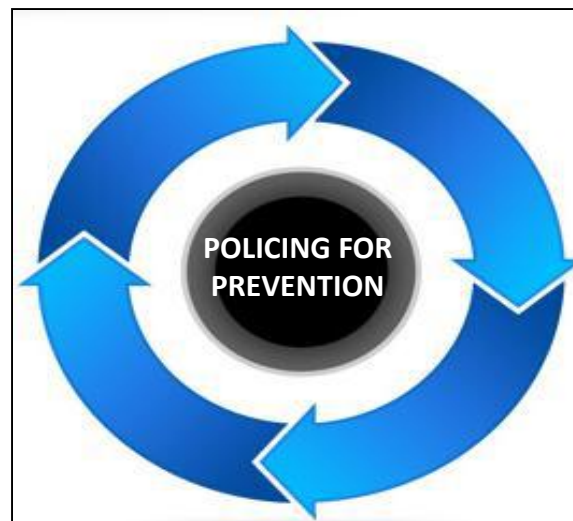




VICTORIA POLICE

Enhancing service delivery for Victoria Police through prevention



ANZSEBP Conference, 2 March 2015

Jessica Mirtsis – Victoria Police



This presentation covers the following points:

- ☐ What is Policing for Prevention (PfP)?
- ☐ How was PfP developed?
- ☐ How is PfP being applied into Victoria Police practice?
- ☐ What are the lessons learned to date?
- ☐ Where to next?

What is Policing for Prevention?

Policing for Prevention aims to:

- ☐ Embed crime prevention and victim support as business as usual.
- ☐ Enhance the policing service so that every member is proactively contributing to the prevention of crime and reduction of victimisation.
- ☐ Embed crime prevention into existing education and training programs.





How was Policing for Prevention developed?

Crime science & evidence-based research

Hot spot policing

Repeat & Near Repeat victimisation

Predictive mapping

Face-to-face contact with the community

Targeted crime prevention advice

Targeted patrols and/or police presence

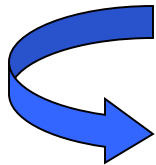
Victim support

Offender management

What does the research evidence tell us?

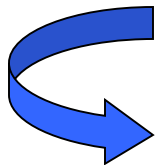
- ➡ Face-to-face engagement with victims by police
- ➡ Police interaction with near neighbours
- ➡ Target hardening programs
- ➡ Referrals for vulnerable victims assistance & support
- ➡ Partnerships with support agencies
- ➡ Crime prevention messaging
- ➡ Deployment of resources in hot spots & high risk locations
- ➡ Recidivist offender management
- ➡ Education & media campaigns
- ➡ Problem-oriented policing

Research studies using crime science theories:



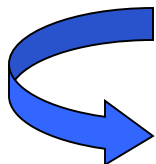
Trafford Experiment (Greater Manchester Police, Trafford, UK)

- Face-to-face contact with victims and neighbours through doorknocks
- Practical crime prevention advice to reduce revictimisation



Koper Curve Theory (Minneapolis Police, USA)

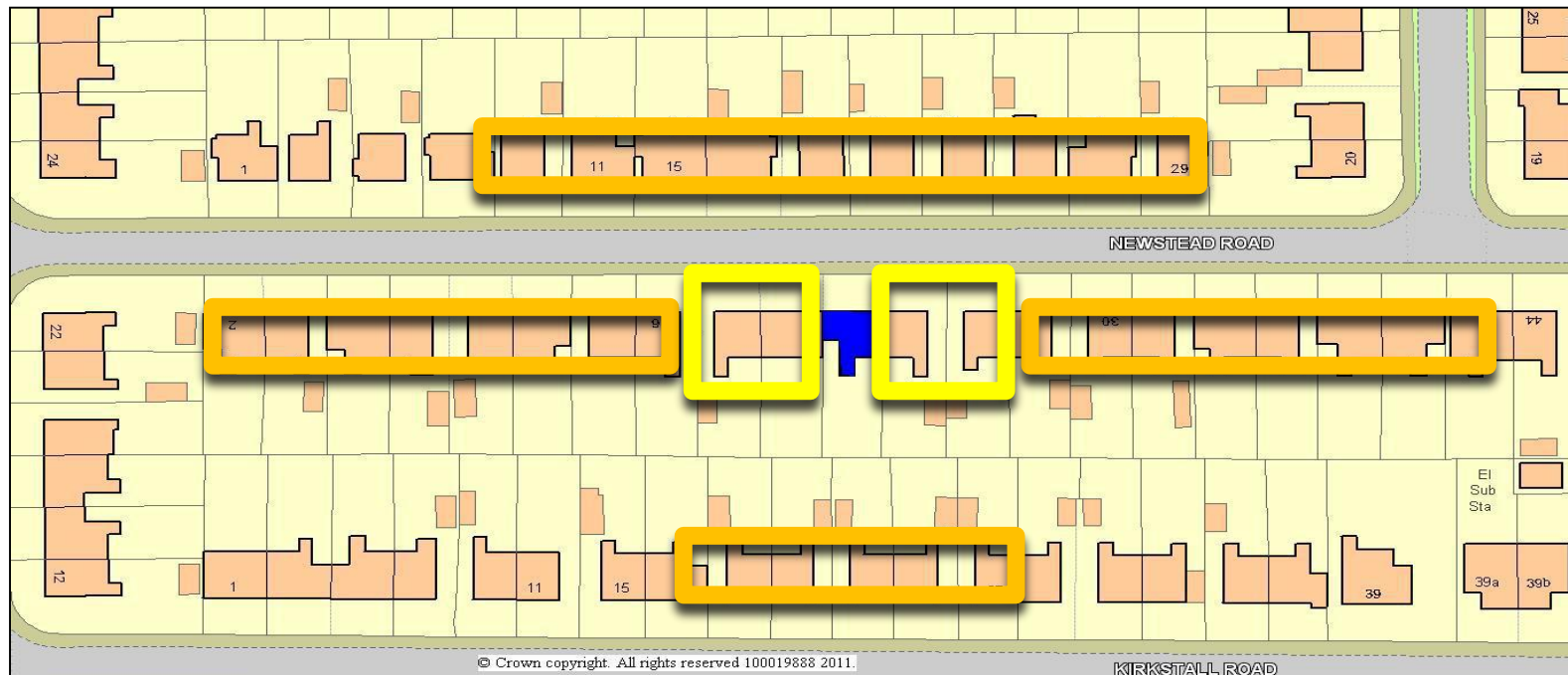
- Hot spot 15 minute patrols
- High visibility policing to deter offenders



Kirkholt Burglary Prevention Project (Kirkholt Estate, England, UK)

- Target hardening to reduce opportunity for crime
- Natural surveillance & police presence

The Trafford Experiment



- Victims and immediate neighbours – 24 hours response
- 'Super Cocooning' nearby residents – within 7 days (= highest risk period)



The Trafford Experiment

INDICATORS:

- Repeat Victims ↓ 73%
- Overall Burglary ↓ 42 %
- In 6 months, 9,423 premises visited (10% of all addresses in Trafford)
- 3,621 residents received face-to-face (38.4%)

Koper Curve Theory

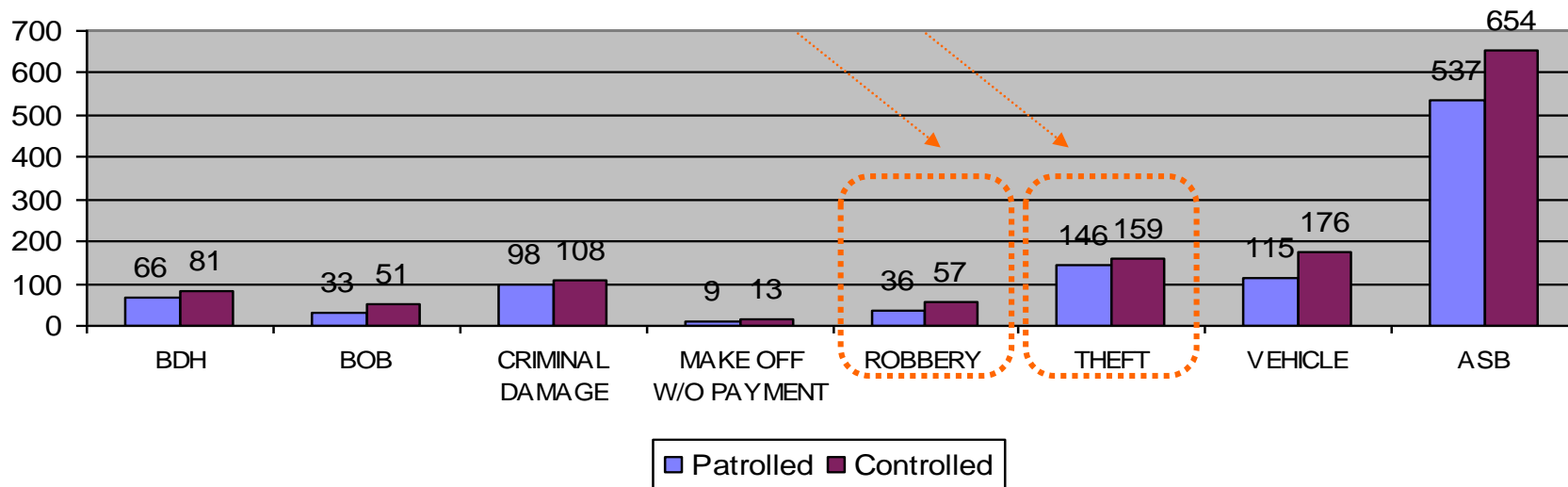


Research findings: Police officers who are highly visible in **hot spots** for **12 to 16 minutes** can cause a reduction in crime within that hot spot both during and after police presence.

- ➡ Patrol for about one hour per day (i.e. 4 X 15 minute patrols)
- ➡ Patrol at random intervals
- ➡ Patrol for between 4 - 7 days per week
- ➡ Vary patrol activities: e.g. manual slow roving in cars; fixed presence at specific locations (i.e. corners); walking in area and talking to residents.

Koper Curve Theory

Comparison of Patrolled and Controlled Areas



Incidents Between 14th November 2012
and 18th September 2013

| | Patrolled | Controlled | Difference In Patrolled |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| Total Incidents | 618 | 792 | -174 |

ACHIEVING POLICING FOR PREVENTION



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How is Policing for Prevention being achieved?

- Phased implementation across 2 pilot divisions, for 12 months responding to:
 - ☐ Residential Burglary.
 - ☐ Theft from Motor Vehicle.



*Make sure that doors
and windows are locked*

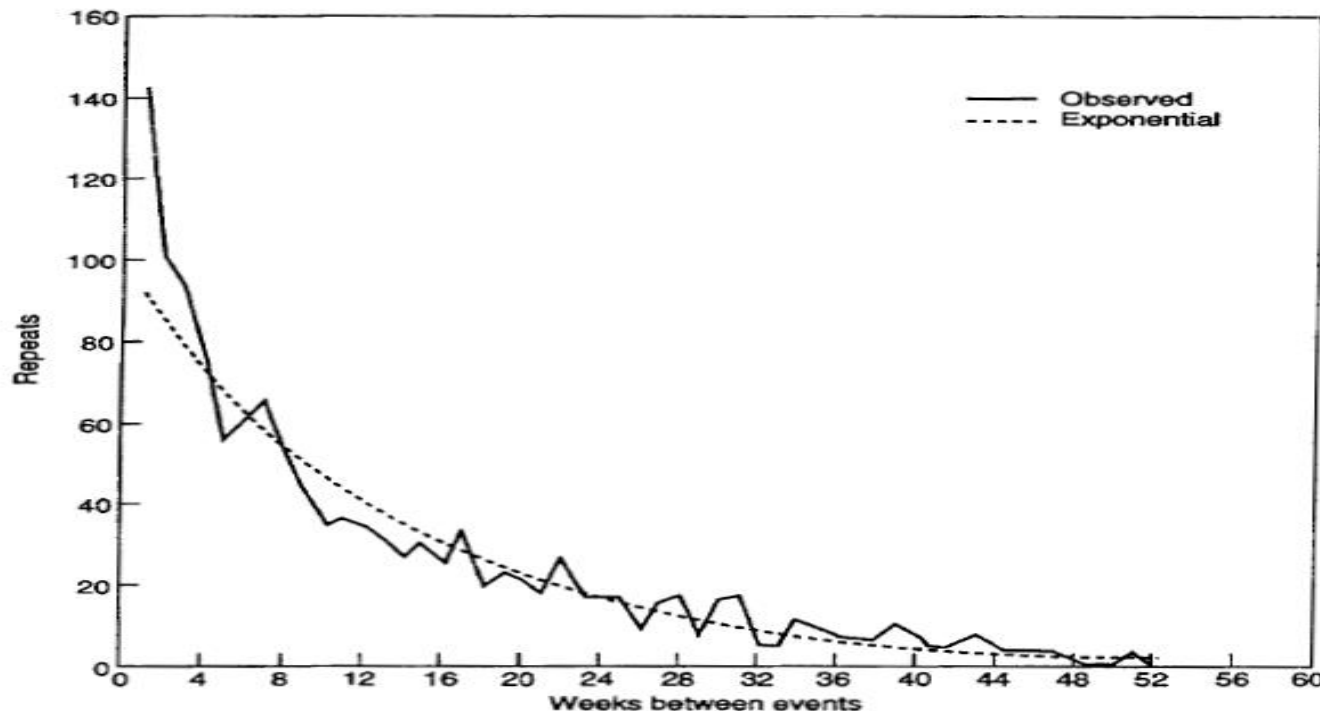


*Don't leave your valuables
on display in your home
and remove them when
leaving your car*



Victims
of Crime
Helpline

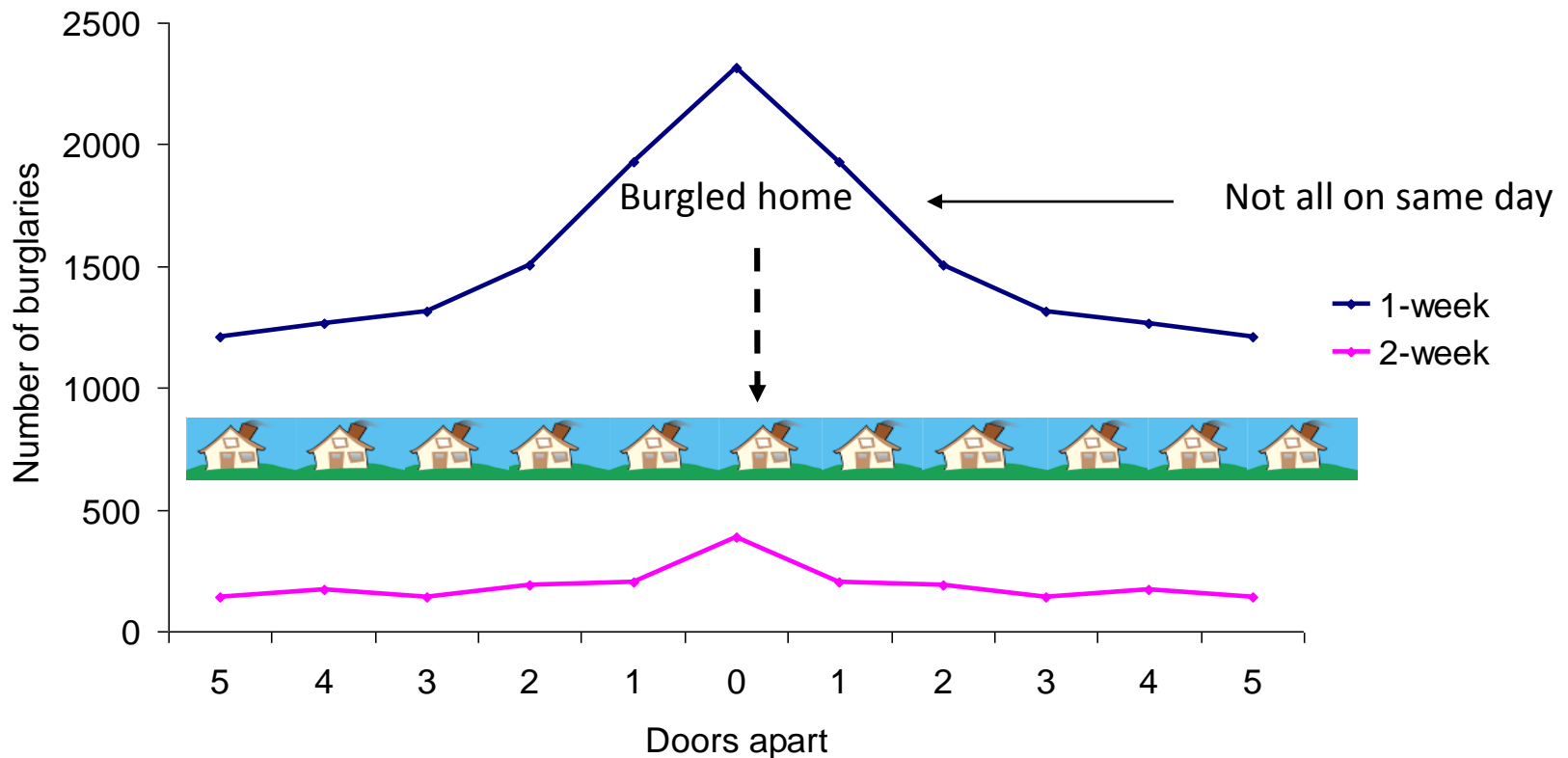
Repeat Victimisation



- ❑ Prior victimisation is a strong predictor of future risk
- ❑ Repeat burglary victimisation occurs swiftly

Source: Johnson, S.D., Bowers, K.J., & Hirschfield (1997). New Insights into the Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Repeat Victimization. *British Journal of Criminology*, 37(2), 224-241.

Neighbour effects: Near repeats



Source: Bowers, K.J., and Johnson, S.D. (2005). Domestic burglary repeats and space-time clusters: the dimensions of risk. *European Journal of Criminology*, 2(1), 67-92.

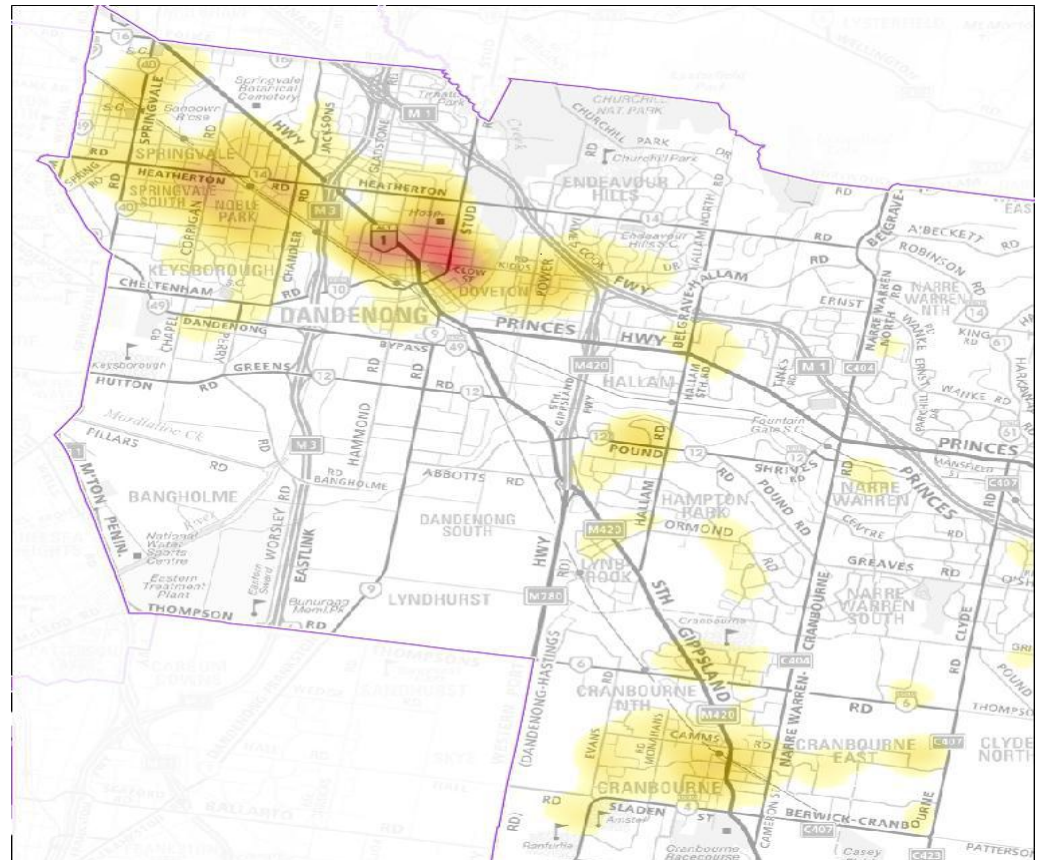
Face-to-Face Messaging



- ☐ **Inform:** Inform the resident that a burglar is operating in the area. There is a chance that the offenders may strike again, especially over the next 2-4 weeks.
- ☐ **Advise:** Strongly encourage to install proper locks & use. Be vigilant & report suspicious behaviour. 000 or Crime Stoppers
- ☐ **Reassure:** Although they are at heightened risk they are far less likely to be a victim if they follow the crime prevention advice. Police are actively patrolling the area. Speak with other residents & look after each other.

Hot Spot Policing

- ❑ Hot spot policing used effectively can result in crime prevention outcomes
- ❑ Unintended benefits outweigh limited displacement effects



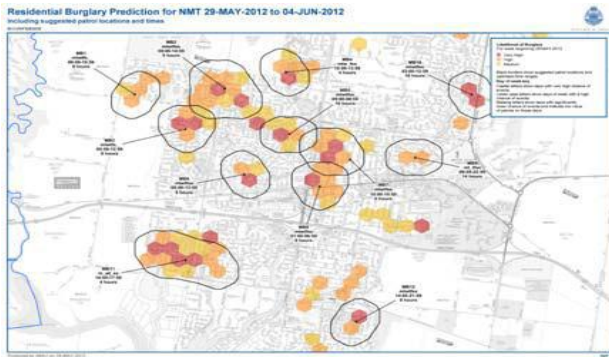
Predictive Policing

Residential Burglary Prediction for NMT 29-MAY-2012 to 04-JUN-2012
Including suggested patrol locations and times



What does the pilot involve?

Whole of workforce
Targeted policing activities in hot spots
Reassurance prevention messages
Face-to-face contact victims & nearby neighbours
Recidivist management
Predictive policing of near repeats
Media & education



PHASE 1: Features of the Residential Burglary Response

| POLICE RESPONSE | TARGETED ACTIVITIES |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Initial Response | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Face-to-face contact with victims at the scene✓ 7 day (f2f) & 30 day (telephone) victim follow-up✓ Targeted prevention advice to the victim at time of offence✓ Door knocks of nearby neighbours to gather intelligence and provide crime prevention advice✓ Printed information for victims and nearby residents at the time of the offence |
| Secondary Response – Hot Spots | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Targeted 15 minute patrols in identified hot spot areas in the week of the initial offence to deter offenders and engage the community with prevention advice✓ Face-to-face contact with neighbours up to 200m of initial burglary. Targeted crime prevention advice to reduce the risk of victimisation✓ Revisit where resources allow for those not home. Not home again = PFP crime prevention letter & postcard |

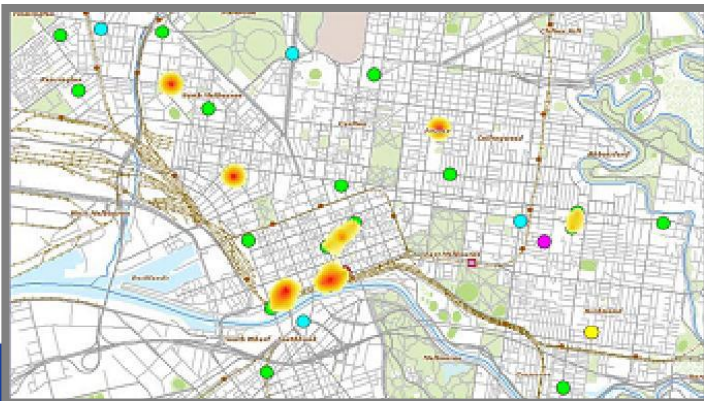
Indicators to date: Residential Burglary Response Strategy

- ☐ Face-to-face contacts with victims: **over 1000**
- ☐ Face-to-face contacts with nearby neighbours: **6200+**
- ☐ Enhanced VSA referrals for practical support
- ☐ Embedded Intel practitioner support:
 - Use of predictive mapping for residential burglary
 - Increased intelligence & information sharing.
 - Strengthened T&C processes.
 - Enhanced capability of the DIU & intelligence products.



What does the TFMV research tell us?

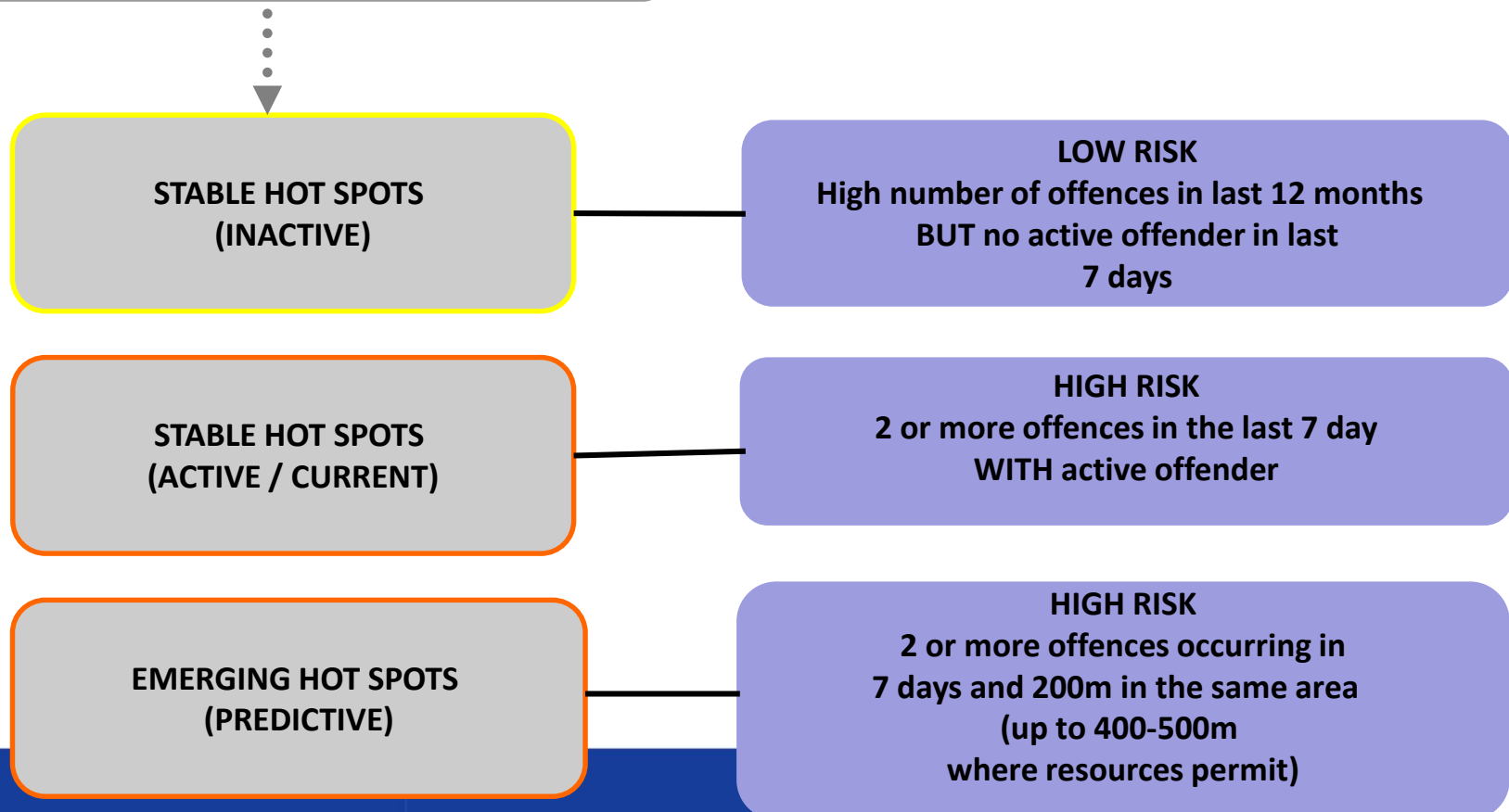
- ☐ Crime clusters in space and time.
- ☐ Time and opportunity impact on TFMV offences.
- ☐ TFMV often occurs during residential burglaries.
- ☐ Vehicles left unattended and/or parked for long periods of time (e.g. railway stations, off street residential streets or in public car parks) are often targeted.



**RISK = Time +
Distance**

Key Concepts & Elements of TFMV Response Strategy:

3 LEVELS OF HOT SPOT RESPONSE



ACHIEVING POLICING FOR PREVENTION



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Key Concepts & Elements of TFMV Response Strategy:

3 LEVELS OF HOT SPOT RESPONSE



**STABLE HOT SPOTS
(INACTIVE)**

**STABLE HOT SPOTS
(ACTIVE / CURRENT)**

**EMERGING HOT SPOTS
(PREDICTIVE)**

TREATMENT RESPONSES



RESIDENTIAL STREETS

CAR PARKS

THIS IS ALL INFORMED BY INTELL & LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE (LOCATION, OFFENDERS,
VICTIMS), PROBLEM SOLVING & SCANNING
OF KNOWN ENVIRONMENT & CONSIDERED
OVERLAY OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES IN
THE AREA



Supporting activities for the pilot

☐ Working with our internal & external stakeholders, including:

- ☐ Intelligence and Covert Support Command
- ☐ Media and Corporate Communications Department
- ☐ Victims Support Agency, Department of Justice & Regulation

☐ Education and training:

- ☐ Dedicated intranet page with strategy resources
- ☐ Information and training sessions at pilot sites
- ☐ PfP Familiarisation and Online Crime Prevention Communications Module
- ☐ Presentations at Insp & Supt Development programs
- ☐ Presentations at other forums & meetings





Key themes and lessons learned to date

- ☐ Balanced approach
- ☐ Leadership, compliance & commitment
- ☐ Cultural and mindset change
- ☐ Local level problem solving
- ☐ Coordinated effort
- ☐ Strategic focus
- ☐ 'Organic growth'
- ☐ Robust T&C process & sound intelligence model
- ☐ Strategies cannot work in isolation - in conjunction with a broader framework
- ☐ Everyone has a responsibility in crime prevention & victim support

Where to next?

Review & Evaluation

- ☐ Progress Review = process focused (December 2014)
- ☐ Final Evaluation = process & outcome focused (October 2015)

INTENDED OUTCOME:

To build an evidence based for Victoria Police & inform ways to enhance service delivery by strengthening focus on crime prevention and victim support.

QUESTIONS?



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT
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AT SAFERCOMMUNITIESUN@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU