

Hutt Valley, New Zealand International Safe Communities Designation #203



Safe Hutt Valley Signatories, at Designation Ceremony



Safe Hutt Valley Interagency Group, alongside the Site Visit Team

On Monday 1st August 2010, members of the Safe Hutt Valley Interagency Group (SHVIG) hosted six ISC reviewers and six observers from SCFNZ, Christchurch City, Ministry of Health, ALAC, Safekids, NZ Police, Ministry of Social Development, ACC and Ministry of Justice. The lead agencies of the SHVIG are Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Regional Public Health, Hutt Valley District Health Board (DHB), Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), the Police from both the Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council Police Districts, and Awakairangi Maori Regional Board. The commitment of these two cities at both a political and operational level to work together effectively to improve community safety provides a good model for others to adopt. The review team acknowledges and congratulate all involved.

The Hutt Valley (comprising of Hutt and Upper Hutt City) is 91,615 hectares in size, and has a population of approximately 136,116 people. The collective commitment to share skills, time, energy, information and resources for the development of a positive safety culture and safer environments throughout the Hutt Valley was evident both in the ISC application and during the site visit. The particular focus on young people and the positive influence this can have on the development of a safety culture and safety outcomes for the Hutt Valley was highlighted.

Safe Hutt Valley is also to be congratulated on their efforts relating to road safety, injury and crime prevention. A highlight of the site visit was the field trip and presentation to Dulux demonstrating good workplace safety practices. It also highlighted a strong connection between work and non-work injury prevention efforts.

Following the review of the Safe Hutt Valley application and the results of the site visit, the ISC designation ceremony took place on the 2nd September in Hutt Valley. *"The designation ceremony continued to reaffirm the ongoing active support from key agencies and groups."* stated Dr Carolyn Coggan, chair of the review team. Additionally, the presentation by the Taiohi Morehu youth group during the designation ceremony was powerful and impressive, and gave a very appropriate message on bullying and violence in the home.



Designation Ceremony



Taiohi Morehu performing

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

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