

Hastings, New Zealand International Safe Community #311



The International Safe Community (ISC) application by Hastings Community was of a very high standard. The certifying team was particularly impressed with the way in which Safer Hastings organised and carried out injury surveillance analysis and the successful implementation of a wide range of Injury/Crime Prevention programmes aimed at people across the life-span and covering home, road, public spaces, youth, older people and low income families. The evidence-based approach being taken in Hastings is impressive.

Strengths of Safer Hastings include: the excellent collaboration that is occurring between agencies; the appropriate use of data to inform programme development; and the high level of regional collaboration that is occurring. Certifiers were also impressed with the justification for high-risk groups and environments and the emphasis placed on youth and low income families. The emphasis on alcohol as a contributing factor across all areas was justified. All members of Safer Hastings are to be applauded for their efforts to ensure residents and infrastructure is not only safe but responsive to local needs.

The designation ceremony took place at a special ceremony at the Council on 11th March 2013. At the designation ceremony representatives from Red Cross outlined the considerable efforts provided by them to improve safety and in relation to disaster management.

Hastings Mayor Lawrence Yule said *"gaining accreditation is the first step but we must continue to work together."*

Further information can be found at the Safe Communities Foundation NZ website www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/has