

It's not unusual these days to see police 'walking the beat' through shopping malls and peddling push bikes around the suburban hotspots, or community night patrol staff helping intoxicated people into their vans to carry them to a safe refuge.

Police and community patrols have become a highly visible part of our everyday lives but, more importantly, are vital for tackling street crime and anti-social behaviour and keeping people out of harm's way, particularly if they're intoxicated.

Police conduct regular patrols by foot, bicycle, trail bike and even by horse, depending on the terrain they need to cover. The patrols reflect a move away from reactive to proactive policing and create a prominent police presence, which helps build good relations and community confidence that steps are being taken to keep troublemakers at bay.

Mission Australia Community Day Patrols provide an intervention role between 6:00am and 4:00pm from Monday to Friday in Darwin and Palmerston, in conjunction with the Larrakia Nation Information and Referral Office, NT Police, Darwin City Council, community service agencies and in response to calls from the general public.

Community patrol staff do the rounds of local areas including identified hot spots, helping, advising or referring people who want to escape their current itinerant lifestyles.

The Larrakia Nation Information and Referral Office provides services which includes assisting or referring clients to accommodation, access to the user-pays "Return to Home" program, proof of identification cards, day activity programs and referral to other health services.

Community night patrols run between 4.00pm-11.00pm from Monday to Saturday, and patrol staff are in close radio contact with police at all times to assist with clients if required.

The main purpose of this service is to minimize anti-social behaviour, protect people from harm and take intoxicated people to the safety of sobering up shelters.

Mission Australia staff have no policing powers and can only transport people who voluntarily choose to use their services. They will immediately call in and assist police if they come across aggressive or harmful situations.

To contact Mission Australia's Community Day or Night Patrol Services

Phone **89480793** or **89480523**

