

# Christchurch City New Zealand International Safe Communities Designation



Following a successful site visit on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 attended by 11 participating experts and observers, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 Christchurch City became the 9<sup>th</sup> community in New Zealand and 144<sup>th</sup> International Safe Community to achieve designation.

Christchurch City's designation was an especially significant occasion as the designation ceremony was held as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference. The designation ceremony provided good opportunities for networking with other designated and pending Safe Communities. Over 500 delegates attended the conference and representatives from 70 different Safe Communities were there to congratulate Christchurch on reaching the criteria to become designated. As part of the Safe Communities tradition, to celebrate Christchurch's designation, delegates from the designated Safe Communities network presented Mayor Parker with gifts from their communities.



Signatories for the Christchurch ceremony were Dr Leif Svanstrom the chair of the World Health Organisation's Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Dr Carolyn Coggan Director of the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand, Bob Parker Mayor of Christchurch and Dave Cliff Canterbury District Commander New Zealand Police. It is envisaged that at a later date other key stakeholders in the Christchurch Strategy will become signatories.

Making Christchurch the safest city in New Zealand is the aim of the Safer Christchurch Strategy, adopted in September 2005 by the Christchurch City Council, to make the city a safer place to live, work and play. The Strategy, overseen by the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group representing 21 agencies and sector representatives, focuses on injury prevention, road safety and crime prevention.

As Mayor Bob Parker, the chair of the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group which oversees the Strategy said *"Christchurch City has always played a key role in community safety. The accreditation is for everyone who has ever played a role in helping to make our community safer; it is thanks to their commitment, leadership and innovation that Christchurch is joining an elite group of world-wide communities focussed on making their place safer for residents and visitors alike. This does not mean Christchurch is 'perfectly safe' but rather that the community has systems and processes in place to address safety, and all sectors of the community are working together to increase the overall safety of its residents and visitors"*.



Further information can be found by visiting the Safe Communities Foundation NZ web site  
[www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/chch](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/chch)

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

Hurstmere House, 128 Hurstmere Road, Takapuna. PO Box 331399, Takapuna, North Shore 0740, New Zealand  
Tel: +64 9 488 7601 Fax: +64 9 488 7602 Email: [contact@scfnz.org](mailto:contact@scfnz.org) Website: [www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz)