

A dozen or more kiwis attended the Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Conference in Sydney 25-27 November - I was fortunate to receive a SCFNZ scholarship to attend and present the 'Pa Model for Safe Communities' (refer <http://saferotorua.weebly.com/>).

Being a new-ish safe community coordinator in Rotorua (just re-designated), it was a great opportunity to hear from others in the sector, bounce my own ideas and build relationships. With an interest in indigenous development, it was great to attend early workshop streams dedicated to indigenous community work. There was good discussion between sessions comparing Australian and NZ approaches and differences between research focussed work and hands-on. Also some good take-home messages, leads to follow and relationships built.

I learnt as much about NZ initiatives there such as the development of the Pan-Pacific Safe Communities movement and other safe community work and models. I noticed the absence of Crime-related presentations, the prevalence of 'the public health' approach to things and some surprising reports like Queensland's clear-out of public health workforce - we should be grateful with our gains, including our ability to incorporate Maori and Pacific frameworks.

Some good keynote and panel presentations also stimulated further thought like Journalist Wendy Carlisle with my standout quote 'get into the dig' when organisations harm our community or the environment by hiding truth to prevent informed choices - along with tips for helping to tell stories that engage people. Great presentations from our other kiwi presenters. All in all a very worthwhile conference - big thanks to SCFNZ for making it available and helping stimulate our safe community participation and growth.

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