

Napier City, New Zealand

International Safe Communities Designation #202



Accredited examiners from Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) visited Napier on Tuesday (17 August) to assess the city's community safety efforts against criteria developed by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. The visit was part of the Safe Communities Napier Committee's aim of making Napier an 'International Safe City'. Napier Mayor Barbara Arnott said "Results on the ground is what really matters. Napier is blessed with committed, passionate people working together to make a safer, healthier community for all of us. The 'International Safe City' accreditation celebrates this."



Safe Community Napier Committee, with the Site Visit Team

The site visit review team was addressed on the various projects concerning community safety, injury prevention, crime prevention, community renewal, social housing and fire safety undertaken in Napier City. Dr Carolyn Coggan, Director of the New Zealand Certifying Centre who led the site visit, says Napier was the largest committee with 21 partner organisations and it had a good representation of community, and central government agencies partnering with Napier City Council. "The dedication and commitment of all those involved in working towards Napier becoming an International Safe Community has been well demonstrated and I'm pleased to announce that each of the six criteria has been met," Carolyn says.



Site Visit Team doing Tai Chi demonstration

The review team was particularly impressed with: the amazing commitment from volunteers; the reach and effectiveness of both Neighbourhood Support and Community Patrols throughout Napier; the commitment of Housing New Zealand to improving community safety for vulnerable groups; the comprehensive approach adopted by the Fire Service to work with at-risk youth; the support from Council; the leadership provided by the Police and their proactive approach to community safety; and, last but by no means least, the dedication and commitment from all members of the Safe Community Napier Committee.



Site Visit Team at Police Station

Chairman Rob Lutter said "It has been a great achievement to gain ISC accreditation. This process has taken almost three years and showed commitment and work to develop a plan for Napier. This is just the start, we as a collective will continue to develop new collaborative strategies that will improve the safety and well being of this city." Napier City celebrated the achievement at a designation ceremony in early September. The designation ceremony was a wonderful celebration of community safety.



Mayor Barbara Arnott and Dr Carolyn Coggan and the Designation Ceremony

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