

Palmerston, Northern Territory, Australia - International Safe Communities Designation #133

On the 5th March 2008 Palmerston became the first City in the Northern Territory Australia to be accredited as an International Safe Community, the 133rd Safe Community in the world and the 11th in Australia. This was an extremely important day for Palmerston. As the mayor of Palmerston Mr Robert Macleod JP stated *“we have worked to reach this point for more than two years and although this is only the start of much work ahead, this is the moment when we can say we have achieved our goal of becoming the Northern Territory’s first International Safe Community”*. The mayor also commented that the Regional Safe Communities Committee membership includes representatives from Northern Territory Police, local businesses, Council, Northern Territory government departments, members of the community, media and the not-for-profit sector and that *“working together the committee has expanded from looking just at crime prevention issues to looking at the wellbeing of the whole community and the ways in which we can improve the lives of everyone in Palmerston”*.

Ms Marion Scrymgour, MLA, Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Child Protection who was also a signatory to the designation agreement and in her speech stated that *“in any project such as this, leadership and vision is vital ... I would like to acknowledge the major role that the Dept of Health and Community Services have played in working closely with Palmerston Council from the beginning, as well as all the other partners, who together have made the City of Palmerston’s safe community programme so successful”*.



The site visit, on the 19th and 20th February prior to designation, 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, and included Dr Marilyn McPherson, Chairperson SCFNZ, and Ms Dawn Spinks Manager Queensland Safe Community Support Centre. Dr Coggan and Dr McPherson returned from New Zealand for the designation ceremony.



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