

24 August 2021

Liz McMillan  
Chair  
Safe Communities Ashburton District  
[Liz.McMillan@adc.govt.nz](mailto:Liz.McMillan@adc.govt.nz)

cc: Lesley Symington  
[Lesley.symington@safermid-canterbury.org.nz](mailto:Lesley.symington@safermid-canterbury.org.nz)



Kia ora Liz

### **Annual Report 2020/2021**

Thank you for Ashburton Safe Community's online annual report and 3 case studies. Safe Communities Ashburton District's continuing flexibility in response to changing priorities driven by the COVID-19 situation and, more recently the flooding, is commendable, particularly accommodating the *Caring for Communities Project*. Safe Communities Ashburton District has the capabilities to do this but will need appropriate resourcing and capacity to maintain focus on wellbeing, in addition to usual initiatives, in the current environment.

Congratulations on getting Safe Communities Ashburton District and the CAB included in council's next long-term plan, and on getting the community transport project included in the Environment Canterbury long term plan. All will certainly ensure sustainability. Now that Safe Communities is in the council long term plan, it could be timely to look at stronger links with council, particularly regarding contribution to/sharing the Coordinator role. This could address involvement with the key safety concerns that most other Safe Communities have as part of their work.

The Safe Communities Ashburton District governance group includes a wide range of national and local representation, and it is impressive to read that about 20 members attend each meeting. In addition, it is good to see *Age Concern* now included in your governance group to facilitate progress in older adult falls prevention. I encourage consideration of how the voice of the migrant community, business sector and youth are represented in governance and setting priorities. An annual priority-setting workshop or showcase to engage organisations that can't attend regular meetings may be a way to maintain the interest of the Steering Group agencies – listed as a challenge in the Safe Communities Ashburton District's annual report. However, it is commendable that the meetings have been adapted to try and address this. Encouraging working group members to report back verbally is excellent. In addition, some of our other smaller Safe Communities are well networked, so it could be worthwhile visiting, or at least, having a conversation with them. Good examples include Marlborough, Waitaki and Waimakariri. Also, Safer Napier runs an annual planning day with their partners. I'm sure they all would be happy to share what they do and how they do it.

The case studies submitted included worthwhile collaborative initiatives and it is pleasing to see good use of RBA performance measures, subsequent to feedback on the last annual reporting and the RBA training provided in February this year. Evaluating behaviour change, in addition to raising awareness, will be useful. It is unfortunate that the *2020 Safety Village* was unable to go ahead, but great to build on the success of the 2019 one for future events, especially considering the interest of an additional

12 agencies in participating. The *Mid Canterbury Child Injury Awareness/Prevention programme* has been set up in response to data and it is good to see it targeting those who care and work with children, in addition to the children themselves. The *Let's Keep Safe* programme also addresses an issue in the community.

The data from Safe Community annual reports will be aggregated into a national report that will not identify individual community information. This summary report, which includes collated case studies, will be a valuable source of information, and will be distributed later in October.

SCFNZ thanks you, Lesley and all others involved in Safe Communities Ashburton District on what has been achieved during somewhat challenging times and for your contributions to the Safe Communities network. We acknowledge the changes within Safe Communities and will actively support the transition phase.

Ngā mihi



Tania Peters  
**Director,**  
**Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand**