



NSW Police Force
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**Message to parents
from the Commander
Northern Beaches Police Area Command**

There has been a significant deterioration in the behaviour of young people in the area. Teens, ages ranging from 13 to 18, from local schools, are out at all hours of the night, fuelled up on alcohol and drugs, both illegal and prescription.

They're reacting angrily and aggressively towards members of the public, bus drivers, and police. Some are engaged in malicious damage to property, assault, and even interfering with police trying to do their jobs.

It's behaviour that's escalated from the problematic to, in some cases, the criminal. People, including police, are being attacked and injured.

Your children should know that we have the power to stop, interview, arrest and charge those committing criminal offences.

They should also know that our officers are equipped with body worn cameras that record, in high-definition video and crystal-clear sound, everything happening around them, and that cameras are also on our buses and in the general community.

This means our ability to identify, find and charge those committing criminal acts has improved markedly. If we don't stop them on the night, we will use the video and audio captured on these cameras to determine who they are, where they live and come knocking on their parents' door.

I have seen this video, and even with more than three decades as a police officer I find the levels of anger and aggression some young people are bringing to the streets particularly confronting.

I am also surprised at the freedom enjoyed, particularly by the 13 and 14-year olds who are roaming our streets at midnight under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

So parents, I ask that you talk to your children and let them know that criminal behaviour will have consequences. Tell them they should not step in and hinder police who are engaged with someone but stand back and not get involved.

Enforce with them that our ability to find those committing criminal offences has improved markedly and that they will be found and held to account.

Please work with us to restore the peace and amenity for everyone living, working in and visiting this wonderful part of the world.

Superintendent Dave Darcy
Commander.

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