

# **Hume City: A Safe Community**

**Application for reaccreditation as a World Health  
Organisation Safe Community  
Reporting on ten years of progress: 1996 - 2006**

October 2006



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## Introduction

Hume City was accredited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a WHO Safe Community in February 1996. Hume City is now the fourth longest serving member of the WHO International Network of Safe Communities, and the longest serving member outside of Sweden, where the network was founded in 1989.

As part of the accreditation process, an agreement was signed by representatives of Hume City Council, the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, and Monash University Accident Research Centre. The agreement was to:

**“Implement an ongoing programme of injury control. This initiative will cover the whole community including people in all age groups, all environments and all situations. The parties agree to document and evaluate their efforts and to actively spread their experiences nationally and internationally”.**

A framed copy of the agreement has been on display at the Broadmeadows office of Hume City Council. Since February 1996 Hume City Council has:

- implemented and continue to develop an Integrated Health, Safety and Crime Prevention Framework (recipient of the Gold Award for Excellence and Innovation at the Victorian Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards in 2000).
- established the Safe City Taskforce in 1991 (now the Hume Social Justice & Safe City Taskforce) to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing the impacts of disadvantage on vulnerable groups and the subsequent effect on community safety outcomes.
- developed the Global Learning Village, an innovative partnership that links learning providers from across Hume City and constructed the Hume Global Learning Centre and the Age Libray and Visy Cares Learning Centre.
- developed a health promotion product for Victoria, the Guide to Baby Safety to address the rates of injury in the early years of life (the 2005 Health Services Category, National Local Government Award).
- adopted Hume Social Justice Charter 2005, inclusive of the Inaugural Citizen's Bill of Rights – the first Bill of Rights adopted by an Australian Local Government.
- developed plans, based on relevant research and community consultation, and implemented programs in areas such as public health, road safety, childhood injury, drug and alcohol and social justice.
- supported the establishment and ongoing operation of the Victorian Safe Communities Network and provided leadership support to RoadSafe Victoria.

Late in 2005 Hume City Council received a letter from Professor Leif Svanstrom, Chairman of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Acknowledging Hume City's 10 years as a Safe Community, Professor Svanstrom invited Hume City to apply to renew its status as a World Health Organisation designated Safe Community, and as a member of the World Health Organisation International Network of Safe Communities. The Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) is administering this application for redesignation as Certifying Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety.

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of the community safety activities that have taken place in Hume City in the ten years since accreditation in 1996. The report is intended to provide information to:

- Hume City Council and the Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce
- the people who make up the community of Hume City
- the WHO Certifying Centre, to assist them to assess Hume City's application for reaccreditation as a World Health Organisation Safe Community.

The report provides a profile of Hume City and then provides a summary of actions for each of the World Health Organisation's six safe community indicators.

It is a summary to inform Council's planning, and to inform the process of reaccreditation by the World Health Organisation. The report does not seek to document every single initiative that has taken place in the community over the past ten years. In many cases, examples are given, rather than attempting an exhaustive listing of activities. The emphasis in the report is on activities led by Hume City Council. It is important to recognise that many other activities are undertaken by other agencies, sometimes in partnership with Council, sometimes as a result of encouragement by Council, and sometimes completely independently.

## Hume City: A Profile<sup>1</sup>

Hume City is located on the suburban-rural interface, 20 kilometres northwest of the centre of Melbourne. It occupies an area of approximately 504 km<sup>2</sup> and is bounded by the Merri Creek, the Maribyrnong River, the Western Ring Road, the Calder and Tullamarine Freeways, and the foothills of the Macedon Ranges.

Land uses within the municipality are extremely diverse and include established residential areas, industry, vast rural areas, and areas committed for future urban growth.

Hume City is the fourth fastest growing Municipality in Metropolitan Melbourne<sup>2</sup> of approx 159,000 residents at 30 June 2006.<sup>3</sup> The population within Hume City has rapidly increased over the past decade. This is due to natural growth rates and new residents moving into the municipality.

Hume City has a relatively young age profile with a median age of 31 compared to 35 for metropolitan Melbourne. In 2001, 31.1% of Hume City were aged less than 18 years, compared to 23.7% in metropolitan Melbourne.

Hume City's Indigenous community numbers approximately 760 or 0.52% of its total population, compared to 0.36% for metropolitan Melbourne. Recent research<sup>4</sup> concluded that the ABS data underestimated the number of Indigenous people resident in the Northern Metropolitan Region by between 50 to 100%.

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<sup>1</sup> Data below is based on Hume City Council, Social Profile, 2001

<sup>2</sup> Throughout Melbourne refers to Metropolitan Melbourne which is also the same as the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD)

<sup>3</sup> See population estimates at [www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au)

<sup>4</sup> Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Communities HACC Needs Analysis (2004-2005): Demographic and HACC Service Utilisation Profile Northern Metropolitan Region, Department of Human Services

Hume City is the ninth most culturally diverse municipality of 78 municipalities in Victoria. There are 128 different nationalities and 101 languages other than English spoken in the City. 34.6% of the population speaking a Language Other Than English, compared to 25.8% in metropolitan Melbourne. New arrivals to Australia, including Humanitarian entrants, are often settled in Hume City. The highest numbers of new settlers arriving in Hume City in 1998-2003 have come from Iraq (1,349), Turkey (603), and Lebanon (232).

According to the Burden of Disease 1996<sup>5</sup> study the life expectancy of women in Hume City is significantly lower than the Victorian Average, equaling 80.26 years in comparison with Victoria at 81.41 years, with their male counterparts being slightly higher at 76.9 years compared with 76.6 years.

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage ranks Hume as the 5th most disadvantaged local government area in Victoria and the 4th most disadvantaged in Metropolitan Melbourne (with an index and disadvantage Score of 954.2).<sup>6</sup>

The median household income is \$872 in Hume City compared with \$888 in the MSD (this should be considered in the context that household sizes are in average larger in Hume City than in the MSD, being 3.2 persons per household compared to 2.7).

## **Safe community indicators**

The following six indicators for safe communities were adopted by the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion in 2002.

1. An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross - sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community.
2. Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations.
3. Programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups.
4. Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries.
5. Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change.
6. Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.

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5 Burden of Disease Report (1998), Incident cases, LGAs, Age Groups ([www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au))

6 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, 2004

# 1 Governance, partnerships and collaboration

## *WHO Indicator 1:*

*An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross - sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community.*

## **1.1 Integrated Health, Safety and Crime Prevention Framework**

Hume City Council has always had an intersectoral committee to coordinate and support its community safety program from the time leading up to and following WHO Safe Communities accreditation in 1996.

Initially the community safety program dealt mainly with accidental injuries. In the late 1990s Hume City Council received funding under the Victorian Government's *Safer Cities and Shires* program. This marked a broadening of the program to include a stronger focus on crime and violence prevention than was previously the case. The funding agreement required Council to develop a community safety strategic plan, and to establish a high level committee to oversee community safety planning and action.

Council's strategic response was based on a vision of an integrated framework for health, safety and crime prevention, and on the establishment of the Hume Safe City Taskforce.

Hume's Integrated Health, Safety and Crime Prevention Framework is the foundation on which municipal wide safety and health related strategic plans and programs are developed, implemented and monitored.

The Framework recognises the strategic leadership role of Council as a broker of integrated multi-agency, business and community partnerships which seek to influence similar social and economic issues to deliver a diverse range of health, safety, and crime prevention outcomes.

The Framework acknowledged that issues of concern in society rarely have just one cause and one cure. By working together, the various agencies and organisations can share a vast pool of knowledge, and action can be taken to tackle identified problems holistically.

The Framework was innovative in Victoria at the time of its inception because it formally linked crime and violence prevention with accident prevention at local level. Prior to this time, the two fields had generally operated as separate "silos", both at statewide level and at local government level in Victoria.

In recognition of this achievement, Hume City Council won the **Gold Award for Excellence and Innovation** at the Victorian Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards in 2000, for its innovative, integrated approach to health, safety and crime prevention.

Hume City Council, in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Dianella and Sunbury Community Health Services are piloting an innovative approach to development and delivery of the new Hume Municipal Public Health Plan. The Health Plan will address primary and ambulatory health care planning and broadens the scope of issues addressed in partnership within the Municipal Public Health Planning framework in Victoria.

The *Valuing Young Peoples Voices: Broadmeadows Community Neighbourhood Renewal Youth Survey* was conducted by Council in partnership with the Broadmeadows Community Neighborhood Renewal, HomeGround Services and local residents and young people. This survey is an example of a specific task focused collaboration with a cross - sectional governance group that occurred in response to an identified gap concerning understanding of young peoples issues. The survey was an opportunity for young people to 'have-a-say' about issues that affect their lives. Key findings in the survey relate to young peoples perceptions of safety and safer & healthier urban environments and priorities for change in these areas.

## **1.2 The Taskforce**

The Hume Safe City Taskforce was established by Hume City Council in 1999 as a high level inter-agency group to strategically identify, develop and implement initiatives under its new *Integrated Health, Safety and Crime Prevention Framework*.

The following two years saw a broadening in the focus of the integrated framework from its initial crime and safety focus, to incorporate social justice issues for particular population groups. The Taskforce decided in 2001 to change its name to: *the Hume Social Justice & Safe City Taskforce*.

The Taskforce meets quarterly to exchange information and to provide strategic advice and direction on health, safety and crime prevention. The Taskforce supports the development and implementation of key initiatives of various special focus groups, known as 'Multi-Agency Teams' (MATs), as well as other local activities relating to health, safety, social justice and crime prevention.

The Taskforce involves portfolio Councillors from Hume City Council, as well as senior officers of Council and executives from local agencies and leading companies. It is a high level think tank providing strong vision, direction and leadership for social justice and community safety.

Council has supported the work of the Taskforce by considering the reports and recommendations of the Taskforce, and by adopting them into policies, strategic plans, work plans and special projects as appropriate.

The Taskforce has since its inception been independently chaired. It includes high level representation from a range of local and State government departments, key health services, local businesses and the community. The Taskforce involves Council in formal partnership with regional representatives from state government departments.

Membership of the Taskforce currently includes:

- Portfolio Councillors
- Director, City Communities, Hume City Council
- Chief Executive Officer, Hume City Council

- Victorian Department of Human Services
- Victorian Department of Education and Training
- Victoria Police
- Centrelink
- Correctional Services
- Kangan Batman Institute of Technical and Further Education
- Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network
- Sunbury Community Health Centre
- Dianella Community Health
- Community Languages Australia
- Local industry, including the Ford Motor Company
- Council officers.

The Taskforce operates as a high level, strategic think tank. Its primary role is leadership, advocacy, strategic planning, and coordination of social justice and community safety policy and action.

### ***1.3 Some key achievements of the Taskforce***

Hume City Council has won several community safety awards including the **Gold Award for Excellence and Innovation** at the Victorian Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards in 2000, in recognition of Council's innovative, integrated approach to health, safety and crime prevention.

In 2005 Hume City won the **National Local Government Award** for development of the Global Learning Village, and the associated community and business partnerships. Council was also the **Health Services Category, National Local Government Award** winner for production of the video/DVD *Guide to Baby Safety*, for use in ante-natal training of parents expecting their first child.

Some of the more prominent achievements of the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce include the following.

- Establishment of the Hume Global Learning Village - Hume Global Learning Centre in Broadmeadows and Visy Cares Centre in Meadow Heights
- Development and implementation of Hume Road Safety Strategic Plans 2000 - 2003 and 2005 - 2008.
- Development and implementation of Hume Community Safety Plan
- Development and implementation of Hume Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Development and implementation of Hume Early Intervention Problem Gambling Project
- Development of the Hume Social Justice Charter 2001 and Hume Social Justice Charter 2005 , inclusive of the Inaugural Citizen's Bill of Rights.

The Hume City model has been held up as a best practice model and the municipality is recognised as an ideal place to pilot new initiatives. This has enabled Hume City to attract substantial funding for new initiatives. The existence of the infrastructure and mature partnerships among key stakeholders are seen by funding agencies as cogent reasons for awarding project funding to the Hume Community.

## **1.4 Multi-Agency Teams**

The driving of particular actions is coordinated at the level of multi-agency teams, which report to the Taskforce.

The multi-agency teams work to:

- strengthen and formalise existing partnerships;
- increase the opportunity for new links;
- set their own specific objectives, timelines and targets, in alignment with other initiatives; and
- reduce duplication of meetings between the same group of agencies.

A number of multi-agency teams (MATs) have convened during the life of the Integrated Framework. Some of these have met for a defined period of time to assist with a particular project. Others are ongoing and meet regularly to monitor and support actions in their area. A small number of teams which originated under the Taskforce have now developed to the extent that they report to Council through channels other than the Taskforce.

### **Currently meeting regularly:**

- Positive Ageing Team
- Road Safety Multi-Agency Team

### **Currently active and reporting to Council independent of the Taskforce:**

- Multicultural Issues Forum (including Interfaith Leaders' Network)
- Hume Indigenous Advisory Committee (HIAC)
- Disability Action Team
- Youth Advisory Committee – now Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)

There are teams that were established in response to an identified safety related need that are currently not meeting regularly or may resume meeting following the completion of the Municipal Public Health Plan or the Community Safety Plan.

- Children's Safety
- Industrial Safety
- Problem Gambling
- Drug and Alcohol (DAMAT)
- Women's and Children's Safety

Examples of recent achievements of multi-agency teams are set out in Table 1.

**Table 1 Examples of recent initiatives of multi-agency teams**

| Multi-agency team                    | Examples of recent initiatives                   | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Road safety multi-agency team</b> | Development of Hume Road Safety Plan 2005 - 2008 | Sets out a comprehensive, integrated, approach to road safety, in partnership with key agencies including VicRoads, Victoria Police and RoadSafe North Western.  |
|                                      | Dill Driver Program                              | Residents report dangerous driving. Police follow up reports with home visits where appropriate.   |
|                                      | Walking School Bus                               | Funded by VicHealth. Children walk to school in groups supervised by volunteers. Council's aim is to support the program in a range of ways including recruiting schools and families to participate in the program. The program offers healthy exercise for children, safe routes to school, and reduces traffic hazards and congestion around schools. |
|                                      | Communication                                    | Communication of road safety messages to various parts of the Hume Community through a planned coordinated communication plan, including articles in local newspapers and Council publications, on hold messages, promotions and displays at community events.   |
|                                      | 50 kph promotion                                 | Supporting the implementation in Hume of the statewide 50 kph speed limit in local streets, via speed trailer, wheelie bin stickers and pavement marking.  |
|                                      | Road safety grants program                       | Partnerships with local secondary and specialist schools to deliver a range of road safety initiatives including the Fit to Drive Program aimed at young people who will soon be drivers.  |
|                                      | Participation in RoadSafe North Western          | Ongoing participation in the planning and implementation of road safety actions by RoadSafe North Western, which covers the municipalities of Hume, Melton and Brimbank.   |
| <b>Positive Ageing Team</b>          | Transport Safety Forum                           | Council and the Positive Ageing Team held an Older Persons Transport Safety Forum in October 2004 as part of Community Safety Month.   |
|                                      | Falls prevention                                 | Seniors groups provided with information on falls prevention and related seniors' services offered by Council and local community health centres. A Falls Prevention booklet was developed in 2003, promoting home safety. Over 1000 copies were distributed within the local community.   |

**Table 1 (continued) Examples of recent initiatives of multi-agency teams**

| Multi-agency team                | Examples of recent initiatives  | Details  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Children's Safety Program</b> | Education sessions for community groups   | <p>Over 50 interactive sessions delivered yearly to ante-natal and new mother's groups. Sessions provide information about relevant hazards, focusing on home and traffic hazards for young children, including choosing and using child restraints in cars.</p> <p>Bilingual group conveners assisted in program delivery to a range of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, including Turkish, Vietnamese and Arabic speaking groups; program utilises CALD versions of residents' safety information guide.</p> |
|                                  | Children's safety training sessions for professionals working with local families | Several training sessions conducted annually, with Council staff and external family support agencies.   |
|                                  | Development, distribution and use of <i>Guide to Baby Safety</i> video/DVD        | <p>Hume City Council's Child Safety Program, with funding from the Department of Human Services, developed a DVD/ video for expectant parents "Guide To Baby Safety". The video has been in use by local childbirth educators across the municipality since 2004/2005.</p> <p>The video has been well received by expectant parents and provides important information at the time that they are setting up their home and car in preparation for their new arrival.</p> <p>It has now been distributed state wide.</p>            |
|                                  | Activities for culturally and linguistically diverse groups                       | Paediatric First Aid course run locally for Indo Chinese playgroup parents, as part of Community Safety Month.   |

**Table 1 (continued) Examples of recent initiatives of multi-agency teams**

| <b>Multi-agency team</b>                      | <b>Examples of recent initiatives</b>     | <b>Details</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Drug and Alcohol Multi-Agency Team</b>     | Drug and Alcohol Strategy.                | The Hume City Council Drug and Alcohol Strategy was launched in 2002. It provides recommended actions to reduce the negative health and social consequences arising from drug and alcohol abuse.  |
|   | Drug and Alcohol Services Strategy Report | The development of this advocacy strategy was identified in the HCC Drug and Alcohol Action Plan 2002-2005. Its purpose was to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) map and analyze demand and future projections for AOD services, and</li> <li>ii) to guide advocacy for improved service provision.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Violence Prevention and Women's Safety</b> | Domestic Violence                         | The team hosted a domestic violence forum titled <i>Women Standing Strong</i> October 2001.   |
|   | Statement on family violence              | Council formally adopted the following statement in 2004: "Hume City Council undertakes to support and protect the rights of women and children to live free of domestic violence in our community".  |
| <b>Multicultural Issues Forum</b>             | Interfaith Leaders Network                | A forum for dialogue and reflection on common issues, including international conflicts and natural disasters such as the Asian tsunami.  |
|   | Hume Municipal USA Crisis Recovery Group  | The group was established following the September 11 attacks in the USA in 2001, and met subsequent to the Bali bombing in 2002, to monitor the need for local community responses following these potentially divisive events.   |

## **2 Long-term, sustainable programs**

***WHO Indicator 2:  
Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders  
and all ages, environments, and situations.***

### **2.1 Foundations of community safety in Hume City**

The sustainable nature of the Hume City community safety program and its sub-programs is best described in the context of the continuous development of the program from its formal beginnings as a demonstration community safety project at the former Shire of Bulla (now part of Hume City). The Shire was funded for a three year program in 1990 by VicHealth and VicRoads, in partnership with Monash University Accident Research Centre. What followed was a very active, innovative local program named *Safe Living*, with over 100 separate “interventions” or sub-projects being implemented.

In July 1993 Council adopted a recommendation to continue the program with one staff member, and was accredited as a World Health Organisation Safe Community. in February 1994.

Later that year the Victorian Government re-structured local government across the whole of Victoria. The Commissioners of the new Hume City (comprising substantial portions of the former City of Broadmeadows and the former Shire of Bulla) committed three year funding jointly with VicHealth to extend the program into the southern part of the new municipality. Hume City Council received accreditation as a WHO Safe Community in February 1996.

Whilst the continuous thread of community safety emerged from the former Shire of Bulla, it is important to recognise that in the early 1990s the former City of Broadmeadows had also been engaging in innovative community safety programs such as the Safe Routes to School Program, and through membership of the fledgling North Western Community Road Safety Council.

### **2.2 Evolution of community safety program 1991 to 2006**

A summary of the evolution of the community safety program to its current status at Hume City is set out in matrix form in Table 2.

### **2.3 Human resources for community safety**

Hume City Council currently has a number of staff with community safety in their key objectives. These ongoing positions include:

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Community Safety Officer            | Full time |
| Children’s Safety Promotion Officer | 0.6 EFT   |
| Walking School Bus Project Officer  | 0.4 EFT   |
| Road Safety Officer                 | 0.5 EFT   |

The first three positions report to the Community Safety and Development Coordinator who in turn reports to the Manager, Social Development. The Road Safety Officer reports to the Manager, Infrastructure Development, and performs the road safety role in conjunction with a role as a traffic engineer.

Other staff of Council carry out community safety roles integrated into their main role. Examples of these roles and programs that are planned to continue over the next five years:

- Maternal and child health nurses work closely with the Children's Safety Promotion Officer to educate new parents about children's safety.
- Pre-school and child care staff include community safety in their practices and in their educational programs.
- School crossing supervisors provide direct support to assist school children to cross the road safely, and provide an educational role for the children.
- Communications staff assist with publicising and promotion of community safety messages through Council publications and through local media.
- Outdoor staff carry out a wide range of inspections and actions directed at protecting the safety of people in public places, especially footpaths, playgrounds, leisure facilities, and Council-owned public buildings and open spaces.
- Environmental Health Officers carry out a wide range of public health and safety roles including food safety and anti-smoking programs.
- Immunisation staff assist with the health and safety of young children.
- Staff across the Organisation provide support for the multi-agency teams and for the Taskforce.

**Table 2 HUME CITY COUNCIL - Evolution of Community Safety Program 1990 - 2006**

| <b>Phase</b> | <b>Period</b>   | <b>Funding sources</b>   | <b>Main features</b>   | <b>Special projects</b>   |
|--------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Establishment</b><br>1991 to 1993  | VicHealth<br>VicRoads<br>Shire of Bulla  | Establishment of strategies, methods, networks, resources and projects.<br><br>Main interventions include Family Safety Guide, design and construction of Safe Display Home, peer education program Main focus on unintentional injury. WHO Safe Community Accreditation (celebrated February 1994).   |   |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>Mainstreaming</b><br>January 1994 to December 1995   | Shire Of Bulla with VicHealth and Department of Human Services input into special projects   | Mainstreaming of some strategies within other Council Departments.<br><br>Co-ordination of program within Health Department.<br><br>Safe Living Program established as a 'normal' part of Council's strategies and operations.   | Children's Safety Project<br><br>Play It Safe Sport   |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>Extension and consolidation</b><br>within Hume City Council<br><br>January 1996 to June 1997 | Joint funding by Hume City Council and VicHealth<br><br>Projects funded by Department of Human Services, Victorian WorkCover Authority | Hume City Council formed December 1995. Extension of program into southern part of Hume City Council.<br><br>Co-hosting of WHO Fifth International Conference on Safe Communities.<br><br>Hume helps inaugurate Victorian Community Safety Week – hosts launch.<br><br>World Health Organisation Accreditation of Hume City Council as a Safe Community Feb 1996. Hume wins VicSafe Gold Award and NSCA Award for Community Safety.<br><br>Institutionalising of Safe Living Program into service programs of various business units of Hume City Council. | Children's safety video in production<br><br>Children's Safety Project (cont)<br><br>Workplace Community Safety<br><br>Play It Safe Sport |

**Table 2 (continued) HUME CITY COUNCIL - Evolution of Community Safety Program 1990 - 2006**

| Phase | Period   | Funding  | Main features   | Special projects funded  |
|-------|--|--|---|--|
| 4     | <p><b>Institutionalisation</b></p> <p>July 1997 to June 2000</p>                               | <p>Hume City Council</p> <p>Special Projects funded by</p> <p>Victorian WorkCover Authority</p> <p>Department of Human Services</p> <p>Department of Justice</p> | <p>Program institutionalised: major strategies taken on by other Council departments (Children's Safety Promotion Officer [permanent role] operating from Family Services; responsibility for Senior Safety, Sport Safety and Traffic Safety taken on by Aged and Disability Services, Leisure Services and Design and Construction).</p> <p>Program co-ordination included in Municipal Public Health Plan and in Council's Service contract for public health. Increased focus on crime and violence prevention through 'Safer Cities and Shires' program.</p> <p>Program co-ordination role elevated to Senior Executive Officer level in 2000, under Community Services Planning.</p> <p>Development of an integrated, sustainable, whole of Council, whole of community framework for health, safety and crime and violence prevention.</p> <p>Formation of Hume Safe City Taskforce and associated special interest multi-agency teams.</p> <p>Funding application for Global Learning Village prepared by Hume Safe City Taskforce and Community Safety Officer.</p> | <p><i>Child Safety Made Easy</i> video</p> <p>Foothold on Safety</p> <p>Workplace Community Safety</p> <p>Farm Safety</p> <p>Farm Friendly Kids</p> <p>Falls Prevention in small business</p> <p>Safer Cities &amp; Shires program incorporating</p> <p>Student Action Teams</p> <p>Injury prevention re local homeless/young people at risk</p> |
| 5     | <p><b>Operationalising</b></p> <p>the integrated framework</p> <p>July 2000 to August 2001</p> | <p>HUME CITY COUNCIL</p> <p>Special Projects funded by</p> <p>Victorian WorkCover Authority</p> <p>VicRoads</p>  | <p>Operationalising of the integrated framework and up to 14 special interest multi-agency teams (with membership/specialist input drawn from within Council and the local community). Student action teams established in 10 secondary schools.</p> <p>Seniors safety and sports safety initiatives supported by Council's Social Support and Leisure Services staff.</p> <p>Hume wins Victorian Community Safety and Crime Prevention Gold Award for the Integrated Framework for Health, Safety and Crime Prevention and associated programs</p> <p>Hume Road Safety Strategic Plan launched. New role created for a half time 'Road Safety Coordinator' sited within Traffic and Civil Design. Hume Community Safety Plan released.</p>   | <p>Global Learning Village</p> <p>Small business safety project</p> <p>Road Safety Strategy Plan development</p>   |

| Phase | Period   | Funding  | Main features   | Special projects funded  |
|-------|--|--|---|--|
| 6     | <p><b>Consolidating</b><br/>the integrated framework<br/>September 2001 to December 2005</p> | <p>Hume City Council<br/>Special projects funded by Victorian Department of Human Services</p> | <p>Hume Global Learning Centre opens for business.<br/>Hume Social Justice Charter adopted by Council.<br/>Community Safety Officer role created<br/>Hume Social Justice Charter 2004, incorporating Inaugural Bill of Rights adopted by Council.<br/>Launch of 'Safety Together' family safety guide, distributed to all households, published in five languages.<br/>Road Safety Plan Reviewed; Hume Road Safety Plan 2004 launched.<br/>'Water Safety Together' / 'NewSwim' water safety programs targeting newly arrived communities wins Victorian Aquatic Industry Award.<br/>Annual Hume Road Safety Grants/Fit To Drive program established to promote road safety to secondary school students and seniors at specialist schools.<br/>Hume City wins two National Local Government Awards (2005), for Global Learning Centre: Community and Business Partnerships Award for Excellence and another award for Health (<i>Guide to Baby Safety</i> video).<br/>Walking School Bus Project Officer appointed (part time).</p> | <p><i>Guide to Baby Safety Video</i><br/>'Bounce Back' Car theft prevention program<br/>Walking School Bus (VicHealth)</p> |
| 7     | <p><b>10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WHO Accreditation</b><br/>January 2006 onwards</p>      | <p>Hume City Council</p>   | <p>Celebration of ten years of WHO Accreditation.<br/>Council decides whether to re-apply for a further five years of accreditation.<br/>Review of structure and function of Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce.<br/>Development of new Community Safety Plan.<br/>Development of a new Municipal Public Health Plan<br/>Completion of Valuing Young Peoples Voices: Broadmeadows Community Neighbourhood Renewal Youth Survey</p>  | <p>Walking School Bus(VicHealth)</p>   |

## **2.4 Long term vision and strategic planning for community safety in Hume City**

In 2004 Hume City Council embarked on a whole of community long term planning exercise for the next 26 years, culminating in the Hume City Plan 2030. Of the nine key themes in the plan, two provide a strong focus on community safety. The two headings are:

- Community Wellbeing
- Health and Safety.

Under the key theme Health and Safety, the vision is:

***“Hume’s many communities will work together to improve the health and safety of those who live, work and play in Hume City”.***

The goal is:

“We will have a safe city whose community is active and healthy through:

- Enhanced health services for all the community
- Enhanced safety and personal security”.

There are two outcomes under health and safety:

- *An active healthy community;* and
- *A safe city.*

Please refer to full version of *Hume City Plan 2030* attached for indicators of how this vision will be achieved.

The community actions under *A safe city* are set out below.

### **By 2008**

- Undertake a range of programs to promote and encourage safety being a fundamental consideration in the daily lives of all Hume residents.
- Ensure that the planning for all new public areas, including roads, pathways, schools, parks and open spaces, shopping centres and transport hubs are designed, constructed and operated to deliver high standards of safety and personal security.
- Complete a major road safety review for the City and implement targeted actions, including education, promotion and awareness programs, traffic safety works and enforcement of traffic laws.
- Encourage local community initiatives to enhance neighbourhood support, safety, crime prevention and security.
- Conduct safety audits of major community and transport hubs and implement high priority actions.
- Establish and implement strategies for dealing with, reducing levels of, and providing support to victims in relation to abuse, domestic violence and crimes against women, children and other vulnerable people.
- Undertake collaborative efforts to ensure community surveillance of public areas.

- Promote workplace safety.
- Undertake targeted programs to substantially improve safety and security in the home for the elderly and people with disabilities.

#### **By 2016**

- Conduct safety audits of all activity centres and implement actions to enhance safety.
- Review crime statistics and undertake coordinated community actions to reduce crime.

#### **By 2024**

- Undertake a comprehensive review of road accidents and provide targeted improvements.

#### **By 2030**

- Undertake works to enhance safety in all public areas, including roadways and activity centres.

## ***2.5 Five year strategic commitment to community safety in Hume City***

Council's five year strategic commitment to community safety is set out in Hume City Council Plan 2006–2010. The themes adopted by Council are the same as those set out in Hume City Plan 2030. Under the strategic objective *A safe city*, the strategies for 2006–2010 are as follows.

- Enhance community safety by working with the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce in preparing and progressively implementing a new and comprehensive Community Safety Strategy.
- Ensure high levels of food safety and quality at all Hume food premises by effectively monitoring and promoting food safety in accordance with the Food Act.
- Enhance the safety of Council's infrastructure through the progressive implementation of Council's Risk Management Strategy.

Council have embedded many ongoing programs that enhance community safety perceptions and reality for vulnerable groups within Hume City that will continue over the next five years. These programs and initiatives are carried out and coordinated by Council staff such as the Community Safety Officer, Child Safety Promotion Officer, Walking School Bus Officer, Road Safety Officer and Community Safety and Development Coordinator.

Council conducted a major component of the consultation for the development of the new Hume Municipal Public Health Plan at the Hume Health Summit in July 2006. The Health Summit identified safety as a priority for health in Hume City. The Hume Municipal Public Health Plan will be innovative in its approach to health planning and will strengthen Council and its partners in health to the promotion of health and safety for vulnerable groups and the whole community.

In recognition of the changing safety and development needs of Hume's community, Council will be developing a new Community Safety Strategy commencing in 2006/07. This strategy will identify ongoing programs and emerging community needs for attention.

### **3 Programs that target risk and vulnerable groups.**

***WHO Indicator 3:  
Programs that target high-risk groups and environments,  
and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups.***

#### **3.1 Focus of the Taskforce**

The Hume Safe City Taskforce recognised of the link between social disadvantage and safety and formally broaden its role and to change its title to the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce.

With this broader perspective, the Taskforce is able to address “upstream” factors which contribute to the development of disadvantage and risk, at the same time as implementing more immediate actions to improve community safety. It also provides Council with a formal focus, with a policy making framework and with partnerships for developing and implementing initiatives targeted at high risk groups and vulnerable groups. The approach is inclusive, seeking to include these groups in mainstream policy and programs of Council, supplemented by specially targeted programs where appropriate.

#### **3.2 Comprehensive approach to disadvantage within the community**

In 2000 Hume City Council, in conjunction with the Taskforce, undertook a major push to obtain support to redress social disadvantage within Hume.

Many discussions were subsequently held between the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer and other Council officers, government officials and key Ministers, and the local member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

A written proposal was prepared, which sought to provide:

- new multi- purpose community facilities in Broadmeadows and Meadow Heights;
- a new library for Broadmeadows Secondary College; and
- a comprehensive response to social issues around which the Task Force was progressively setting up multi-agency teams such as problem gambling, young people, and drugs.

The proposal also required a significant commitment from the corporate sector. Council was successful in securing agreement from Visy to make a significant financial contribution to a facility in Meadow Heights. Later, *The Age* newspaper and Ford joined as significant private sector partners.

The tangible outcome today is the Global Learning Village, an innovative new partnership that links learning providers from across Hume City including five libraries and a mobile library, local schools, neighbourhood houses and learning centres, the Hume Global Learning Centre, Visy Cares Learning Centre, Kangan Batman TAFE, local businesses and Victoria University. All these providers are part of the Village, bringing learning to the entire Hume community. The Hume Global Learning Village by combining collective resources provides formal and informal learning opportunities for residents from a diverse range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The new Hume Global Learning Centre and the Visy Cares Learning Centre were constructed as a direct result of advocacy by Council to the State Government,

combined with financial support from the private sector and from Hume City Council. Prior to these facilities being built, there had never been a public library in the Broadmeadows area.

Hume City Council won a prestigious national award for local government in 2005 for the development of the Global Learning Village, and the associated community and business partnerships. The contribution of the Taskforce to this project has been one of the Taskforce's major achievements.

### **3.3 Examples of programs for high risk and vulnerable groups**

Some examples of high risk groups and recent programs that have been developed within the Hume community to assist them are as follows.

- **Safety Together** – in partnership with Victoria Police, is a booklet published in five different languages providing tips on safety in the home, in the neighbourhood, on the road, at school, at work and in sport. The booklet was distributed to all households in 2004.
- **Hume Road Safety Grants** program – an innovative annual Council funded program in partnership with all 14 local secondary schools and three special schools to implement a range of road safety programs aimed at preparing senior students to recognise the risks they will face as road users, and to empower them to make better decisions for their safety. This new program was developed from a special road safety workshop conducted by the Taskforce. Young people are the highest risk group on the roads in Hume, as drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Drive 120** – the first program of its kind in Victoria – is a Sunbury Rotary initiative in partnership with the Transport Accident Corporation, RoadSafe North Western and the Sunbury Police to encourage and assist learner drivers to gain a target of 120 hours of supervised experience of driving in as many different conditions as possible. Hume City Council has provided a car for use in the program.
- An **Older Persons Transport Safety Forum** was held for older residents, those with a disability, or those who wanted to receive tips about safety when driving, using a motorised scooter or traveling by public transport.
- **Valuing Young Peoples Voices** – a survey of young people from Hume City that was facilitated in partnership and conducted by young people, for young people. A key finding of the survey related to young people's perceptions of safety and priorities for change in this area.
- **Water Safety Together** – targeted at new residents from non-English speaking countries, involving intensive two week learn-to-swim courses, and assisting children to gain water safety skills and the ability to safely enjoy beaches, inland waterways and swimming pools. The program was supported by posters in community languages. The program won a *Play It Safe by the Water, Water Safety Education Award* from the Victorian Aquatic Industry Council in 2005.
- **Pool Safety Audit** – a pilot audit was conducted in the summer of 2004/2005 involving 121 private residences. After an average of three consecutive visits, 71% of property owners achieved compliance. Council continued to work with residents to encourage them to improve pool safety on their properties.
- **Children's Safety Program** – an ongoing program as part of Council's core business, this program delivers messages to expectant parents, new parents,

and young children and their families through a range of methods including 50 children's safety training sessions for community groups per year, and through Council's broader children's and family service programs.

- **Alcohol and Other Drugs Service Strategy** – Research Report, which identified a low level of services in the City and difficulties the community faces in accessing the relevant services. As a result of the work and Council's Drug and Alcohol Multi-Agency Team, strategies have been developed, and more accessible local service provision has been achieved.
- **Tobacco Reduction Strategy for Hume** – This strategy addresses Smoking as it is one of the chief community health & safety issues within Hume City. It is being implemented in partnership with Dianella Community Health Services, Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal, the local school nursing program, the Northern Migrant Resource Centre and Quit Victoria. The strategy focuses on addressing smoking issues for Young people, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities and Indigenous people.
- **Hume Health Summit** – This summit, organised by Council and Dianella and Sunbury Community Health Services and the Department of Human Services and held in July 2006 formed a major component of the development of Council's new Municipal Public Health plan. Safety was identified by the community and key stakeholders as a key health priority. The Municipal Public Health Plan focuses Council and the community health organisations health planning and promotion activities for a range of vulnerable groups including the young, elderly and disconnected communities.
- **Community Asthma Project** – This partnership project provides asthma education and support for young people suffering from asthma & their families. Asthma is one of the leading community health issues in Hume City for young people.

## 4 Frequency and causes of injuries

**WHO Indicator 4:  
Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries.**

The community safety program is led from within the Social Development Department of Council, which has a strong ethic of social research and evidence based policy and practice.

All community safety programs are based on best available evidence. Where appropriate, research is commissioned to be undertaken in regard to the Hume community, in cases where existing state or national data sources are not adequate.

The most detailed source of injury data is VicRoads *CrashStats*, a publicly interrogable data base accessible via [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au). This can provide answers to ready made queries, or users can devise their own queries. It contains a wide range of information on every road crash involving a registered vehicle in Victoria since 1987, in which at least one person was injured. This data is used to inform the development of road safety programs in Hume such as the Hume Road Safety Grants which was developed in response to data indicating that Young drivers and their passengers are significantly more likely to be involved in a serious vehicle crash in their first years of driving.

General injury data is available on request from the Victorian Injury Surveillance and Research Unit (VISAR) located within Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC). This data is used to guide a range of community safety programs within Hume City. For example, a request for specific data was made as part of the preparation of the video/DVD *Guide to Baby Safety*, to provide information about injuries to children in the first six months of life. The VISAR journal *Hazard* is used by the Children's Safety Program to keep abreast of emerging issues. This data is used to identify the most appropriate focus for Child Safety interventions based on severity of injury, admissions to hospital and causes of death.

