



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE
Department of Public Health Sciences
Division of Social Medicine



WHO COLLABORATING
CENTRE
ON
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

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***** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*****

Welcome to a second issue of Safe Community Weekly News, the electronic SC News will be send from Harstad on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

- Injury prevention & Safe Community in Vietnam
- STRAW project in Australia

Injury Prevention & Safe Community in Vietnam

Since 1996, the Centre for Social Sciences in Health (Health Strategy and Policy Institute) has deployed the program "Injury Prevention / Safe Community" (IP/SC) whit the support from SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) via the Health Policy Area of the Ministry of Health of Vietnam.

The IP/SC pilot program implemented since 1996 has covered two phases as follow:

First phase: Pilot study in two communes of Co nhue and Think liet (Hanoi) in 1996, then expanding in 1997 to the 4 districts of Tu liem, Thanh tri (Hanoi), Cam pha (Quang Ninh province) and Chau giang (Hung Yen province) and Le Quy Don high school (Hatay province).

Second phase: From January 1998 to June 1999, the program was developed into an intervention study program in the above localities as well as the two provinces of Long An and Hung Yen. After that, it was expanded to 4 more provinces of Quang ninh, Ninh binh, Thua Thien Hue and Lam Dong from July 1999 to December 2001. The program is now being implemented in 6 provinces with 64 districts /towns, 991 communes/towns, covering a total population of 6.200.000 and representing different geo-ecological areas.

You are invited to visit IPSCP website www.ipsc.org.vn, The IPSC project staff published IPSC newsletters in English, the last issue is No.3 (July-September 2001) Please contact ipsc@hn.vnn.vn to get copies of IPSC Newsletter.

Australia

SAFER TIMES ROUND ALBURY/WODONGA - FOR Women (STRAW'S)

The project is called STRAWs and it is aimed at reducing the incidence of violence against women, particularly in respect to their social access to licensed premises / entertainment venues.

The STRAWs project has been recognised with two community safety awards - 2000 Crime Prevention Victoria Award for the category of Business & Community Partnerships. [Crime Prevention Victoria is part of the Victorian State Government's Department of Justice] 2001 Australian Violence Prevention Awards 2001 Special Drugs & Alcohol Category Award. [These awards are conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology and are endorsed by the Australian Heads of Government (Federal and State).

Background

Evidence suggests women's personal safety is most at risk in the home, with the perpetrator known to them. However, we must consider the Safe Women's Project (1998:8) displayed women reported feeling more afraid of public places than do men. This fear has the ability to disable women from participating fully in public life. It is understood that this fear can stop women reaching their full potential.

STRAW's grew from concern for the safety for women in public safety in the Albury Wodonga area. The NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women, together with the Albury Wodonga Women's Refuge facilitated the development of a working party to address issues of public safety.

This initiative is a violence prevention strategy which reflects a cross border interagency approach with working party members representing:

- Albury Wodonga Women's Centre;
- NSW Police Service;
- Victorian Police Service
- Albury City Council;
- Wodonga City Council; and
- NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women.

What does STRAW's aim to do?

1. To promote safe entertainment venues for women in Albury and Wodonga.
2. To develop and enhance awareness of women's public safety issues in the Albury Wodonga area.

How does STRAW's do this?

STRAW's offers awards for entertainment venues in Albury Wodonga. The awards are for entertainment venues contribution towards Albury Wodonga being a safe place for women. As the Liverpool Women's Safety Project states, "a safe place for women is a safe place for everyone".

Venues that choose to participate in the project undergo a safety audit which includes exploration of physical and attitudinal characteristics that promote women's safety.

STRAW's has become an annual event. Venue participation has increased, and informal evaluation suggests increased awareness of issues of women's safety. As a result of the success of the project, the award criteria has now been extended to include access and equity issues.

The STRAW's working party are currently producing a manual that will provide a resource for local communities to develop and implement a similar public safety project. Information in the manual will be based on the experience of implementing and evaluating a partnership response to issues of public safety for women.

The concept is seen as a tool for building social capital and can readily transferable to other sectors of community access to social and recreational facilities.

For more information please contact:

Mrs Diane Ferguson

Manager Risk

City of Wodonga

Victoria, Australia

tel +61 2 60559210

fax +61 2 50669322

web: www.wodonga.vic.gov.au

email: info@cow.mav.asn.au

*****NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS*****

The editors must hear from you so that Safe Community Weekly News can effectively serve as a medium of communication for Safe Community Network members, and those whom are interested in injury prevention and Community safety promotion. We are soliciting contributions from all members who have information relevant to the Safe Community Network. There are a number of specific items we are seeking:

- Information on new designated communities, affiliated centres and their activities;
- Announcement of conferences or seminars in Safe community, injury prevention and related subjects;
- Calls for papers by journals and book editors;
- Announcements of new appointments and promotions;

- Articles describing activities or new initiatives at your
- community, institution, Centre or firm (perhaps describing your departmental or university programs in safety promotion, discussing new practices, methods, and tools used in Injury prevention and community safety promotion, describing new governmental policy initiatives or programs, and so forth).

Please send any contributions via e-mail to the editor: Yousif Rahim
yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no,

Yousif Rahim
Project leader
Safe Community
Harstad Kommune
9479 Harstad
PH: (47) 77027017
FAX: (47) 77027001
E-mail: yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no

<http://www.harstad.kommune.no>
