



## CHARNWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

[www.nhwact.com.au](http://www.nhwact.com.au)

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### **WARNING FROM SCAMWATCH**

Scamwatch is warning members of the public about a spate of text messages asking for emergency assistance. These messages are coming from phone numbers not in your mobile contacts. For example, the text message might read "please call me back right away. It is an Emergency. I need your help." People who have called the number back report being verbally abused by a recording on the other end. This is a new and emerging issue. While people have not yet reported losing money as a result of these calls, you may find the content of the recording distressing. Scamwatch therefore advises that you exercise caution or do not respond to these text messages.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN 2019: SOCIAL MEDIA IS CHANGING HOW WE INTERACT WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS**

(Adapted and abridged from an online article on ABC Radio Perth by Gian De Poloni)



Do you remember the last time you had a face-to-face chat with your neighbour; perhaps you asked them to check your mail or take your wheelie bin out when you're on holidays? With apartment living, social media and non-traditional working hours forming cornerstones of modern life, it's not unusual that many people would have little interaction with those living closest to them. In the 1980s and 1990s, the national Neighbourhood Watch program encouraged people to get to know each other in the interest of keeping their communities safe.

But Neighbourhood Watch national chairman Bernie Durkin told Geoff Hutchinson on ABC Radio Perth that those days were probably over.

"In the old days, people would go and have a cup of tea with their neighbours and we'd have suburb meetings — that doesn't happen so much," he said.

"We have moved into the technological age and social media is certainly now a big part of Neighbourhood Watch."

Deborah Sessions from the Perth suburb of Belmont regularly keeps in touch with her neighbours through a group chat app on her mobile phone.

"If one of our neighbours hears a noise or there's someone hanging around outside their property, they send a message on WhatsApp and we all get it straight away," she said.

"Whoever is home and available can go out and take a look and make sure everything is OK.

"We can call the police, we can call the community watch — we're all there for each other."

Ms Sessions said she felt safe knowing she could reach her neighbours with just a few taps of her fingers.

"We've had quite a few crime incidents and so have the neighbours," she said.

"We know that there's somebody at the end of that phone, whichever neighbour it will be that sees it."

Mr Durkin said people's reluctance to communicate with their neighbours in person was a sign of the times.

"We live in a busy world, unfortunately," he said.

"People will take time to go to the gym or go out for dinner, but they're just reluctant to get involved with other things that are happening in their suburb.

"But we need it more than ever before; by communicating with our neighbours, we can make our communities a safer place to live.

"That's what Neighbourhood Watch was originally brought in for — for neighbours to communicate with each other, to keep an eye out for each other.

"It's still there, it's still strong — we're just using different forms of communication — but nothing beats face to face."

### CHARNWOOD CRIME STATISTICS: JANUARY 2019

Date	Street	Crime
03/01/2019	Tillyard Drive	Assault other
04/01/2019	Tomsitt Court	Other property damage
06/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Assault other
06/01/2019	Lhotsky Street	Other theft
07/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Other property damage
07/01/2019	Garrad Court	Other property damage
08/01/2019	Cory Place	Other property damage
11/01/2019	Yuille Place	Other property damage
11/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Other property damage
13/01/2019	Mc Dougall Street	Assault other
19/01/2019	Kerr Place	Theft of vehicle number plates
21/01/2019	Tomsitt Court	Other property damage
23/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Assault other
23/01/2019	Cartwright Street	Other property damage
24/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Other property damage
26/01/2019	Charnwood Place	Other theft
28/01/2019	Cartwright Street	Other theft



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