Crime and violence data for Hume City is provided by Crime Prevention Victoria. It is also provided on an ongoing basis by the Hume District of the Victoria Police at forums such as the Taskforce and local Neighbourhood Watch meetings.

Data sources such as these are used in the development of plans, strategies and funding applications to identify and guide the development and delivery of community safety programs. A case study that illustrates the documentation and use of the frequency and causes of injury is outlined below.

### **Case Study: 'Road Safety Plan 2005 – 08'**

The development of the *Hume Road Safety Plan 2005 – 08* involved a review of the previous *Hume Road Safety Strategy*, extensive community consultation and analysis of International, State and local policy frameworks for addressing road safety.

A detailed analysis was undertaken of crashes in Hume City in which at least one person was injured, including fatal crashes. The data was obtained mainly from *CrashStats*, VicRoads' data base to inform the type and priorities for road safety actions.

The key points indicated from the data, and included in the Plan are:

- **Fatal crashes:** Drivers account for 35% of the people killed in Hume, motorcyclists account for 25%, and pedestrians and passengers account for 19% each. Males comprise 80% of all road users killed.
- **Young people** from 5 years to 29 years are exposed to high risk in multiple categories of road use.
- **Passengers** in the 16 to 21 age group are at high risk of injury.
- The risk of injury while **walking** and **cycling** is highest for males, especially at primary and secondary school ages.

The actions to be undertaken to address the frequency and causes of injuries include:

- Helping **students** travel to and from school safely; and support schools to provide well targeted and proven traffic safety education programs, throughout each student's primary and secondary schooling, that address the critical stages of student development and the risks **young people** face on the road network.
- Encouraging parents and carers to protect **young children** when they are **passengers**, or walking or playing near cars.
- Improving **pedestrian** and motorised scooter safety and accessibility, and encourage walking as an alternative to car travel for short trips.
- Improving **bicycle safety** and accessibility and encourage cycling as a safe and viable alternative to car travel for short trips in Hume City.

## 5 Evaluation measures

***WHO Indicator 5:  
Evaluation measures to assess their programs,  
processes and the effects of change.***

Process evaluation of major initiatives is undertaken by project officers through a combination of questionnaires to participants, key informant feedback, and consultation. This information is analysed and included in project reports and internal Taskforce and Council reports.

The data sources outlined in the previous section are used to monitor progress with programs and where possible to provide an outcome evaluation.

Council also undertakes an annual community satisfaction survey, which provides details on the extent of community satisfaction with factors such as community engagement, footpaths and traffic management.

Some of the key achievements of the community safety program in Hume of the last ten years have focused on addressing upstream indicators and include;

- The institutionalisation of community safety into core Council business and processes, including the employment of four staff predominantly focused on safety planning and promotion
- Contribution to the visioning and establishment of the Global Learning Village and the Global Learning Centre
- The Hume Road Safety program
- Support and contribution to the development of the Social Justice Charter and Bill of Rights
- The Hume Child Safety program.

Examples of evaluations of recent programs are set out in Table 3 below. A case study that illustrates the planned use of evaluation measures to assess the effectiveness of the *Tobacco Reduction Strategy In Hume* is also detailed below.

**Table 3 Examples of evaluation methods and key results of recent programs**

| <b>Program</b>                          | <b>Year</b>       | <b>Type of evaluation</b>  | <b>Key results</b>   |
|---|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>Hume Operation Bounce Back 2005</b>  | 2005              | Process, impact – program officer report                           | Distribution of 94 engine immobiliser certificates, mainly to high risk locations and multiple theft victims<br><br>Provision of vehicle safety and vehicle theft avoidance education, including a targeted mail out to postcode 3047 in community languages, <i>Show 'n' Shine</i> promotion at shopping centre with vehicle safety checks, newspaper articles, immobiliser competition in Sunbury, education session at community house. |
| <b>Confident Living Seminar</b>         | 2005              | Process, impact – participant feedback                             | 36 participants (67% over 70 years), 30 evaluations, all rated seminar as useful.  |
| <b>Water Safety Together - Posters</b>  | 2004              | Process – program officer report                                   | Water Safety Together' posters in English and four community languages (Arabic, Turkish, Italian and Vietnamese) – moved around through various community venues.  |
| <b>Water Safety Together - New Swim</b> | 2004<br>-<br>2005 | Process, impact – program officer report                           | Subsidised swimming lessons for 60 children of recent migrant families from Somalia, Ghana, Turkey and Iraq. Participants improved competence and enjoyed sessions. Associated newspaper articles targeted at CALD groups.   |
| <b>Hume Road Safety Grants</b>          | 2004<br>-<br>2006 | Process, impact –, participant surveys, debriefing of facilitators | All secondary colleges and three specialist schools participating. Strong positive feedback from Year 11 participants in Fit to Drive workshops, and from facilitators and school staff.   |
| <b>Children's safety program</b>        | 1996<br>-<br>2006 | Process, impact – program officer report                           | Over 50 education sessions per year to community groups such as new mothers' groups, plus other sessions presented by maternal and child health nurses. Repeat bookings by nurses and ante-natal educators.  |
| <b>Road safety strategic planning</b>   | 2000<br>-<br>2008 | Formative evaluation   | Detailed analysis of road crash data from VicRoads <i>CrashStats</i> data base formed the basis of the development of Hume's first (2000 – 2003) and second (2005 – 2008) road safety plans.   |

### **Case Study: 'Tobacco Reduction Strategy in Hume'**

The Tobacco Reduction Strategy was developed in response to a range of data indicating that Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Victoria. In the Northern Metropolitan Region, tobacco is the largest risk factor and has the largest impact upon Years of Life Lost (YLL) and Years of Life Lost to Disability (YLLD).

Hume City Council collect data from the Cancer Council on the percentage of avoidable deaths from smoking related causes. This data is reported in the Annual Report for the *Council Plan 2006 - 10*. Deaths from smoking related causes in the period 1999 – 2002 in Hume City was 15%, significantly higher than the Victorian average of 12.2%. In addition, previously available data collected by Selmat, a market research company, found that three of the top five Melbourne suburbs that spend the most on cigarettes are in the Hume City.

The Cancer Council data, released this year, was used by the partner organisations to inform the development of the *Tobacco Reduction Strategy in Hume*. The process initially involved conducting a Tobacco Forum for service providers and the subsequent establishment of a cross-sectoral working group led by Dianella Community Health to steer the development and delivery of the strategy.

Council collects data on the Average Life Expectancy for the current population in Hume City and targets for this measure within the Hume City Plan 2030. The life expectancy in Hume was 80.1 years in 2001, an increase from 77.9 in 1996, with a target of 82.2 years for 2008. The Quit Victoria data will be evaluated in conjunction with the Average Life Expectancy data to assess the effects of change as a result of the *Tobacco Reduction Strategy in Hume*.

## **6 National and International Safe Communities networks**

**WHO Indicator 6:  
Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.**

### **6.1 Hume as a participant in national and international networks**

Hume City Council has played a national and international leadership role in community safety since February 1996, when it co-hosted, on behalf of the World Health Organisation, the Fifth International Conference on Safe Communities (*SafeComm5*).

Hume auspiced the *SafeComm5* planning committee as a formal committee of Council, and provided the Chairman and Secretary for the committee. Hume City Council acted as treasurer for the conference.

Following the conference, as a result of Hume City Council's leadership, the conference committee decided to reinvent itself and continue meeting in order to disseminate the learnings from the conference, and to promote *Community Safety Week* in the future. The committee eventually developed into the *Victorian Safe Communities Network*, which is described in more detail below.

Hume City Council has also sent staff members to WHO International Conferences on Safe Communities in Sweden, Canada and South Africa. Participation in future conferences will be considered in the context of value to the local community, and the contribution Hume City Council personnel can offer to the members of the International Network of Safe Communities, through conference attendance and through other methods of distance communication. Hume City will continue to seek better ways of communicating electronically with international and national communities interested in community safety promotion.

Hume City Council has hosted a number of international Safe Community delegations over the years. The most recent delegation attended Hume City from China in August 2006 to review the approach taken to community safety and development and the achievements in imbedding injury prevention activities into core Organisational business.

Hume City Council will continue to link with international networks and will support the 17th International Safe Communities Conference to be held in New Zealand in late 2008.

### **6.2 Community Safety Month (formerly Week)**

The inaugural Victorian Community Safety Week was held in conjunction with *SafeComm5*, with the aim of capitalising on publicity associated with *SafeComm5* and with the much larger Third International Conference on Injury Prevention, held in Melbourne immediately before *SafeComm5*. The inaugural Victorian Community Safety Week launch was held at Roxburgh Park in Hume City.

Community Safety Week was successfully held for the second time in September 1997, and continued to grow in the number of Victorian Municipalities participating, in the number of activities, and in the number of partners participating in activities. Such was its success that it grew into Community Safety Month in October 2002, with four separate themes: Crime Prevention, Injury Prevention, Emergency Management and Workplace Safety.

In the ten years since commencement, Community Safety Month has had over one million participants, 5274 registered safety activities and 3499 organisations participating.

Community Safety Month has now extended beyond Victoria and is celebrated in several other states of Australia. The World Health Organisation is now considering the feasibility of an International Month of Community Safety.

The main achievements of Community Safety Month have been that it:

- fosters community safety activity across the state including locations which do not have a critical mass of funding or specialist workers in community safety;
- has been particularly successful in encouraging intersectoral and interagency partnerships in planning and implementation of local community safety activities;
- serves as a call to action, by offering a theme month, as well as resources and communication methods to support local programs;
- encourages a unified, integrated view of community safety, incorporating intentional and unintentional injuries, crime and violence, and emergency management issues. It should be noted that the adoption of community based intervention approaches (partly modeled on community based injury prevention programs in Victoria) by the emergency services in Victoria is a major reason behind the very low loss of life in recent major bushfires in Victoria. The emergency services nationally have drawn on the lessons from Hume City in developing community based approaches to the preparation, response and recovery phases of natural disasters.

The Hume community is a very active participant in Community Safety Month each year, with a diverse range of activities covering different facets of safety. Recent activities have included the Older Persons Transport Safety Forum, as well as a range of displays and education sessions.

### **6.3 Victorian Safe Communities Network**

The Victorian Safe Communities Network evolved out of the planning committee for the World Health Organisation Fifth International Conference on Safe Communities. The planning committee was an official committee of Hume City Council, and reported to Council.

The committee decided to keep meeting, no longer as a committee of Hume City Council, but as an independent committee, calling itself the Victorian Safe Communities Network (VSCN). It became an incorporated association a few years later.

The main activities of VSCN are quarterly professional development seminars and a successful annual conference, which has been held each year since 2003. In partnership with Latrobe University, the network hosts a list server, Safe\_Comm\_Vic,

which enables professionals to seek and pass on information relevant to community safety promotion.

The main achievements of VSCN are that it provides

- a network for sharing information among community safety professionals
- a conduit between statewide Organisations and local community safety workers
- an advocacy platform for community safety issues.

VSCN breaks down the isolation of new workers to the field, prevents re-inventing of the wheel, and allows benchmarking of programs against best practice.

In addition to its formative role in the founding of the network, two Hume City Council staff members have served on its executive at different times and Council has hosted quarterly meetings of VSCN, and has provided a keynote speaker at the annual conference of VSCN. Council staff also regularly participate in most VSCN meetings.

#### ***6.4 Leadership role with RoadSafe Victoria***

Hume City Council has provided members to RoadSafe North Western over several years. RoadSafe North Western is part of RoadSafe Victoria - a statewide community road safety Organisation - and currently serves Hume City and its neighbouring Cities Brimbank and Melton. Hume's Children's Safety Promotion Officer, has chaired RoadSafe North Western.

For the past three years, Hume's Children's Safety Promotion Officer has served as the statewide Chairperson of RoadSafe Victoria, as part of the role within Hume City Council. This statewide leadership role has included membership of the high level Victorian Road Safety Reference Group - the sole local government employee on the Reference Group.

## **Conclusion**

Hume City Council is the leader and an active participant in a coordinated series of Social Justice and Community Safety initiatives.

Hume City's role of leadership and coordination is delivered through the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce. This is a high level strategic body, reporting directly to Hume City Council. The Taskforce seeks to identify gaps in program provision, and to support new initiatives.

The hands-on role of supporting particular programs and fostering partnerships occurs at the level of the multi-agency teams reporting to the Taskforce.

A variety of programs are planned and implemented, based on assessment of needs through community consultation and examination of available evidence. The programs are aimed at high risk and vulnerable groups.

Hume is an active participant in state, national and international community safety networks, and takes an active leadership role at various times in these networks.

Hume City Council remains committed to its obligations under its agreement with the World Health Organisation, signed in February 1996, and looks forward to the opportunity of contributing as a member of the world Health Organisation International Network of Safe Communities for a further five years.