

Community Costs of Crime

Whilst many crimes take a short time to commit, the effects can be long standing and long ranging.

A crime does not only affect the direct victim but also family, friends and the community.

Crimes can have such a devastating impact upon the victims that they may relocate.

In smaller communities this can lead to the closure of a business, upon which that community may depend. Relocation also means that social networks change – children may start at a new school, parents may start new jobs in new industries or towns, leaving family and friendships behind.

If a business is targeted and the owners decide to close the business, this not only affects the community in that they no longer have access to the business, but employees may lose their jobs, and thus the ripple effect of the crime continues on. The effects of crime can be financial – prices may increase to cover the costs of lost stock, compensation and insurance. This, in the long run, affects a community.

Crime does not have to occur at work to affect work. For some, it is necessary to take time off to recover emotionally or physically or both. The pressure of limited income can be enormous for those who do not have income protection or significant sick leave, particularly if self employed. Returning to work may be a slow journey and support from family, friends and colleagues is invaluable for recovery.

Victim Support Service is available for staff presentations and talks to community groups and businesses regarding effects on individuals and businesses.

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