

16. CHRISTCHURCH INJURY PREVENTION STRATEGY

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Boards about a Christchurch Injury Prevention Strategy, and to seek feedback from them on injury prevention and safety issues, as part of the development of this strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Earlier this year, Council endorsed the development of an "Injury Prevention Christchurch" initiative, funded by the ACC. This initiative is developing a collaborative and co-ordinated response to injury prevention under the leadership of Christchurch City Council and Crown Public Health, and is involving all other stakeholders. While Christchurch already has many agencies actively involved in injury prevention, there is need for a framework to encourage collaboration and joint action to address injury prevention in a co-ordinated and appropriate manner for this city.

BACKGROUND

Injury prevention in Christchurch has achieved spectacular success with road safety initiatives over the last decade. (In Christchurch there were 1,417 injury and fatal crashes in 1990. By 1999 there were 685 injury and fatal crashes reported). One of the principal factors for achieving this was the co-ordinated approach achieved with the Christchurch Co-ordinating Committee for Traffic Safety. This committee structure of the Christchurch City Council is supported by the road safety community and has now been adopted by most other local authorities in New Zealand. The development of a similar approach for other injury prevention initiatives will be a major breakthrough in Christchurch.

Injury prevention in Christchurch is currently based on either agencies with specific responsibilities (e.g. ACC, OSH, LTSA) or co-ordinated activities amongst the agencies and community interests in specific areas (e.g. Kidsafe Week, road safety initiatives). There are a number of Government agencies, non-government organisations, and groups who are active in injury prevention work

STRATEGIC FIT WITH COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES AND ROLES

The initiative aligns with key Council policy including the Social Well-being Policy. The Council vision identifies an aim that "*People are free of crime and Injury*", The Council Strategic Goal of Community Cohesion and Well-being identifies the goal of *enhancing safety* and "*supporting public safety initiatives*". The Equity and Access (Disability) Policy identifies Injury Prevention as a key goal. The initiative also aligns with Council's emphasis on Community Governance (including strategic partnerships etc). The Christchurch City Council also has a key involvement in the area of injury prevention. For example, it currently undertakes work, which supports injury prevention (road safety, swimming pool fencing, sports and recreation activities, Building Act, resource consents). It has successfully developed other community initiatives such as the cycle strategy and it is a key player in the successful structure for supporting road safety.

THE PROJECT

The initiative is a two stage process. Stage 1 (currently underway) involves community consultation and the development of a strategy involving intersectorial, community based, population-based injury prevention and safety promotion. At the end of this stage (early in 2002) organisations can apply for additional funding for the implementation and evaluation of interventions (Stage 2). ACC and Crown Public Health have identified that the Council endorsement and involvement in this project is critical to its success.

The initial phase of the project is ensuring that Christchurch organisations and groups have the opportunity to participate and see an opportunity to commit and accept roles and responsibilities appropriate for themselves to achieve Injury Prevention Christchurch. Based on this, a framework which co-ordinates and initiates local strategies, initiatives and activities, and which encourages and allows for collaboration within the Christchurch community, will be developed and submitted to the ACC for Stage 2 funding.

PROGRESS TO DATE

A full-time project team member has been appointed, Kay Hickey (joint appointment with CCC and CPH), and the other team members are: Barry Armstrong (CPH 0.5) and Council liaison person Margaret Macadam, Policy Directorate. The project has been adopted under the umbrella of the Healthy Christchurch project, and reports monthly to the Steering group which consists of members from the following groups: CCC, Canterbury District Health Board, Christchurch School of Medicine, He Oranga Pounamu, Ministry of Health and Crown Public Health.

Currently the project is in the first phase of community consultation, key stakeholders have been identified and are being individually interviewed. These include a large range of government and non-government groups. Within the Council, representatives from the housing, leisure and recreation, traffic engineering, road safety, advocates-school, pedestrian, child, cycle and youth, parks, community development advisors, City Solutions and health and safety divisions have been or are to be consulted. External stakeholders including ACC, Plunket, Eldercare Canterbury, Road safety groups, Alcohol sector, Education organisations, Early childhood organisations, Maori, Pacific Island groups, Refugee and Migrant forum, Youth, Industry, Medical sector, Mental health networks, and CAIP network have been or are in the process of being consulted.

Some issues which have been raised are:

- Lack of information on injury sustained at council facilities (eg playgrounds, sports fields)
- Groups requesting more collaboration and communication (e.g road safety groups with other sectors)
- Lack of safe facilities for youth (e.g. adventure playground for older children)

The issue of obtaining good quality local injury data and information about what is happening in Christchurch city has also been identified. The team facilitated a forum for local injury prevention groups and the dataset holders to discuss this issue. Agreement was reached to work collaboratively to seek a solution exploring options to obtain this valuable information both as a planning and evaluation tool.

The next phase of Stage 1 includes consultation through focus groups, establishing options for injury surveillance and analysis of the information gathered during the interviews, the development of options for the structure of the city wide strategy and further consultation to move forward with the funding application for Stage 2.

COMMUNITY BOARD FEEDBACK

Feedback from Community Boards is an important part of the consultation process, and we would like to take this opportunity to discuss local injury prevention and safety issues. In particular the project team would like to address the following questions:

- Do Community Boards offer an opportunity for the public to raise injury/safety issues in their area?
- How are issues dealt with currently, especially if the solutions involve inter-agency action?
- How could these issues be dealt with in the future?
- If a citywide strategy is developed, what role do you see the Boards playing? For example what opportunities are there to run projects at a Community Board level?

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That feedback be provided to the project team on injury prevention and safety issues to assist in the development of the Christchurch Injury Prevention Strategy.