



Safe Waitakere & Waimakariri

..... 5 years on!

Waitakere

International Safe Community Accreditation has made safety a key priority for Council in the following areas:

- 'Safe City' - one of the five key platforms for next 10 years - Strategic Plan;
- Safety indicators monitored annually and reported;
- City Safety Strategy produced;
- Community safety guidelines for staff produced;
- Injury prevention joined to other 'safety' projects to maximise outcomes and creation of SAFE WAITAKERE; and
- Position created, Team Leader, SAFE WAITAKERE.



PROJECTS

There are a wide number of injury projects led and supported by Council, for example:

- Stormwater pond fencing guidelines;
- Driveway injuries project;
- Bike West;
- Water hazard mapping project;
- Pedestrian surfacing study; and
- Free playground audits for schools.



COLLABORATION STRATEGY

City Safety Plan (25 agencies) and Safe Under 5 Plan (30 agencies) led to significant wellbeing strategies, e.g. Te Korowai Manaaki Project incorporating nine strategies to reduce violence to children under five.

- Creation of infrastructure for addressing safety issues;
- SWIP (Safe Waitakere Injury Prevention) forerunner to 'Waitakere Way' and Wellbeing Collaboration Project (partnerships);
- SWIP success has attracted direct funding for a range of initiatives and further Ministry of Health projects;
- Safe Waitakere Alcohol Project, Ranui Action Plan, Community Action on Youth and Drugs- all partnership projects with Council in a lead role; and
- Capacity building in Maori, Pacific and mainstream communities.

INJURIES

- Increase in awareness/knowledge;
- Increase in safety behaviours;
- Increase in safe environments; and
- Reduction in injuries/injury deaths.



Waimakariri



The Waimakariri District was proudly accredited by the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety as an International Safe Community in 1999.

Safe Community Accreditation has drawn strands together and seen a co-ordinated effort to create a sense of community which leads to a sense of safety and belonging. Co-ordination is the key to successful relationships and integrated programmes, and this is the main role of the Safe Waimakariri Community Team.

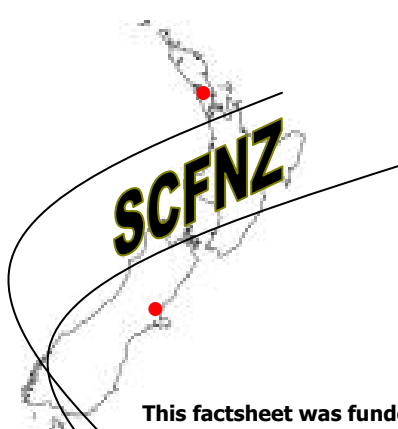
The Safe Waimakariri Community Team was formed under the umbrella of the Waimakariri District Council to bring together existing organisations that were working in the injury, crime prevention, and road safety fields. Over 100 groups and individuals have taken part in co-ordinated community safety efforts around injury prevention, crime prevention and road safety.

The team creates group synergy and a co-ordination of effort in the Waimakariri to address a wide range of community and public health issues. The major outcome is community ownership with a safety culture being built in the Waimakariri District.

Accreditation as a Safe Community has given the community a sense of achievement and a bench mark of excellence to strive for. The infrastructure that supports the Safe Community work is recognised as a very successful model and has ensured continuing funding for many projects. Having access to international networks, research and information gives the community the opportunity to ensure best practice programmes are achieved and also the opportunity to showcase our work, sharing experiences with others in the network, is valuable.



Seven other New Zealand Territorial Local Authority regions (New Plymouth, Whangarei, Wellington, North Shore, Tauranga, Porirua & Christchurch) were designated during the period 2005-2008, a further 20 are engaged in the process. This is because the WHO Safe Communities' model has been nationally and internationally proven as an effective intervention to both promote safety and reduce the injury burden. If your community would like to find out more about the criteria and process for designation as an International Safe Community, please contact the Safe Communities' Foundation New Zealand.



This factsheet was funded with support from the Accident Compensation Corporation, Wellington, New Zealand.

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SCFNZ is a: Certifying Centre and

Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion;

Accrediting Centre for Safe School International Accreditation Programme.