

Townsville/Thuringowa (Queensland, Australia) Safe Communities Site Visit



Townsville and Thuringowa are located in Northern Queensland, Australia; the two cities have a combined population of approximately 155,000. A successful two-day site-visit, conducted by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ), was held in Townsville/Thuringowa on 18 and 19 May 2006. As a result of this site-visit, Townsville/Thuringowa will become the 3rd Safe Community in Queensland to hold the prestigious award of achieving the criteria developed by World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Community Safety related to the designation of International Safe Communities.

Townsville/Thuringowa Safe Communities are a cross-sectional collaborative partnership, with a clear, mutually understood, shared vision for tackling the broad area of injury prevention and safety promotion. The Townsville and Thuringowa Safe Communities (TTSC) Programme Management Team comprises nine member organisations:

- ⇒ Townsville and Thuringowa City Councils;
- ⇒ Queensland Department of Communities;
- ⇒ Queensland Health;
- ⇒ Queensland Transport;
- ⇒ Queensland Police Service;
- ⇒ Queensland Ambulance;
- ⇒ Queensland Fire and Rescue Service; and
- ⇒ James Cook University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.



As was ably demonstrated throughout the site-visit, together this group provided support to the working groups, made strategic decisions for the overall programme and supported the coordinator's (Marie-Claude Brown) role. They also were responsible for the promotion of TTSC; the relationships with stakeholders; the sustainability of the programme; and participation in Safe Communities Networks.

The uptake and evidence-base of the programmes developed by the seven working groups were a highlight of the two day site-visit. Each of the seven working groups focused on a particular demographic environment or activity: Home and Child Safety; Occupational Safety; Personal and Social Safety; Road Safety; Seniors' Safety; and Sports and Recreation Safety. The effective interface between business and community and violence/crime prevention and community were particular strengths of TTSC. We would strongly recommend that you visit SCFNZ website and look at this outstanding application <http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/TT> or better still visit their website <http://www.ttsafecommunities.com/>



However, the members of TTSC are ever mindful that there is much more to be achieved and have put systems in place to support the organisation to achieve this as it moves into the future to ensure that as the sun continues to shine and the economy continues to grow, people in Townsville and Thuringowa can live, work, learn and play safely.

The Karolinska Institute has accepted SCFNZ's recommendation for Townsville & Thuringowa to be designated as Safe Communities of the WHO Safe Community Network. The designation ceremony is scheduled for 11th October, 2006.



Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)

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Certifying Centre of the WHO Safe Community Network; Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion; & Affiliate Centre with Certifying Authority of the International Safe Schools Movement.