



Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia – International Safe Communities Designation #151

On the 21st February, 2009 Mount Isa became the third city in Queensland Australia to be accredited as an International Safe Community, the 151st Safe Community in the world and the 15th in Australia. This was an extremely important day for Mount Isa as the Mayor of Mount Isa Cr John Molony stated *“we have worked to reach this point for more than six years and although this is only the start of much work ahead, significant progress has been made as result of the excellent collaboration that has occurred”*.

Certifying Centre and Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion.

Mount Isa has focused on issues such as road safety, family violence, substance misuse, senior safety and child injury prevention. As Lynette Drew, the Mount Isa spokesperson stated *“Over the past six years, groups in these areas have demonstrated a dedication to evidence-based practice, and the development of sustainable programmes to promote safety in response to the needs of the local community”*.



The Mount Isa Safe Community Family Fun Day and Designation Ceremony was held at the Mount Isa Civic Centre and included interactive and static displays, information booths, music and family fun for all ages. The designation ceremony began with a Welcome to Country speech by Karen West on behalf of the indigenous (Aboriginal) people of Australia. The Mayor then welcomed all and read out a letter from Professor Leif Svanstrom which, among other things, reminded representatives from Mount Isa that their on-going involvement in International Safe Community networks was expected. Next, Member of Parliament for Mount Isa and Chair of the Living with Lead Alliance, Berry Kiernan, spoke about the effective partnerships and sustainable programmes which had been established to make Mount Isa a safer place to live, work and play.

The designation ceremony, was led by Dr Carolyn Coggan in her capacity as Director of Safe Communities Foundation, a Certifying Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. Dr Coggan commented at the designation ceremony that *“it was wonderful to see community members of all ages and socio-cultural backgrounds sharing and having fun with key stakeholders while obtaining safety information”*. She also stated that *“having 16 signatories to the agreement demonstrated the support from a wide range of agencies that were committed to making Mount Isa a safer place for all”*.



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

