

# Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

Certifying Centre for Safe Community Programs

On behalf of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion,  
Department of Public Health Sciences Division of Social Medicine, Karolinska Institute, Sweden



foundation nz

## Safe Community Wellington



Name of the Community: **Wellington City**

Country: **New Zealand**

Number of inhabitants: **179463**

Programme started year: **2000**

International Safe Communities Network Membership: Designation Year: **2006 & 2012**

Full application available: <http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/we>

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## **The programme covers the following safety activities:**

### **For the age group**

#### Children 0 – 14:

- There is a strong focus on restraint use through car seat rental schemes available to all caregivers to reduce injuries caused through road crashes to unrestrained children. There is considerable amount of information available around restraint use and locations where they can be obtained.
- All daycare centres and schools have safety routines and fire drills. Most primary schools in the city operate school patrols that provide safe crossing of the road adjacent to the school. Other schools also operate a 'Walking School Bus' supported by the community to assist safe travel to and from school. Cycle helmets are compulsory when cycling in New Zealand.

#### Youth 15-24 years:

- Several campaigns and programmes specifically aimed at providing information that improves the safety of this group including reducing opportunities of being victimized and keeping safe in the city. Much of the material has been aimed at preventing and reducing alcohol misuse and drug use amongst this group. Opportunities have also been identified to provide information around violence prevention, vandalism and general safety information. The development of safe venues in the city with a focus on music and art has provided young people with a place to gather. A Youth council in the city has offered a voice for young people and the opportunity to participate in the affairs of the city.
- A number of organizations in the city provide a range of services to meet the needs of young people and their families
- Safe transport options have also played a significant part in improving the safety for young people. In particular late night buses within the city and to other areas including the Hutt Valley and Porirua areas provide a safe transport option late evening through until after midnight. Youth networks, a youth health service and projects aimed at meeting the needs of young people have been made available.
- Mobile event vehicles remain a part of the work with young people and have provided the chance for young people to showcase their talent and have been seen as a way of engaging with young people and encouraging them to participate through music, dance performance and art. Working with young people around graffiti art has also played a significant role as has encouraging a wide range of dance performance.

#### Adults 25-64 years:

- Programmes include information about keeping young people safe and about general safety when visiting the city to suit the adult audience. Safety information that identifies high risk areas in the home, work and while participating in sport and how to reduce them. There is also a variety of road

safety information and the opportunity to participate in community processes around safety. Community safety audits provide opportunities for community groups and organisations to contribute to safety concerns and subsequent solutions.

#### Older Adults 65+ years:

- There is a strong emphasis on accessibility and the availability of mobility car parks.
- Mobility scooters are available free from several locations across the city to ensure access to the city for everyone
- Support for exercise classes for those in older age groups designed to improve mobility are also available.
- Tai Chi classes are held in a variety of locations.

#### **In the following Environments:**

##### Home:

- Many groups and organisations provide information and support to parents of new born children through community activities and visits. Discussion groups of parents also provide opportunities for people to meet in their own homes and support one another.
- Injury prevention information is provided to the community with specific information about preventing home-based injuries.
- Fire safety messages associated with fire prevention in the home are available in the community.
- Fire safety officers provide advise to residents following any fire to ensure all steps are taken to prevent any further fires in areas of the city
- Information around safe practices are provided when building consents are issued especially to those engaged in 'DYI' activities

##### Traffic:

- The Safer Roads project aims to reduce accidents on the city's roads by one third by 2020. This is a partnership approach across a wide range of agencies to improve road safety in the city's suburbs and central city.
- All changes in the community are developed through a community consultation through a series of local meetings that identify concerns, needs and some solutions.
- Changes to speed limits in parts of the city have progressed.
- Installation of bus only lanes to improve traffic flow and increase pedestrian safety.



- The city has a high usage of public transport and many people walk or cycle

#### Occupational:

A number of initiatives introduced that are aimed at injury prevention in the workplace:

- Health and Safety on all business unit agendas across Council.
- Comprehensive health and safety training.
- Sound reporting systems for notification of injuries.
- 'Site safe' is seen as a safety tool in the city with council only engaging contractors who meet those criteria.
- City Safety Officers in the city identify hazards early and report them to ensure early repair and fewer injuries.
- Areas of high injury reporting such as retail and hospitality sectors, have attracted a scheme to provide information and support to the sector.

#### School:

- Most pre school facilities such as day care facilities and schools have in place a wide range of injury prevention programmes both in the classroom and the playground.
- School patrols have been a tradition at schools for sometime and support the safe environment around the school when children are arriving and departing from school.
- Many schools provide safe 'drop off' and 'pick up' locations for children arriving and leaving school by vehicle
- Lower speed limits are in place around schools
- The 'Walking School Bus' has provided another example of improving safety for those walking to and from school.
- Other injury prevention and safety programmes are delivered in schools through a range of organizations such as cycle safety

#### Sports

- A joint initiative in the city, 'Push Play' aims to increase physical activity and reduce the likelihood of injury particularly amongst the youth population.
- A high priority of the city is to improve participation in sport.
- A programme aimed at reducing injuries and harm for sports clubs has now been implemented. 'Sports Club Accreditation' is designed to offer a wide range of information associated with injury prevention, alcohol management and others issues to sports clubs in the city.
- The city provides a wide range of programmes at aquatic centres aimed at improving water based skills and improving injury outcomes. This include a large number of learn to swim classes

#### Leisure:

- A number of 'safe' venues and locations where young people can gather at which are alcohol free and provide a range of activities.
- Improve safety in the community and participation by young people through the use of music, art and performance.
- A number of youth related activities aimed at improving social outcomes for young people are provided in the city

#### Community:

- Wide use of CPTED as a part of all public space development and redevelopment.
- Working with communities in the development and implementation of safety audits to improve perceptions of safety in those communities.
- Safety audits also carried out in identified high risk areas in cases where certain offences have occurred.
- There is improved accessibility for a number of population groups that include kerb cuts, audible signals at pedestrian crossings and a mobility parking policy across the city.
- We also work closely with the large housing complexes which we have regarded as communities in their own right. Safety audits have recently been completed at three of the complexes with the community identifying some of the solutions. A community action programme is also in place for all the housing complexes as am part of an upgrade project in city housing



#### **Violence prevention (intentional injuries)**

- A Family Violence Network has been established to provide a partnership approach aimed at a reduction in the incidence of family violence and the provision of support for families.
- The Police have established improved responses to family violence in the city.
- A network has been established as a part of the Te Rito Network including an intervention group that inter-agency case management for all reported family violence
- The three statutory agencies work closely together to reduce alcohol related harm which has been identified as a contributor to public place violence.
- The local District Health Board has identified ways of improving data collection for alcohol related violence presenting at the emergency department.

#### **Suicide prevention (self-inflected injuries)**

- A national strategy has recently been released and we work with existing organisations who provide support, information and training in this area.

- A 'Postvention' programme is in place through public health providers to look at identified risk areas as part of suicide prevention in the city

### **Programmes aiming at "High risk-groups"**

- Young people with programmes aimed at alcohol safety, safe transport and road safety.
- Residents and visitors using the city are provided with safety information.
- New residents to the city being provided with information that will help them feel a part of the city.

### **Surveillance of injuries**

Wellington Injury Data ACC ThinkSafe Report prepared by the Safe Communities Foundation, has provided the baseline data for injury surveillance to support injury prevention needs in the city. The routinely collected data will enable comparisons over time. It will also support the development of the strategic approach across the city to injury prevention.

The report provides injury mortality data, including leading causes of injury deaths, overall rates of injury deaths by age group and comparisons of injury deaths by ward. Injury hospitalisations for Wellington City are also outlined, including leading causes of injury hospitalisations; overall rates of injury hospitalisations by age group; rates of injury hospitalisations by gender; injury hospitalisations by ethnicity; and comparisons of injury hospitalisations by ward. Other sources of injury data are also described, including ACC injury statistics, and NZTA road injury statistics.

Numbers per year: Between 2000 and 2001 (latest available), 108 residents of Wellington City died as the result of receiving an injury. This is equivalent to a crude injury rate of 32.3 injury deaths per 100,000 person years. This shows that the leading cause of injury deaths was suicide (31%). Falls were the second leading cause of injury death (26%); followed by motor vehicle crashes (20%).

Between 2000 and 2003, 4,960 residents of Wellington City were hospitalised for injury. The crude injury hospitalisation rate during this period was 741.7 injury hospitalisations per 100,000 person years. Males accounted for over half (55%) of the injury hospitalisations. This shows that the leading cause of injury hospitalisation was falls (49%). The other leading causes of injury were attempted suicide/deliberate self-harm (7%) motor vehicle traffic crashes on a public road (6%).

The population base for Wellington City is 179 463 (2006 census).

### **Publications**

- The authoring and co-authoring of various papers to community safety conferences in New Zealand and internationally.
- Produced information material, pamphlets.
- Safety Audit workbook.
- 'Stay Safe in the City' publication provided to residents and visitors.
- A variety of youth related information aimed improving youth safety.
- Publicity campaign with information on safety through a variety of media

## **Staff**

- Number: 4
- Professions: part-time or full-time: Full Time City Safety Manager, Central Business District Manager, Senior Safety Advisor and a Safety Advisor
- Permanent: 4
- Temporary: 1
- Organisation: Wellington City Council
- Specific intersectoral leadership group: City Safety Business Unit, Steering Committee and Safety Coalition Group.
- General public health/health promotion group.

## **International commitments:**

- Study visits: Montreal, Melbourne and Brisbane.
- Participation in Safe Community conferences: Christchurch, Brisbane, Sydney, Auckland and Wellington and Montréal.
- Hosting Safe Community Conferences: Part of organising committee for Safer Communities Conference in Auckland and Wellington.
- Site visits for accreditation of International Safe Communities