



The International Safe Community (ISC) application by the Waitaki Community was of a good standard. Well done to all involved on addressing all the criteria and completing the application in the new format. Safer Waitaki provided the reviewers with a comprehensive assessment of their community safety efforts. All dealings with Helen Algar (Community Safety & Development Facilitator) have been professional, prompt and respectful to the needs of both the reviewers and the community.

The certifying team was impressed with the way in which the Safer Waitaki Coalition began by undertaking a research project to identify priorities and potential courses of action for the successful implementation of a wide range of Safety Promotion programmes aimed at people across the life-span and covering Road Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Family/Whanau, Youth and Schools, Older Persons, Violence Reduction, Workplace Safety and Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction.

In December 2012, the site visit certifying team (Carolyn Coggan, Tania Peters, Laurie Gabites, Graeme Barber & Cathy Bruce) observed first-hand cross-sectorial collaboration and reach and effectiveness of community safety initiatives occurring in Waitaki. The certifying team were also joined by representatives from the Accident Compensation Corporation, Rural Women and Community Patrols of New Zealand. The site visit was organised well and progress was demonstrated in the areas of road safety, workplace safety, migrant safety, youth and school safety. Discussions relating to governance, strategic plans and future directions, were also appropriately covered. The Safer Waitaki coalition is to be commended for the management of their safety promotion programme, as it encourages a continuous improvement approach, so Safe Communities becomes business as usual in the development of a positive safety culture and the creation of safer environments.

This is a passionate and caring community. It was pleasing to see collaboration occurring between the various agencies (both government and non-government). Certifiers were impressed with the justification for high-risk groups and environments and the emphasis placed on older people, youth aged 15-18 years, and new migrants to Waitaki. All members are to be applauded for their efforts to ensure residents and infrastructure is not only safe but responsive to local needs.

As discussed at the site visit feedback meeting, reviewers encouraged Safer Waitaki to further consider: the adoption of underlying principles to inform strategic alignment and practice; identifying cross cutting issues; the needs of the wider rural community; effective dissemination strategies; and the development of a strategic plan of action. Reviewers also encourage the Safer Waitaki Coalition to continue to utilise injury and crime data and to base delivery on best practice programmes utilising community development principles.

Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand as a Certifying Centre recommends to the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion that Waitaki be designated as an ISC as they have ably demonstrated and fulfilled all seven criteria. Congratulations to all those involved. The designation ceremony is expected to be held in late February 2013.



Members of Safer Waitaki with the site visit team

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SCFNZ is an Accrediting Centre for the Pacific Safe Community Programme &

ISC Certifying Centre & Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion.