



Response to Anti-Social Behaviour in the City

4 July 2023

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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are located on the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We also extend that respect to visitors of other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

Outline

Cr Abrahamzadeh Motion without Notice – Council 27 June 2023

Requests administration to provide an update to the elected body at the next appropriate committee meeting on any discussion with stakeholders such as State Government Agencies, industry bodies etc and potential solutions on tackling the increasing anti-social behaviour taking place in the Adelaide CBD.

1. Remote & Regional Safety & Wellbeing Taskforce
2. North Terrace/ Riverbank Precinct hot spot
3. Coordinated Response
4. Next Steps

Taskforce

Multi-agency Taskforce for remote and regional safety and wellbeing

Department for Human Services (Chair)

SAPOL

SA Heath

SA Housing Authority

Attorney General's Department

Consumer and Business Services

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Department for Correctional Services

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Non-Government Organisations

Cultural leaders

Local government

Principles

1. Responses must be multi-agency, collaborative, coordinated, flexible, person-centred and assertive
2. Responses must embed Aboriginal community leadership, cultural authority and cultural frameworks
3. There are no 'quick fixes': we must embed governance, planning and collaboration, at both the operational and strategic level, for short, medium and longer-term outcomes
4. Responses must include locally based as well as broader (population-wide) strategies.

Goals:

1. Improved safety and wellbeing of at-risk visitors (and those around them)
2. A reduction in anti-social behaviour by visitors

North Terrace/ Riverbank Precinct

- Heightened levels of anti-social behaviour being experienced along North Terrace, around the train station, and the Riverbank Precinct.
- A younger cohort of remote visitors has been congregating in these locations and using alcohol excessively.
- The cohort involved are using SA Housing Authority tenancies across metropolitan Adelaide for accommodation, commuting to the city by bus or train.
- Theft from bottle shops and hotels and violent behaviours have increased.
- Increased concerns and complaints from businesses and social media about city safety.

Coordinated Response - SAPOL

- SAPOL has commenced an escalated, assertive response to the behaviours in North Terrace.
- Additional SAPOL resources complement the work of Operation Paragon members and will act as a circuit breaker to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour that is occurring.
- SAPOL continues to work with the Licensing Commissioner and the Australian Hotels Association to enforce, educate and monitor the effectiveness of temporary alcohol sale restrictions in and around the CBD.
- Through the Taskforce, SAPOL continues to be proactive in working with other support agencies and services to determine a long term strategy to address the issues of homelessness and displacement of vulnerable people.
- SAPOL advice is that at this stage it is too early to comment on the effectiveness of the increased police response.

Coordinated Response - DHS

- The DHS remote visitor outreach team continues to work closely with SAPOL, other agencies and NGOs to provide outreach services to remote visitors in the CBD and suburbs.
- Outreach staff and cultural advisors and interpreters work intensively with remote visitors for many months at a time to support better system engagement and outcomes that are tailored to each person or families need.

CoA Actions and Next Steps

- In support of the issues being faced on North Terrace, the Lord Mayor and CEO undertook a further night walk with the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services and senior SAPOL staff.
- Administration has subsequently assessed and actioned responses to concerns raised by SAPOL and traders and operators in and around North Terrace, the response has included:
 - Review of lighting on Bank Street to address visibility
 - Addressing outdoor power points vandalised for access
- The Taskforce is leading a coordinated response for the State Government. Focus has been on short-term responses, with recent discussions, including advocacy from CoA to increase effort on medium to long term solutions that drive sustainable and improved outcomes for the individuals.
- One of the City of Adelaide's primary commitments through the Taskforce is to identify a safe place/s to gather in the Park Lands.

CoA Actions and Next Steps

- To date Council has supported two short term responses in the Park Lands: Puti on Kaurna Yerta in December 2021 located in the southern part of Veale Park / Walyu Yarta (Park 21) and 2022/23 Summer Response in Edwards Park / Wirrarninthi (Park 23).
- Administration is finalising options for suitable sites with the appropriate infrastructure and amenity for further consideration by the Taskforce and Council to address the immediate issues faced.
- Administration will continue its role as an active member in the Taskforce with a focus on the longer term solutions required, amongst which includes the need for transitional accommodation.

Thank You