

NPIs

New Plymouth
Injury Safe

COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

#9, May 2004

New Plymouth's Injury Prevention projects are supported by ACC Thinksafe

New Plymouth is working towards an injury free community

A Safe Community - Something to Strive For

District Council Hosts Symposium

Deputy Mayor, Lynn Bublitz welcomed around 70 partners, providers and interested parties to the NPIs Community Injury Prevention Symposium at council chambers on 18 May. It was an opportunity for us to review how far we have come since receiving the District Injury Needs Assessment report in 2001. Margaret Devlin provided some inspiration from the Waitakere experience. Megan Bly spoke of the NZIP Strategic Action Plan and the framework it offers local communities. With ongoing support from ACC Thinksafe and commitment from all who attended the symposium, WHO accreditation may be the next step. We would welcome your views on this – you can contact us at the addresses below.

Better Homes – Safer Children

Annually around 10,000 children under 15 are hospitalised in New Zealand because of unintentional injuries. Between a third and a half of injuries to under 5s are caused by falls in the home. Other leading causes of injury to pre-schoolers are poisoning, cutting and burns.

The Better Homes – Safer Children project is a small pilot which aims to address the most common injury causes by offering simple in-home safety checks to families with young children along with safety information. The safety checks will be made available to families qualifying for subsidised 'Better Homes' energy audits and retrofits. On completion of the check, free safety devices will be installed as required to reduce home hazards by WISE (*Waitara Initiatives Supporting Employment*). The project will be piloted in twenty homes and if successful be offered to around 200 families over the next year.

Housing NZ Help Older Tenants Avoid Falls

Housing New Zealand has responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to collaborate with ACC in delivering a joint older-adults falls prevention initiative in Taranaki. The intervention will be based on the project recently completed with the New Plymouth District Council and aims to provide home safety assessments and falls prevention information to approximately 200 Housing NZ tenants aged over 65. Advice provided at the home visit will promote other ACC falls prevention activities such as Tai Chi.

Kidsafe Taranaki Trust Turns Ten

On 27 May 1994, the Child Accident Prevention Group, initiated by paediatrician Alan Parsons several years earlier, gained charitable trust status and began to operate as Kidsafe Taranaki. We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of everyone who has been part of Kidsafe Taranaki over the past ten years and no-one more so than Alan, whose tireless commitment has never waned. Alan also served on the working party to establish the Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa New Zealand (IPNANZ) and was a member of its first committee. Kidsafe projects are too numerous to mention them all, but here are a few highlights:

- 1995** – Laurie O'Reilly, Commissioner for Children opened the Waitara Kidsafe demonstration safety house
- 1996** – Kidsafe Taranaki joins in New Zealand's first national Kidsafe Week – hugely successful campaign
- 1997** – New Plymouth District Council appoints first Child Advocate councillor
- 1998** – Workshop with researcher Dr Ruth Houghton on rural safety – rural sub-group formed
- 1999** – Kia Tupato Tamariki/Junior Kidsafe Kit distributed and Capable Country Kids published for use in schools – view at www.acc.co.nz/injury-prevention/ruralsafe/children/capable-country-kids/
- 2000** – Cycle helmet amnesty in Centre City – 200 substandard helmets exchanged for new helmets
- 2001** – Round the Mountain Car Seat Clinic Roadshow ensured highest number of child restraints checked in New Zealand during Kidsafe Week
- 2002** – Launch of the first child falls parent education sessions – now happening nationally
- 2003** – Piloted poisons prevention project at two New Plymouth Health Centres – moving to Hawera this year
- 2004** – Successful falls and poisons projects continuing – big push on child restraints and new focus on burns.



**Congratulations to everyone involved with
Kidsafe Taranaki over the past ten years**

THANK YOU!

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