

Whangarei, New Zealand



In March 2006, Whangarei became ISC #98 and the 4th Territorial Local Authority (TLA) in New Zealand to receive this international recognition. There are now 255 designated communities globally and 20 in New Zealand.

As was evident from the application and visits to Whangarei over the past five years, the Safer Whangarei Network (SWN) has drawn together a range of organisations and individuals with an interest in safety enhancement in a partnership approach. The coalition group has been in operation for nearly a decade

and many are original members of either the Community Injury Prevention or Safer Community earlier projects. The SWN has also benefited in recent times by closer involvement from Council and members of the Northland Intersectoral Forum.

As the CEO for the Whangarei District, Mark Simpson, stated in the application: *"Now, more than ever, agencies have to work collaboratively and our working relationships with both ACC and the Northland District Health Board are vital to coordinating the Safer Whangarei Network."*

Key achievements in the Whangarei District since accreditation have been:

- Reduction of road fatalities in the region.
- Increase in awareness of prevention of injury.
- Increase in number of agencies/organisation working together in community safety.
- Increase in quality of interventions.
- Increase in innovative projects/programmes aiming at reducing injuries in the community.
- Increased perceptions in safety in the CBD.
- Significant reductions in fire fatality and fire damage in residential properties as a result of the Te Kotahitanga Project.

Safer Whangarei celebrated the achievement at a redesignation ceremony on 10 October 2011.

Further information can be found by visiting the Safe Communities Foundation NZ web site <http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc>