



Improving community safety through collaborative efforts

## Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

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### SCFNZ Strategy (2017-2020)

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## Foundation Structure

Safe Community Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) was established in 2004 to specifically support communities become effective advocates and enablers of injury and violence prevention at community level. SCFNZ is a non-government organisation with charitable trust status, a Safe Community Support and Accrediting Centre of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN). SCFNZ adopts both public health and community development principles in its approach to increasing well-being through safety promotion, injury and violence prevention. SCFNZ also aligns to the theory of Injury Prevention as Social Change (McClure RJ, et al. Inj Prev June 2016 Vol 22 No 3. webinar) reframing injury prevention at the population level through a systemic approach.

SCFNZ is funded by Accident Compensation Corporation, Ministry of Health, and Health Promotion Agency. SCFNZ has both the capacity and capability to provide ongoing services to the local, regional, national and international Safe Communities movement.

SCFNZ works with the existing and new community coalitions to increase well-being through growing and strengthen community safety activities, to create safer environments, and increase the adoption of safer behaviors. SCFNZ supports and encourages community governance groups to build safety capacity and achieve recognition as Pan Pacific Accredited Safe Communities. Since inception there has been exponential growth of Safe Communities within NZ, with almost 68% of New Zealanders live in an accredited Safe Community.

This strategic plan sets the direction and focus through to 2020.

**SCFNZ Vision:** That all people in their communities can live, work and play safely, free from preventable injury and violence. Te hanga i te wahi haumarua ki te ora, mahi, me te tākarō

**SCFNZ Mission:** To build and maintain a network of Safe Communities that are committed to and actively engaged in creating safer environments and increasing the adoption of safer behaviours.

**SCFNZ Principles:** Safety is a: fundamental human right; a shared responsibility; an attainable aspiration.

### Underpinning Values

- Honesty, respect and integrity
- Embrace diversity (understanding) and accepting the differences in structure of each community
- Participation and partnerships - Collaboration is the heart of what we do
- Strength - our work is based on local and internationally recognised accreditation criteria and evidence
- Evidence-based approach to setting priorities, designing implementable scalable solutions, and evaluating impact
- Flexibility and choice underpins our support for communities, being nationally led, but community delivered.
- We embrace innovation to achieve the best level of support for communities

The Manifesto for Safe Communities states that *“All human beings have an equal right to health and safety”*

### What we want to achieve?

Four strategic priorities were identified for focus:

1. Support community’s capability and impact in identifying high risk injury areas (focus on what is important)
2. Mentoring to create efficient coordination of community efforts for more effective impact
3. Strengthen community’s capacity and capability in mobilising actions
4. Community evaluation to demonstrate contribution in reducing injury

The unique value of SCFNZ is to provide support for the accreditation of communities currently engaged in community safety initiatives. An accreditation process provides not only support for communities, but an indication of a level of achievement within the field of community safety promotion. Pan Pacific accreditation formalises community’s commitment to continue to work in a collaborative and systemic way. Providing the ideal platform and channels for central and local government to increase well-being and reduce injuries, violence and crime through a focus on collaborative governance, priority setting, effective interventions and shared learning. SCFNZ has robust accreditation procedures and resources based on the Pan Pacific recommendations.

Safe Communities is not another project or a programme, it’s an integrated way of doing business. The model is recognised by WHO and worldwide as an effective and acceptable intervention that improves community well-being and reduces the burden of injury experienced by individuals, families, and communities. The emphasis of the Safe Communities approach is on collaboration, partnership and community capacity building to reduce the incidence of injury and promote injury and violence-reducing behaviours.



## Contribution

Safe Community coalitions acknowledge that no single agency or organisation can possibly claim to be solely responsible for achieving a result like “A safe community” and recognise that it takes the unique contributions of a range of government and community partners to achieve conditions like:

- People in [name of community] feel safe (community well-being)
- People in [name of community] know how to keep themselves safe (community resilience)
- Everyone works together to improve community safety in [name of community] (collaboration approach)

Distinguishing between attribution and contribution, SCFNZ is committed to support accredited Safe Communities to improving their performance and focus on asking “Who else can we be partnering with to make a difference?” and “How do we improve the performance of our programmes?”

In New Zealand, injury (whether accidental or as a result of violence) is the leading cause of death for ages 1 to 34 years, and the second leading cause of hospitalisation. The injury burden is immense in terms of resulting disabilities, health expenditures, lost productivity, personal suffering and loss of quality of life.

While general injury and safety concerns are often recognised by communities as causes for concern, frequently such groups require evidence to indicate where community safety initiatives should be specifically focused. ‘Safety’ is a concept that is concerned with achieving a positive state of wellbeing among people within social and physical environments. It is as much concerned with a subjective dimension – the perception of safety – as it is with the objective dimension – the absence of injury. Therefore, to develop and nurture injury-free communities it is necessary to address diverse perceptions of ‘safety’ and ‘injury prevention’ while alongside intervening to reduce the behavioural, environmental and sociological factors which produce injuries.

## Strategic Links

SCFNZ develops collaborative relationships with government agencies, Territorial Authorities, organisations and businesses to influence significant changes in key areas of community safety.

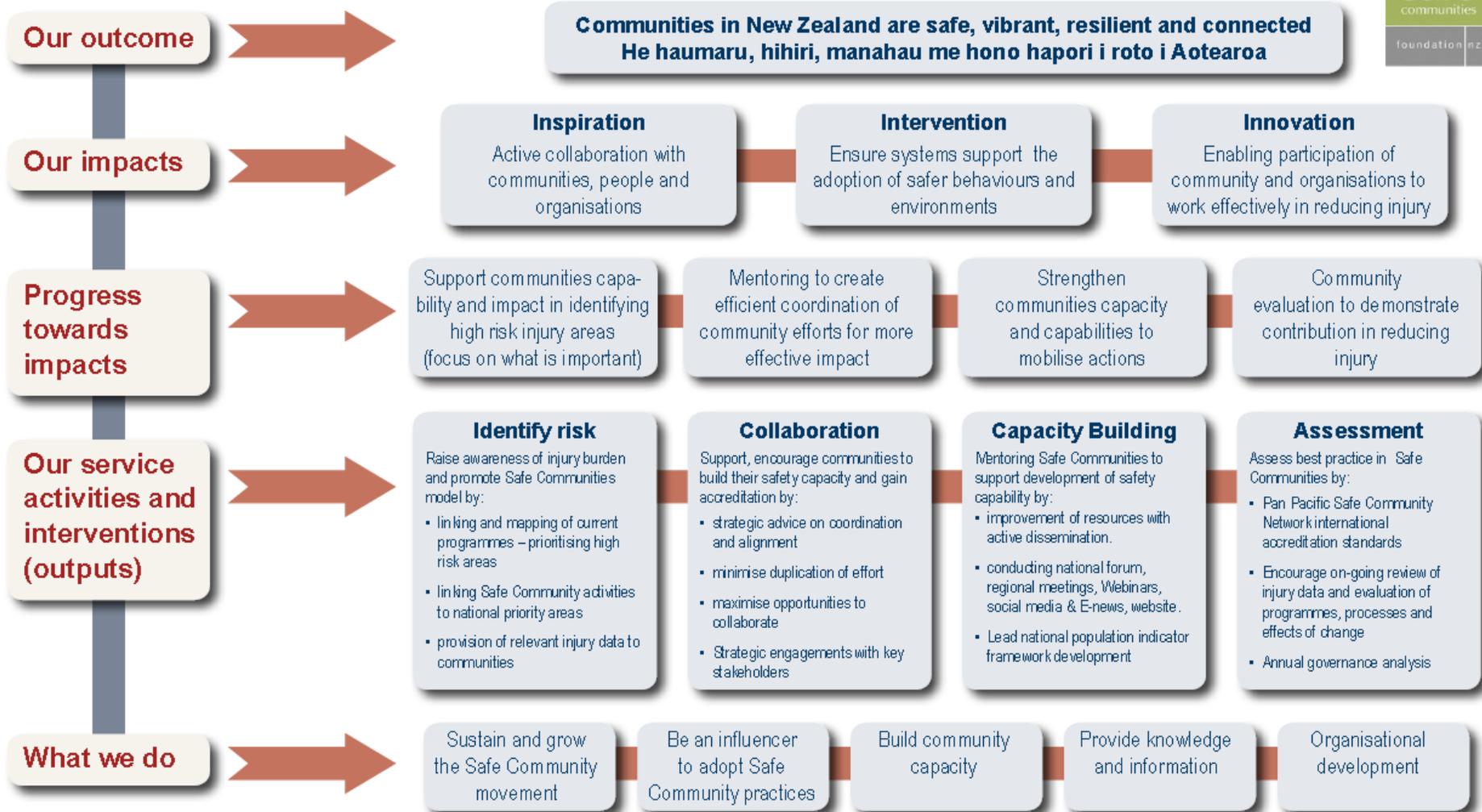
The Safe Communities model is aligned with and provides a platform for the achievement of central government objectives including: ACC Strategic intent; Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Agency focus on reducing drug and alcohol-related harm; Ministry of Social Development outcomes; NZ Police Prevention First Strategy; NZTA ‘Safer Journeys 2020’. The guiding principles of the NZ Health Strategy (2016) that share the same principals as Safe Communities model are:

- 2. The best health and wellbeing possible for all New Zealanders throughout their lives;*
- 4. Collaborative health promotion, rehabilitation and disease and injury prevention by all sectors;*
- 7. Active partnership with people and communities at all levels; and*
- 8. Thinking beyond narrow definitions of health and collaborating with others to achieve wellbeing.*

The Local Government Act 2002 recognises that Territorial Authorities have an important role to play as they are the most effective deliverers of local services. The Local Government Amendment Act 2018 includes “promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future”.

Furthermore, the New Zealand Safe Community Network actively supports the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, addressing those directly related to injury and violence prevention and those that address the risk factors of injury. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional action plan for violence and injury prevention in the Western Pacific : 2016-2020, recommends Safe Communities as a strategy for achieving a reduction in injuries. SCFNZ works with communities throughout New Zealand, promoting and supporting the development of Safe Communities in diverse geographic and socio-economic contexts.

# Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand Strategic Framework



[www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz)