

BUILDING PROGRESS FOR A SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITY

CREATING PROGRESS, TOGETHER.

PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY

mparnTwe
ALICE SPRINGS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Q1 WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MAJOR DRIVERS OF CRIME IN ALICE SPRINGS?

I think that there are many reasons why crime exists in our town.

World data will prove that poverty, disadvantage, housing and lack of education are major contributors.

A very unstable upbringing where a father's guidance is missing is also a major contributor to crime. Hence the saying: 'Where is the man?'

When we begin to look at the types of crime that are happening now, it becomes apparent that car thefts, break-ins and those types of crimes are being committed by young people who are seeking some enjoyment, some thrill, which makes them smile and be happy by hurting people.

Watching sadness and hurt on a victim's face has become an enjoyment and an adrenaline rush, which gives a feeling of great reward to the perpetrator of the crime.

To many of these youths, it's like a competition to see who can achieve the most hurt.

They can then discuss the incident and the crime (with a large amount of boasting sprinkled on top).

These are people who have no empathy, and no respect for anything.

For them, respect, planning and the ability to think are what those other people do...I can't be what I can't see!

When people think deeply about this it is easy to get into negative thinking patterns and a dark space and get caught up in a lack of appreciation for everything that is a different colour.

Q2 WHAT ARE THE KEY THINGS THAT WOULD HELP CREATE PROGRESS TOWARDS A SAFER TOWN?

We need to change the thinking and the narrative around fixing up the bush.

Why is it that thinking that the Aboriginal person no longer wants to live out remote is so hard to talk about?

The thinking of many Aboriginal people is that they want to be in a town where access to services, food and fun is much more available.

Why are we pumping so much money into developing remote when that part of history has failed? Maybe building and developing a place like Ti Tree makes more sense, where there is an economy, horticulture, plenty of water, a highway, a railway that connects the country and soon a mine. Disperse the crowd with investment where there is an economy that can be sustained.

Alice Springs needs more psychologists in rehabilitation centres and prisons because this is the only space where an offender's mind is quiet and calm.

The loudness of alcohol, gambling, sex, DV, and car ram-raiding drowns out everything else.

And kids grow up and around all this.

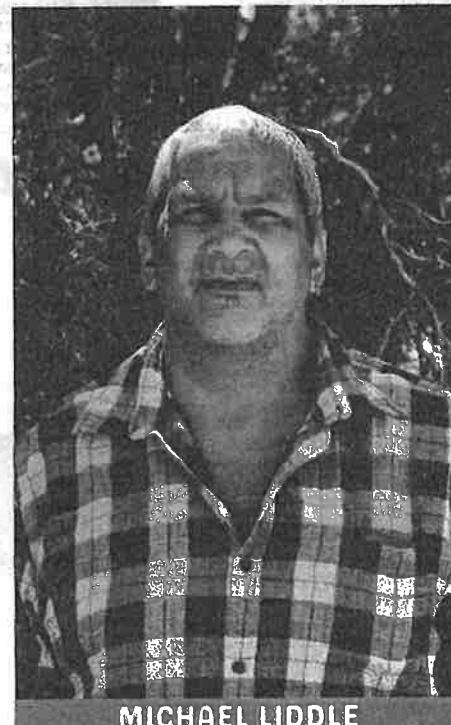
Well, it's loud and clear that alcohol consumption and the level of consumption is a major hurdle here. On the streets conversations are just focused on surviving the day – that survival encompasses Centrelink, banks, Kentucky Fried, pubs, hospitals, and Congress.

The ability to plan a future other than short term just isn't important.

People need to understand that to fix something that is broken we must have the tools and if we aren't equipped with tools, it can't be fixed – whether it's an air-conditioner, a car or a human!

If people aren't educated or even unable to read and write in 2024, the depth of the problem will remain.

In the situation as it stands, it is worth asking ourselves honestly: What type of talk am I leaving behind? What type of image am I seeing that can sculpt the future? Is it improved education for our children so it helps people to effectively close the Gap? Or is it that I am unwilling to follow the rules of living properly in a town like Alice Springs, in which case we will stay bogged in the creek of disadvantage, and Closing the Gap will remain just a slogan because of the unwillingness to change!



MICHAEL LIDDLE

Michael Liddle is an Alyawarr man who is an advocate for mental health and well-being for Indigenous men. Michael believes that progress comes through responsibility and self-determination, emphasising the importance of Aboriginal people leading change while preserving their identity and connection to their land.



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