

What are the benefits of working together?

The core value of Safe Communities is collaboration as, by working together, community safety will be enhanced. Benefits include:

- Increased synergy (1+1 = 5). By developing collaborative relationships, you are building critical mass and credibility.
- Mapping and linking current initiatives can create a clearer and more comprehensive picture of local risks. By sharing best practice and developing an integrated problem-solving approach to planning, duplications will be reduced.
- An increase in impact and reach. One message many voices, resulting in a continuity of messages and interventions.
- Improvements in perceptions of safety, the creation of vibrant yet safe environments and, ultimately, a reduction in the incidence of injuries/violence/crime/alcohol related harm.

The benefits of working together to ensure that your programme is sustainable is important, as the impact of injury on a person, their family, their friends and the community as a whole can be devastating. Many injuries result in lifelong changes for all those involved.

If we are serious about developing a positive safety culture and safer environments then we need to remind individuals, families, employers, communities, the health care system and wider society that the cost of injuries are far greater than treatment and rehabilitation costs alone, and that the cost of a life, of lost potential and opportunities foregone are immeasurable.

It is important that your programme is sustainable as the benefits at improving safety are profound.

- For individuals and families there is continued quality of life, ongoing participation in work, leisure and educational activities, and preservation of income and assets.
- For organisations and businesses the benefits of injury prevention include reduced disruption to their operations, increased productivity, retention of valued staff, and reduced levies.
- The wider community has a lot to gain from having a safer, positive and more productive population, and from less demand being placed on the health care system due to injury.

If as a nation New Zealanders are going to continue to enjoy an active and challenging lifestyle and NZ, as a country, is to retain its international image as a safe place to visit, then we, the government and non-government agencies, need to work better together through community engagement and adoption of a problem solving approach. International and national evidence would suggest that working towards the criteria for accreditation, as a Safe Community would ensure that we continue to live in communities that embrace these values.

SCFNZ has an ongoing commitment to the promotion of a culture of community safety and injury/violence prevention nationally and internationally through advocating for effective change, sharing information, research and best practice, and developing collaborations and partnerships that positively support the development of a positive safety culture and safer environments. Through the development of collaborative relationships with communities, organisations and government (national and local), the Safe Communities model has been successful in bringing about positive changes in community safety practice.

Safe Communities Network

- Safe Communities is a concept that recognises safety as "*a universal concern and a responsibility for all*". It promotes a structured and collaborative approach to injury and violence prevention in communities.
- World Health Organization views the Safe Communities approach as an important means of delivering evidence-based violence and injury prevention strategies at the local level.
- Members of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network (PPSCN) are committed to best practice in community safety, violence and injury prevention through greater collaboration and cooperation between non-government organisations, the business sector, and government agencies.
- There are only 30 Councils in New Zealand, 110 in the Pacific region and 360 communities globally which are members of this network.
- It has developed six key criteria for its members to achieve a sustainable community safety programme:
 1. *Leadership & Collaboration*: Demonstration of leadership by coalition or group focused on improving community safety.
 2. *Programme Reach*: The range and reach of community safety programmes operating throughout your community, including an indication of the extent to which they are evidence based.
 3. *Priority Setting*: Demonstration of programmes that target and promote safety for high risk/vulnerable groups and environments.
 4. *Data Analysis & Strategic Alignment*: Analysis of available safety (injury, violence, crime and perception) data for your community/region and how they align with established national priorities and action plans.
 5. *Evaluation*: Outline of expected impacts and how they are being measured or evaluated.
 6. *Communication & Networking*: Demonstration of community engagement with relevant sectors of your community and ongoing participation in Safe Communities networks is required.

TAs and SC

- There is a natural fit between the Safe Communities model and a Territorial Authorities commitment to developing communities that promote social, environmental, and physical wellbeing.
- Most TAs pride themselves on the difference they can make to the lives of people by reducing their risk of violence and injury through how we support communities.
- It is acknowledged that most TAs are already conducting a range of safety initiatives focused on residents, businesses and community groups, including programmes around safety and wellbeing, family violence, road safety, fire safety, child safety, workplace health and safety, emergency planning, alcohol and drug misuse etc.
- Accreditation by the Safe Communities Network formalises a TAs commitment to doing all they can to create the safest possible communities for those who live, work or visit our communities.
- By becoming an accredited member, a TA not only shares the lessons we have learnt but they can tap into a global peer group for ideas and information.
- All accredited TAs report significant benefits gained through working collaboratively with this international independent network and its members to bolster community safety, injury and violence prevention within their communities.
- They are generally particularly excited about becoming a member of the globally recognised SC network which shares the same values such as respect, innovation, integrity, collaboration and excellence.

- Importantly, while councils may have facilitated this accreditation, it needs to be owned by members of the community as everyone works together to bolster community safety.

The Process

- To become a member of the network, TAs submitted a written application addressing strict criteria, received site visits from an Accrediting Centre, of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network and are subject to an international peer-review.
- SCFNZ is an International Support Centre and Accrediting Centre of the PPSCN, a not-for-profit registered charitable trust. Its mission is to promote, support and inspire communities to utilise the Safe Communities’ model, to create safer environments and increase the adoption of safer behaviours through building their capacity to achieve international best practice in community safety and Safe Community Accreditation.

Q&As

<p>Q: Why would a TA do this?</p>
<p>By becoming an accredited member, a TLA not only shares the lessons they’ve learnt but can tap into a global peer group for ideas and information.</p> <p>There is a natural fit between the Safe Communities model and the Councils, Police, DHB and ACC’s commitment to supporting communities that promote social, environmental, and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Most Councils pride themselves on the difference they can make to the lives of people by reducing their risk of violence and injury through how they support their communities. Communities already conduct a range of safety initiatives focused on residents, businesses and community groups, including programmes around violence prevention, fire safety, child safety, workplace health and safety etc – but these generally lack coordination and integration.</p>
<p>Q: So does accreditation mean that communities are safe places to live?</p>
<p>Accreditation by the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network formalises your commitment to doing all you can to create the safest possible communities for those who live, work or visit your communities.</p>
<p>Q: How can your TA be a safe place when there are robberies/ thefts / attacks each year?</p>
<p>This accreditation is about working collaboratively with this national and international network and its members to bolster community safety, injury and violence prevention at its communities.</p> <p>By becoming a certified member, your Council will not only share the lessons you’ve learnt but you can tap into a global peer group for ideas and information.</p> <p>Being an accredited does not mean that a community is perfectly safe, but rather that a community has a system and processes in place to address safety issues.</p>
<p>Q: Would you say SC accredited communities are safe places to live? / Have you done this because your TA is not safe?</p>
<p>All participating agencies involved in Safe Community efforts pride themselves on the difference they can make to the lives of people by reducing their risk of violence and injury through how they implement a range of safety initiatives. Your agencies already conduct a range of safety initiatives but this process formalises your commitment to work in a more collaborative and systematic way.</p>

Accreditation by the PPSCN formalises our commitment to doing all we can to create the safest possible communities for those who live, work or visit our communities.

