

Exploring Safety in Casey (2021-2025)

What We Heard and What We Did

Between 2021 and 2025, the City of Casey worked closely with residents to understand how people experience safety in their everyday lives and what practical actions could improve it.

This work, known as *Exploring Safety in Casey*, brought together thousands of community voices through household surveys and face-to-face conversations at Council and community events.

Rather than focusing on crime alone, the project explored how safety is experienced in daily life: at home, in parks, shopping centres, transport hubs and car parks, and when moving around at night. It helped Council understand how factors such as design, lighting, maintenance, visibility, activity and connection influence how safe people feel.

What the Community Told Us

Over several years, residents consistently shared that:

- Most people felt safe in Casey during the day, but felt less safe at night
- Public spaces, shopping centres, transport hubs and car parks were commonly avoided after dark
- Poor lighting, graffiti, neglected spaces and antisocial behaviour reduced feelings of safety
- Concerns about theft, antisocial behaviour and youth-related issues increased over time
- Feeling safe was strongly linked to community connection, knowing neighbours and seeing familiar faces
- Residents wanted visible safety measures, including improved lighting, safer street design, safety infrastructure and police presence
- People wanted Council to not only listen, but to act reporting back on what was done

These themes remained consistent across locations, age groups and engagement methods, providing Council with a clear evidence base for action.

What Council Did in Response

The findings from *Exploring Safety in Casey* were used to guide real, practical action across Council and with partner agencies. Community feedback was embedded into decision-making, funding applications, place-based design and partnership responses.

National Road Safety Action Grant Funding to Improve Safety

Through the National Road Safety Action Grant, Council strengthened its evidence-led approach to improving safety around schools and local streets.

Community feedback captured through *Exploring Safety in Casey* highlighted strong concern about traffic speeds, driver behaviour and safety around schools particularly during peak drop-off and pick-up times. These insights helped shape the focus of Casey's *Safe Around Schools* program, supported through the National Road Safety Action Grants Program and delivered in partnership with schools, families and other agencies.

By combining community perceptions with on-the-ground experience, the program supported safer school precincts, encouraged active travel and ensured community voices directly informed both local action and nationally shareable road safety guidance.

Securing Federal Funding for CCTV in Partnership with Victoria Police

Council secured Federal Government funding to support the deployment of police-operated mobile CCTV trailers across Casey, delivered in partnership with Victoria Police. Feedback from residents through *Exploring Safety in Casey* highlighted ongoing concerns about antisocial behaviour, hooning and safety in specific public places, alongside a strong expectation that safety responses be targeted and evidence-based.

Developing a Comprehensive Graffiti Management Program (2026-2030)

Council's *Graffiti Management Program 2026-2030* takes an evidence-led approach to keeping Casey's streets and public spaces clean, safe and welcoming.

Insights from *Exploring Safety in Casey* showed that graffiti is not only an amenity issue, but also strongly linked to perceptions of safety particularly in activity centres, transport corridors and locations experiencing repeat vandalism. This feedback directly informed a stronger focus on rapid graffiti removal, targeted hotspot responses and preventative measures to reduce repeat tagging.

The program also prioritises community reporting, partnerships with other agencies and property owners, and ongoing monitoring to ensure responses are focused where community concern is highest. By using local data to guide action, Council is responding directly to what residents told us matters most for improving safety, pride and confidence in public spaces.

Focusing on Places That Matter Most

Council focuses its community safety efforts on places that matter most to residents: locations where people gather, travel and spend time, and where perceptions of safety have the greatest impact on daily life.

Insights from *Exploring Safety in Casey* consistently highlighted specific public spaces where residents felt unsafe, often due to antisocial behaviour, poor lighting or lack of activity. These insights directly informed place-based responses such as the revitalisation of Greg Clydesdale Square in Cranbourne, where community feedback and safety data supported improvements including better lighting, clearer sightlines, increased seating and activation of the space through community use.

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Similar data-led approaches have been applied in other locations where repeat concerns were raised, prioritising maintenance, lighting, graffiti removal and partnership responses. The same community-led insights are now being used by other Council teams to inform the design of future projects, ensuring safety issues identified by residents are addressed from the outset.

Improving Lighting, Maintenance and Amenity

Improving lighting, maintenance and overall amenity is a key way Council responds to where residents told us they feel least safe.

Feedback from *Exploring Safety in Casey* consistently identified poor lighting, neglected infrastructure and visible signs of disorder as major contributors to feeling unsafe. This insight has informed targeted improvements at places such as Ray Bastin Reserve, where ongoing maintenance of paths, seating and surrounding infrastructure supports a safer and more welcoming environment. A similar evidence-led approach has been applied at Pioneers Park, where lighting audits and amenity assessments guided repairs to existing infrastructure rather than unnecessary new installations.

By focusing on practical, place-based improvements guided by local data, Council is addressing both safety and amenity in the locations that matter most to the community.

Supporting Young People and Prevention

Council supports young people by investing in programs that build skills, confidence and positive connections, recognising the important role young people play in shaping safe communities.

Feedback from *Exploring Safety in Casey* highlighted the need for prevention, education and meaningful engagement rather than enforcement alone. This insight informed initiatives such as the *Empowering Communities Grant*, which funded school-based programs helping young people develop strategies to prevent violence and make safer choices.

The *Graffiti Management Program 2026–2030* also includes youth-focused education and creative pathways to reduce vandalism and improve pride in place and through projects such as *Safer Cities*, Council works with secondary schools to empower students to identify safety issues that matter to them and co-design practical solutions grounded in lived experience.

Working with Other Agencies

Many safety concerns raised by residents relate to areas beyond Council's direct control. Community feedback has strengthened Council's advocacy with Victoria Police, transport authorities and other partners, providing clear evidence to support shared action.

Council works closely with the Safer Casey Community Reference Group and partners including Neighbourhood Watch Casey, Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers, owners' corporations and local business and industry. Insights from *Exploring Safety in Casey* help prioritise shared actions, focus attention on key locations and support coordinated, place-based responses that address both crime and community concern.

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