



foundation nz



**PAN PACIFIC**  
Safe Communities Network



Improving community wellbeing, resilience and safety through collaborative efforts

## Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

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### SCFNZ Activities Report (July 2020 to June 2021)

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*He aha te mea nui o te ao  
What is the most important thing in the world?  
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata  
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people*

Māori proverb

# About

Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand SCFNZ (established 2004) is a charitable trust, a Safe Community [Accrediting Centre](#) of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network, governed by a board with external funding for 2020/21 by Te Hiringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency. SCFNZ adopts both public health and community development principles in its approach to building social capital and increase wellbeing. An Agent for Change working alongside communities to promote safety, wellbeing, and resilience through:

1. **Relationship management:** national and interagency engagement, local and regional collaboration, maintaining the network of networks
2. **Development and distribution of information and resources:** national and international data, research, analysis and planning tools, evidence-based 'best buys'
3. **Personal and organisational development:** webinars, workshops, hui, coaching and mentoring
4. **Communications:** web-based, social media, zoom/skype, phone/email, site visits
5. **Marketing and promotion:** 'telling the stories', building, and raising the profile, advocating for funding and resources, bringing new voices and partners to the table.

*“Communities in New Zealand are safe, vibrant, resilient and connected.  
He haumarū, hihiri, manahau me hono hapori i roto i Aotearoa.”*

SCFNZ Vision

## From the Director

Kia ora koutou

COVID-19 has changed how society views wellbeing, living and working in a pandemic brings challenges and new influences and perspectives to life. The commitment and collaboration of Safe Communities in Aotearoa is inspiring, confirming that local action is at the forefront of effective community wellbeing.



We are proud to work with our accredited Safe Communities, supporting and enabling them to remain effective through robust leadership in the areas of collaborative governance, priority setting, effective strategies, and shared learning. By working together, we can change the environments, impact policies and practices and eventually behaviours so that safety is the default to increase wellbeing and make our communities inclusive, connected, vibrant and safer for everyone.

I am excited about the next chapter in Safe Communities within Aotearoa New Zealand and look forward to supporting communities to transition to a community-led network.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tania Peters".

Tania Peters,  
Director, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)

## From the Board,

Dear Colleagues

The past year has not been an easy one with the problems of COVID-19 across all communities. Despite these difficulties, each community has demonstrated how they can make a valuable contribution to achieving and improving the safety of their population. With all sectors of community working together in a collaborative and coordinated way to promote safety through forming partnerships managing risk, and reducing the fear of harm, a strong local capacity will be developed to combine the resources and interest that will address local concerns in a sustained manner.



During this year the roles and responsibilities for each partner in a local coalition will have increased, with that overall goal of playing a significant role in tackling the nations response to COVID-19.

The national hui provided that opportunity whereby coming together ideas could be shared, appropriate responses developed, and new measures promoted that would contribute to making each community a safer place to live and work, and how to achieve positive reduction in personal injuries and harm. The annual reports coming from each community show the positive results achieved to date, and with clear expectation that this progress can continue.

There will be challenges ahead in the new year as the structure for Safe Communities in New Zealand moves forward to a community-based organisation. Such changes became inevitable when government funding ceased. Across the country communities continue to show that despite this setback, they are strong in their commitment to show that *“to develop local platforms that engage multiple stakeholders in dialogue and advocacy will achieve positive outcomes”*.

Each community is to be strongly commended on the goals they have achieved and their clear commitment to creating a safer environment for every resident. We know that this level of local and community support and assurance will continue as the driving force to achieve what each of us is hoping for *“with each community living, working, and playing safely free from preventable injury and violence.”*

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Fairbairn".

George Fairbairn,  
Chair, Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

# What is a Safe Community?

Just over 3.3 million (68%) New Zealanders live in an accredited Safe Community. 24 cities and districts are currently engaged in the network and participation is open and accessible to any and every community within Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Safe Communities concept embodies the values and philosophies of whanaungatanga (relationships) manaakitanga (respect, care, and support) and tino rangatiratanga (self-determination and autonomy). It is seen as a mechanism for bringing together agencies and groups that usually work in isolation or in silos to develop a collective 'lens' and generate a collective 'weight' to the process of identifying and responding to pressing community issues. A setting where conventional thinking can be challenged, where new and innovative ideas are developed, and where there is a balance between strategic and tactical thinking/planning.

The Safe Community movement is committed to working together to collectively strengthen cultural capability, diversity and inclusion. It recognises that in working with tangata whenua we contribute to a safer environment not only for Māori but for all New Zealand communities.



## Pathway to the future

Communities work locally and regionally to support wellbeing, placemaking, resilience and community safety. These communities, along with SCFNZ, join to form the National Safe Communities Network in Aotearoa New Zealand. SCFNZ has been an integral part of this national network for almost 20 years and is very proud to have achieved the founding purpose to “create a network of communities who work collaboratively in the community safety/ wellbeing space”. This has been not only due to SCFNZ, but because of the commitment of individuals and communities.

Safe Communities in Aotearoa New Zealand are currently going through evolution driven by changes in the social, political, and funding environments. This is further impacted by the current pandemic. Due to these factors, the SCFNZ board has determined that the current operations of SCFNZ are no longer feasible to support the wider network. This means that any national network moving forward will be fully community-led and not include SCFNZ.

The opportunities in developing a community-led and owned network are a cause for celebration. The transition phase (July-December 2021) is a collective opportunity for accredited Safe Communities to work together to identify the form and function of a new national network. Communities are now actively determining the who and what of a new structure going forward.

# Measuring Success

The Safe Communities Foundation congratulates all those involved as they continue the Safe Community kaupapa and mahi. View the reaccreditation application and link to other information about these Safe Communities on the [SCFNZ website](#)

*Within the past 12 months, SCFNZ conducted three reaccreditations, providing the opportunity for a formal reassessment of priorities and progress, with a focus on growth and sustainability*

## **Marlborough –reaccreditation in December 2020**

Marlborough Safe Community has developed an excellent vision, sets objectives and targets as well as measuring success. Safe and Sound at the Top (SAS@TT) is a well-established regional network that supports wellbeing, placemaking, resilience and injury/violence prevention initiatives. They work well together and support each other's efforts in a collaborative working approach, adapting to emerging issues and trends.

Major strengths highlighted during the review process included, adopting a continuous improvement approach, effective reporting, alongside a long history and strong commitment from senior positions within key stakeholder's organisations. Congratulations to all involved.



## **Waitaki - reaccreditation in December 2020**

In a first for SCFNZ, the reaccreditation meeting between reviewers and the governance group was conducted over Zoom. Safer Waitaki is an excellent model of the adoption and implementation of the Safe Community model in a provincial/rural district, demonstrating outstanding community and organisational collaboration at both strategic and operational levels.

There is strong support from the District Council, and it relies on the coalition to contribute to the wellbeing of the community. Waitaki is to be commended for working together to collectively strengthen cultural capability, diversity, and inclusion.



## **Whanganui - reaccreditation in June 2021**

Congratulations to Whanganui on their second reaccreditation on 10 June. They are leaders in the field of Safe Communities and demonstrated consistent performance at an outstanding level.

The Safer Whanganui strategy is an excellent roadmap for the mutual efforts that provides goals, objectives, and outcome targets. Anecdotal information & evidence-based data is used to provide regular feedback which is linked to the collective picture. This provides a holistic approach broader than just community safety, looking at social issues, risk factors & environments. Whanganui Council must be applauded for demonstrated on going leadership and management of Safe Communities within the district.

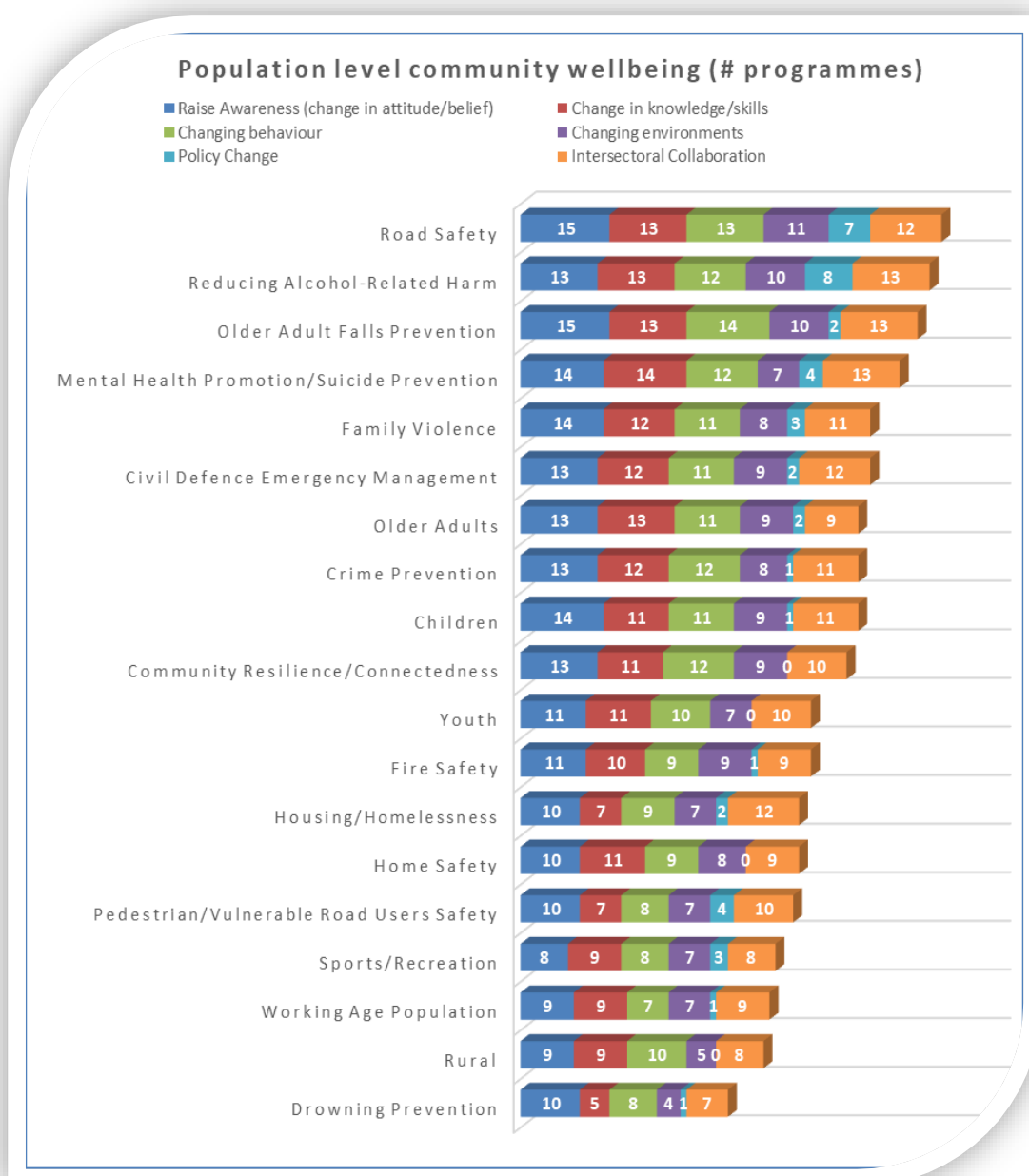


Tania Peters, SCFNZ (third from left in front row) with Safer Whanganui partners.

# Reach and Priorities

**Monitoring** is incorporated into the Safe Communities journey. Annual Report information provides rationale and demonstrates effective operation of governance, coordination, and work streams. They show whether things are going to plan, identify potential issues, and implement steps to solve problems quickly. This is a key component of achieving the effectiveness of community coalitions, including reach of programmes, and building networks for action.

The chart below aggregates population level community wellbeing programmes by the mode and intervention topic across the whole country. This demonstrates communities are not restricted to single approaches but use different interventions across a range of sectors.



*The number in each segment shows the number of communities reporting on that particular topic and mode. The cumulative length of each bar shows the areas of highest priority and activity in each sector.*

# National Hui

Strengthening the capacity and increasing capability of all existing Safe Communities to improve the effectiveness of local Safe Community coalitions is core business.

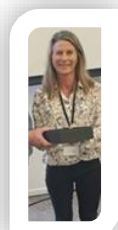
**Strength in Numbers:** In March 2021, SCFNZ held its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Communities National Hui ‘*Collaborating for Community Wellbeing*’.

- 63% of Safe Communities attended the two-day event, to learn, connect, interact, and engage, Attendance was down on previous years’ hui as a result of concerns about recent COVID-19 lockdown, local government planning and personal reasons.
- 100% agreed with the statement ‘*I have learnt something new relevant to my Safe Community work and have upskilled my knowledge and capabilities*’
- 75% of respondents rated SCFNZ overall in relation to the hui as ‘*excellent or very good*’
- Four main topics: *emergency management & welfare response; monitoring & indicators; Localism in the COVID context; and emerging issues in addressing alcohol & drug related harm.*
- Focused discussion sessions allowed for in depth analysis and collective discussion/problem solving of key issues after each of the three key topic areas. Evaluation showed a 75% positive rating – ‘*a great way to share ideas and different perspectives and experiences*’, ‘*good for networking and reflection*’, ‘*valuable for enriching learnings*’.
- An interactive roundtable session allowed for brief presentation to allow exploration of key concepts, frameworks, and models. A sharing of experience and ideas on community wellbeing (hauora).

*All community presentations at the hui demonstrated how working collectively as a coalition assisted in identifying priorities and therefore delivering a comprehensive response to increasing wellbeing. They highlighted the involvement of community and the importance of community voice in addition to policies and interventions that support community wellbeing.*

## Celebrating Leadership

**Safe Communities leadership and support acknowledged, . announced at the National Hui.** SCFNZ annually provides awards to recognise the contribution and leadership shown by individuals who are committed to furthering the objectives and goals of the SCFNZ and the Safe Community movement.



