



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
Department of Public Health Sciences
Division of Social Medicine



WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE
ON
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

Community Safety Week 2001

The World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion is an active partner in promoting community action and 'grass roots' solutions in injury and violence prevention. The WHO Global Programs on Injuries and Violence Prevention have facilitated actions in most all populations of our planet. The system of demonstration sites, accredited with WHO community safety promotion now number close to 60 communities (populations of 1000 to 2,000,000) and around 10 support centres. Of these Victoria, Australia has Hume City, Latrobe City and Melbourne City while the Monash University Accident Research Centre and the Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre have formally agreed to support this global program. I am also aware of a large number of other Victorian local governments who are working towards Safe Community programs. (see website www.phs.ki.se/csp)

I understand that the first Victorian Community Safety Week was held in conjunction with Hume and Latrobe hosting the 5th International Safe Communities Conference in February 1996. Since that time the annual event has grown in terms of activities and groups who celebrate the importance of real community involvement in health and safety for all. I have had the opportunity to examine many global programs and strongly endorse the sorts of collaborations which exist in the State of Victoria.

The WHO is planning to release documentation later this year which outlines the social and economic factors that impact upon our wellbeing our state and personal sense of safety. Victoria in celebrating a Community Safety Week is a unique opportunity to focus on these important factors in reducing the incidence of injury and violence, bringing together all the groups and agencies to promote prevention and the importance of social justice and equity.

I encourage all Victorians to celebrate the benefits and partnerships which promote a Safer Community for all Victorians.

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