

Wanganui District, New Zealand International Safe Communities Designation #222



Wanganui Safe Community Steering Committee, with the Site Visit Team



Powhiri at Putiki Marae

The Wanganui District has a population of 43,600 and is situated on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island at the mouth of the Whanganui River. On 9th August 2010, members of the Safer Wanganui Steering Committee and wider community welcomed and hosted five ISC reviewers and six observers from New Plymouth, Porirua, Police, ACC and Ministry of Social Development. The site visit assessors and observers were welcomed to Whanganui with a Powhiri and dinner at Putiki Marae. This was followed on the 10th August, with presentations and field trips that all provided meaningful insights into how the Wanganui District had effectively adopted the WHO Safe Community model to improve community safety at a local level.

Safer Wanganui's vision is: "a safe Wanganui where everyone feels safe to be in and move around the community all the time". In the Safer Wanganui ISC application, safety means freedom from physical, social, spiritual, emotional, psychological, sexual and environmental harm, including an awareness of potential harm. Safer Wanganui has adopted a Whariki, which is an innovative model encompassing the lifespan with the active support from 11 key agencies and focused on improving safety across six key areas.

The application ably demonstrated a wide range of injury and violence prevention initiatives underway in the Wanganui District, with a total of 72 initiatives listed. The site visit team was particularly impressed with the level of commitment to the adoption of the Results Based Accountability framework as a model to encourage agencies and groups to think about how they can work together differently to achieve shared outcomes. The key indicators established and the review of progress against the report card demonstrated good progress across a number of safety areas.

Following review of the Wanganui District ISC application and the successful conduct of the site visit, an ISC designation ceremony was held in Wanganui on Friday 19th November 2010. Wanganui Mayor, Annette Main, the newly elected Chair of Safer Wanganui, stated: *"By working together, through Safer Wanganui, we maximise the impact of the work of all of our diverse agencies and groups, to make a significant and sustainable improvement."*

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



Lauren Tamehana (DHB) and Mayor Annette Main