**Congratulations to Cathy Bruce (Principal Advisor Alcohol, Te Hiringa Hauora)** who received the Carolyn Coggan Safe Community Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and support for Safe Communities at the national level.

**Congratulations to Helen Algar (Community Development Manager, Waitaki District Council)** who received the SCFNZ Safe Community Award, in recognition of her individual outstanding leadership and support for Safe Communities at the regional/local level.





# Building Capacity & Capability

Over 30 Territorial Authorities participated in SCFNZ shared learning events (regional or digital). Evaluation showed *'80% of participants intended to use the learnings from these events in their work'*

- **#1 training workshops:** Results Based Accountability
- **#4 newsletters:** to build the network profile and celebrate and share success stories
- **#18 e-alerts:** on effective practice, new resources, events, training opportunities, key learnings, network news and information
- **#2 webinars facilitated:** *'Safer City for Women: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence'*; *'Development and uses of a Social Community Profile'* There are over 30 archived webinars available online.
- **#9 zoom hui** have occurred addressed 'the new normal' the communities are operating in as a result of COVID-19.

## **Pathways to Community Wellbeing Reducing Alcohol-Related Harm - A Framework for Action**

Communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand are active in implementing a range of established and innovative programmes/initiatives to address alcohol-related harm. This resource was developed support this vital work by providing communities with:

- Tools for addressing alcohol-related issues in a systematic way
- Resources for implementing effective and appropriate interventions
- Sources of data, research & priority-setting techniques that could assist in decisions
- Examples of proven programmes and activities that increase the likelihood of success

*Acknowledgements: resource developed by SCFNZ National Office (Michael Mills and Tania Peters) in consultation with and funding support from THH/HPA with invaluable input from: Alisha Stone (& colleagues): New Plymouth Injury Safe; Michele Grigg: Napier City Council/Safer Napier/Hawke's Bay region; Saniya Thompson: Invercargill City Council/Safe in the South; and Wayne Levick (& colleagues): Auckland Council/Safety Collective Tāmaki Makaurau.*

## COVID-19 Pandemic

The challenge of living in a pandemic impacted community in a multitude of ways, including unemployment, financial concerns, health risks, mental health, isolation, and uncertainty. It is widely acknowledged that our country, has had an excellent health response and maintained near normal daily life although our borders remain closed. The risks are real, and the ongoing effects are evident especially with the vulnerable and the ongoing impact on economic and mental wellbeing. A region wide lockdown for Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau (February) the fourth for this region. The hui theme was particularly relevant as communities continue to navigate life in a pandemic with presentations and discussions demonstrated understanding of community wellbeing, and the different characteristics that encouraged communities to flourish.

# Strategic direction

## SCFNZ STRATEGY 2020-2023

### OUR VISION

Communities in New Zealand are safe, vibrant, resilient and connected.

He haumarū, hihiri, manahau me hono hapori i roto i Aotearoa.



### OUR VALUES

#### Approachable/Whānaungatanga and Connected/Kotahitanga

- Participation and strong effective relationships, Collaboration is the heart of what we do
- Flexibility and choice underpins our community support, being nationally led, but community delivered

#### Respect/Manaakitanga and Integrity/Tikanga

- Demonstrate, honesty, respect and integrity
- Embrace diversity (understanding) and accepting the differences of each community

#### Responsible/Kaitiakitanga and Proactive/Tūhonohono

- Embrace innovation, in supporting strengthening community social impact
- Evidence-based approach - on local and international best practice

### WHAT WE DO?

- Sustain and grow the Safe Community movement
- Be an influencer to adopt wellbeing and safety practices
- Build community social impact
- Grow and diversify our sphere of influence
- Strengthen Safe Community capabilities

### THE DIFFERENCE WE WANT TO MAKE

**Increased community capability and self-determination** Communities have the skills, leaders and capabilities needed to drive and sustain positive local change to achieve their aspirations.

**Increased synergy** through developing collaborative relationships that can build critical mass and credibility.

**Increased impact and reach** One message many voices, resulting in the continuity of messages and interventions, and their sustainability.

**Increased family and whānau resilience** People have the skills, strategies and networks that they need to achieve and maintain wellbeing.

**Increased inclusion and social cohesion** Connections are built within and between communities, creating an environment in which people feel included and that they belong.

**Increased social equity** All people, families and communities can access safe housing, health, education, sporting and employment opportunities.

**Enhanced community safety** Improvements in perceptions of safety, the creation of vibrant yet safe environments, adoption of safer behaviours, increased wellbeing with a long-term reduction in severity and incidence of injury/violence/crime and alcohol related harm.

**Safety is a: fundamental human right; a shared responsibility; an attainable aspiration.**