injury of others and yourself:
  - The family and friends of the person injured/killed will suffer emotionally
- Financial consequences:
  - Damage to motor vehicle/s and other property
  - Insurance premiums increase

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

**IF YOU HAVE THE NEED FOR SPEED, GO TO THE  
RACE TRACK AND RACE LEGALLY**



# Vandalism

*Damaging/ defacing property*

## Why?

- Think it is fun
- Bored or angry
- Want to get revenge or scare the property owner
- Got paid to do it
- Think they are an artist
- Pressured by friends

## Consequences

- Emotional toll on the property owner and their family:
  - Invasion of their privacy
  - Fear of another attack
- Damage the reputation of the local area

## KEY MESSAGE

**TIMES ARE TOUGH**, AND PEOPLE (ESPECIALLY IN WESTERN SYDNEY) WORK HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET, **DO NOT ADD TO THAT BURDEN**



# Robbery and theft

*Robbery = theft + using force (includes threats)*

*Theft = taking another persons property without consent and intent not to return it*

## Why?

- Money
- To support a drug addiction
- Want that item/property
- Adrenaline rush/makes them feel powerful
- Seizing on an opportunity and think they will not get caught

## Consequences

- Loss of trust from employer, family and friends (no one trusts a thief)
- Victims suffer:
  - Their privacy has been invaded and feel vulnerable
  - Robbery is a very traumatic experience for the victim (it can take years to recover)

## KEY MESSAGE

RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO STEAL, **YOU ONLY NEED TO GET CAUGHT ONCE TO HAVE YOUR REPUTATION DAMAGED** (EVEN AMONGST YOUR FRIENDS)





# Criminal groups and gangs

*Committing crimes with a group of friends/associates  
Includes criminal associations*

## Why?

- Want to belong to a group:
  - Respect them/look up to them
  - Comradery/friendship
  - They looked after them as a kid
  - Bored
  - Seen as cool
  - Lonely
  - Want the lifestyle
- Adrenaline rush
- Makes them feel powerful
- Poor performance at school/work

## Consequences

- May be forced to commit various criminal acts even if they do not want to
- Difficult to leave the gang:
  - May be threatened and/or violently attacked by their own gang
  - May be required to pay money to leave
- Stress:
  - Getting caught by the police
  - Their own gang turning on them
  - Other gangs and criminals wanting to hurt them
  - Their family and friends may get worried about them and/or hurt by their own gang, other gangs, and criminals
  - They will lose friends
- Lose education and other professional skills making them financially dependent on the gang
- Possibly develop alcohol and drug dependencies
- Can lead to serious injury/death
- Employment opportunities limited due to police records

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING PURPOSE, JOIN A TEAM THAT  
HELPS PEOPLE RATHER THAN HURTS THEM**



# Revenge porn

*Releasing (without consent) sexual photos or videos of another person to the public*

## Why?

- Hurt someone or get revenge
- To show off
- Think it is cool/funny
- Do not believe it is a serious issue

## Consequences

- The mental toll on the victim is severe which could lead to mental issues and self-physical harm
- Their friends and family will be ashamed for releasing the content
- It does not make them feel any better, it makes them feel worse
- Others will struggle to trust that person again
- If a person in the recording is under 18, it is a child-related offence (can lead to inclusion into the NSW Child Protection Register)

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

ONCE YOU RELEASE A VIDEO/PHOTO, YOU CANNOT  
TAKE IT BACK: **LIVES WILL BE RUINED**



# Assault and other violent acts

*Fights, threats of violence, using weapons etc.*

## Why?

- They get angry and lose control
- Want revenge
- Intoxicated and/or under influence of drugs
- Want to look cool
- Think they will win the fight
- Self-defence gone too far
- Want to see other people sad, hurt and/or depressed

## Consequences

- They might lose the fight
- Being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs does not excuse their conduct
- Be seriously injured (scars, disability etc.) or killed
- Seriously injure or kill another person
- Banned from various venues and premises
- Family and friends will disassociate themselves from them
- One punch could mean imprisonment

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

**THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT OF A FIGHT:  
BE THE BETTER PERSON**



# Fraud

*Obtain a benefit through deception (e.g. selling something that does not exist despite representing that it does)*

## Why?

- Money
- Think they came up with a scheme that will work
- Involved in criminal groups/gangs and other criminal activities

## Consequences

- Loss of trust from employer, family and friends (no one trusts a fraudster)
- It is stealing
- Hurting vulnerable people

## KEY MESSAGE

**EVERYONE WANTS TO DEAL WITH HONEST PEOPLE, IF YOU ARE KNOWN AS A FRAUDSTER, MOST OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED WILL EVAPORATE**





# Bullying and cyber-bullying

*Teasing, intimidating, hurting (mentally or physically) another person*

## Why?

- Want attention
- They are lonely
- They are jealous
- They have a low opinion about themselves
- They want to pick on people they see as different
- Want to see others sad, hurt and/or depressed
- Makes them feel powerful
- They were bullied themselves

## Consequences

- Can be a criminal offence
- The mental toll on the victim can be severe which could lead to mental health issues and self-physical harm
- May lead to fights
- It is not cool
- Others will have a very low opinion about them
- It may eventually lead to abusing their future spouses and children

**KEY  
MESSAGE**

YOU WILL BE **MORE POPULAR AND HAPPY** BEING  
A NICE PERSON



Many people and resources can help you stay away or stop engaging in crime, and provide support if you are a victim.



# What you can **do to help**

SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT  
**CRIME IS NOT WORTH IT**

.....

BE A ROLE MODEL BY **SETTING A  
POSITIVE EXAMPLE** FOR YOUNGER KIDS

.....

**VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK**  
(AT SCHOOL OR WITHIN THE COMMUNITY)

“

WE AS A COMMUNITY INFLUENCE THE TYPE OF  
SOCIETY WE WANT TO LIVE IN, WE SHOULD DO  
OUR BEST TO MAKE IT AS GREAT AS POSSIBLE

”



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