

# Safe Communities Overview

## Model and Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

### **What is a Safe Community?**

World Health Organization (WHO) recognises the Safe Communities approach as an important means of delivering evidence-based violence and injury prevention strategies at the local level. Safe Communities is not another project or a programme, it's an integrated way of doing business. The Safe Communities model creates an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building local partnerships and collaborative relationships. The six criteria for accreditation are:

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/region, including an indication of the extent to which they are based on proven or promising intervention strategies.
3. **Targeted Interventions:** 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/state/regional 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/region and ongoing participation in local, national and Pacific Safe Communities networks is required.

In May 2018 following a PPSCN accreditation review, and feedback from New Zealand communities, it was decided to update the accreditation process. Applications will now be written in four parts. This does not replace the six criteria but is designed to demonstrate the inter-related nature of the criteria. It will also eliminate the need to repeat information under different headings. The four parts are:



**Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)**

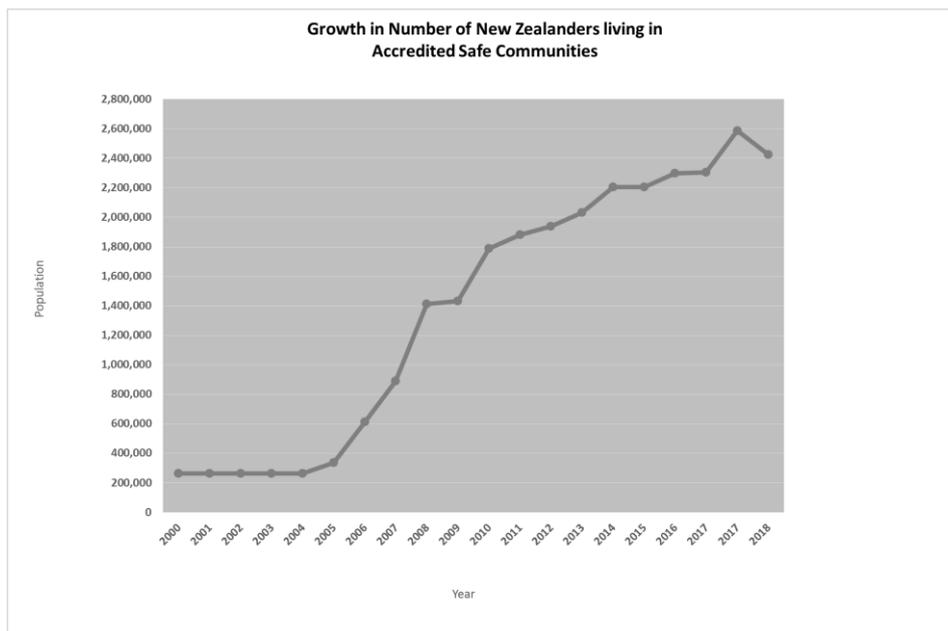
[www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz)

Support and Accrediting Centre for the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network  
Safe Communities is a World Health Organization recommended approach



### **How many Safe Communities do we have in NZ?**

Currently, just over 50% of New Zealanders live in an accredited Safe Community. There is no 'one size fits all' formula for Safe Communities. Each area creates its own structures, priorities and activities that are appropriate and responsive to local needs and conditions. Local authorities are usually engaged, along with key stakeholders including Police, ACC, Fire & Emergency NZ, District Health Boards, local Iwi, and other community agencies. Visit <http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/safe-community-networks/safe-community-networks> for a full list of accredited Safe Communities, and their priorities, initiatives and outcomes.



### **What is SCFNZ's role in this process?**

SCFNZ is a not-for-profit national organisation with charitable trust status (#CC10928). SCFNZ is a WHO recommended approach, and an Accrediting Centre of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN), a regional network of the International Safe Community movement. SCFNZ is funded by ACC, Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Agency. SCFNZ has both the capacity and capability to provide ongoing services to the local, regional, national and international Safe Communities movement. SCFNZ has adopted both public health and community development approaches to safety promotion, injury and violence prevention since it was established in 2004.

### **Why an integrated approach to supporting Safe Communities?**

Intentional and unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 to 34 years in NZ and has an estimated social and economic costs of approximately \$60 billion per annum. Consequently, at the national level, improving community safety is a high priority for central and local government.

The Safe Communities model is aligned with and provides a platform for the achievement of central government objectives including: ACC priorities and programmes; NZ Health Strategy; Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Agency focus on reducing drug and alcohol-related harm; 'Delivering Better Public



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Services' objectives; Ministry of Justice 'Drivers of Crime' initiative; NZ Police Prevention First Strategy; NZTA 'Safer Journeys 2020'. The cross-government Injury Prevention Work Plan is an expression of the government's commitment to working with organisations and groups in the wider community to improve the country's injury prevention performance.

### **Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals**

The New Zealand Safe Community Network actively supports the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In particular addressing the Sustainable Development Goals directly related to injury and violence prevention and those that address the risk factors of injury and violence.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and 169 targets set out a universal agenda to achieve sustainable development globally, known as Agenda 2030. The broad goals are interrelated though each has its own targets to achieve. They bring together the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. They apply to all countries. The SDGs cover a broad range of social and economic development issues. These include poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice.



### **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. By developing collaborative relationships that can build 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 the continuity of messages and interventions, and their sustainability.
- 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.