

Tauranga – Bay of Plenty New Zealand International Safe Communities Designation 142



Following a successful site visit on 1st April 2008, Tauranga was designated as New Zealand's seventh Safe Community and 142nd International Safe Community in the world on the 9th July 2008. This was an important step for the Tauranga Safe City programme and the result of the strong funding and governance partnership between the Tauranga City Council (TCC), Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BPDHB), the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), and Fulton Hogan (business partner) for the Tauranga Safe City programme.

The Tauranga Safe City programme focuses on eight areas of injury prevention/safety promotion: alcohol and street violence; crime prevention; family violence; older peoples fall prevention; road safety; suicide prevention, water safety and workplace safety. The designation was conducted by Dr Carolyn Coggan in her capacity as Director of Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ), a Certifying Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. Representatives of the key strategic partners for Tauranga Safe City were the other signatories and included, Stuart Crosby Tauranga City Mayor, Stephen Town, CEO, TCC, Jennifer Brown, ACC, Stephen Brecht, Crime Prevention Unit Ministry of Justice, Mary Hackett and Phil Cammish, BPDHB, Mark Stirton, Fulton Hogan, and Inspector Michael Clement, Western Bay of Plenty Police.

The mayor congratulated the members of the Tauranga Safe City project and spoke of the way the unique partnership with representation from local authority, health sector and business had provided wide opportunities to work together in creating a safer city for Tauranga residents and visitors. He commented that *“Tauranga Safe City not only enables us to meet statutory requirements outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, it is also a focal point for introducing community safety principles and practice into the Council's strategic plans”*. As Pat Heydon from ACC commented *“today really is a milestone that has come about by the planting of a safety seed for Tauranga and its people. The seed has been fertilised by forward thinking, proactive organisations, TCC, BPDHB, Fulton Hogan, ACC, and SCFNZ”*.

Dr Coggan commented during the site visit and designation ceremonies that the site visit team were *“very impressed with the comprehensive structure and processes that have been developed to ensure sustainable governance and funding for the Tauranga Safe City Programme”*. She also commented on the way that the considerable expertise and experience of the Tauranga Safe City Coordinator (Mike Mills) *“had strengthened the levels of partnerships and collaborations achieved”*. At the conclusion of the designation ceremony, the International Safe Community flag was raised above the Council Chambers and 'The Art of Safety Exhibition' was opened by the Mayor. The people of Tauranga can take pride in receiving international recognition for their efforts in local community safety and for making this public commitment to an open, transparent and evidence-based approach.

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

