



Petty crime link to squatters - Sunday Times/Home Publication/Prestige Property/Sunday Style (Perth, Australia) - December 20, 2015 - page 31

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MORE than a dozen squatters have been evicted from empty inner-city buildings as part of a new police operation aiming to tackle a spike in petty crime.

Under Operation Ahmoseto, police are targeting squatters and “gathering intelligence” to engage with the homeless. Ten squatters have been removed from Cheviot Lodge, a former hostel on Bulwer St in Highgate.

Another three squatters were evicted from the **Stirling Towers** on Smith St. Perth police station officer-in-charge Glenn Spencer said removing squatters was just one facet of the operation.

“Homelessness itself is not illegal, but certainly police have a role to play ... we are engaging with those people that we believe to be homeless and asking them questions about their circumstances,” Sen-Sgt Spencer said.

He said the operation was also aimed to address a spike in car break-ins across East Perth and Kings Park, as well as shoplifting in the CBD. The operation will continue up until late January.

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