



Working within an Integrated Framework Community Safety in Hume City 2003

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Presentation outline

- **Background to Community Safety in Hume City**
- **Current Structure**
- **Advantages and achievements**
- **A program officer's view**



The early years of community safety in Hume City

- ◆ **A long, proud history - in operation since 1991**
- ◆ **Originally a ‘demonstration’ program, with partnership funding from VicHealth and Vicroads plus various “seeding” grants from other external bodies, with Council support**
- ◆ **Early focus on “unintentional injuries”**
- ◆ **Working groups formed to focus on traffic seniors’, schools, sports, workplace, rural and child ren’s safety**



Working groups made strong local links

- ◆ **Residents**
- ◆ **Community groups**
- ◆ **Service providers - including local organisations and state government agencies, including Victoria Police, VicRoads, VicHealth, 'WorkCover', Department of Human Services, local fire services**

Minimal interaction with local businesses



Working groups had local representation

- ◆ **Community representatives / volunteers were from different areas across the municipality, so they networked locally and delivered services to their own local community groups**
- ◆ **These working groups were not sustainable as relied heavily on volunteers who moved on**



Program development through change

**Changes led to new challenges yet new
opportunities for the program**

- ◆ **Council amalgamation late 1994 and**
- ◆ **Compulsory Competitive Tendering 1996**

**Council adopted community safety
as Council core business**



New measures created program sustainability

- ◆ **Traffic safety written into Civil Design**
- ◆ **Child safety - new, permanent role in Family Services, (now within Social Development)**
- ◆ **Senior safety, sports safety etc written into relevant sections of Council and into staff position descriptions - many principles now incorporated into 'teams'**



New funding led to a new structure

- ◆ **Significant State Government funding made available in late 1990's through Department of Justice 'Safer Cities and Shires' program**
- ◆ **A new direction for the established community safety program, incorporating crime and violence prevention into the existing activities**



New structure

Need identified under 'Safer Cities and Shires' for a more cohesive structure and the concept of a 'Senior Management Team'.

At Hume, this led to the establishment of:

- ◆ **An Integrated Framework for Health, Safety and Crime Prevention**
- ◆ **Multi-Agency Teams which would focus on specific issues and report to a high level 'Taskforce'**



Taskforce structure

- ◆ **Hume Safe City Taskforce was established to provide guidance and high level, strategic direction**
- ◆ **Meets quarterly**
- ◆ **Renamed in 2002 as Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce**
- ◆ **Strategic themes introduced 2003**



Taskforce activities

- ◆ **Provide support for pro-active initiatives which aim to provide early intervention and target the “grass roots” causes of issues of concern for local community**
- ◆ **Aids enhanced level of involvement by local industry and facilitates interaction between the diverse organisations represented**



Taskforce membership

High level representation from key local organisations, service providers and State Government agencies

- ◆ **therefore includes those who can make decisions and commitment on behalf of their organisation**
- ◆ **eliminates to some degree duplication of meetings with essentially the same group**



Taskforce membership includes:

High level of commitment by Hume City Council:

- ◆ **Mayor of Hume City Council**
- ◆ **Chief Executive Officer**
- ◆ **Director Strategy and Organisation Development**
- ◆ **Cr responsible for Social Justice portfolio**
- ◆ **Manager Social Development**

Victoria Police members:

- ◆ **Chief Superintendent**
- ◆ **District Inspectors (2)**



Taskforce membership includes:

- ◆ **Senior Registrar, Broadmeadows Magistrates Court**
- ◆ **Program Manager, CORE (Community Corrections)**
- ◆ **Regional Manager, Centrelink**
- ◆ **Regional Principal Consultant,
Dept of Education Employment and Training**
- ◆ **Team Leader, Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and
Employment Network (LLEN)**
- ◆ **General Manager of Industrial Technology
Kangan Batman TAFE**
- ◆ **Executive Director, Community Languages Australia**



Taskforce membership includes:

- ◆ **Regional Director,
Department of Human Services**
- ◆ **CEO, Sunbury Community Health Centre**
- ◆ **CEO, Dianella Health Service**
- ◆ **General Manager, Broadmeadows Health Service**
- ◆ **Area Manager, North West Area Mental Health Service**
- ◆ **Community Relationships Manager,
The Smith Family**
- ◆ **Project Manager, Brotherhood of St Laurence**



Taskforce membership includes

Industry representation

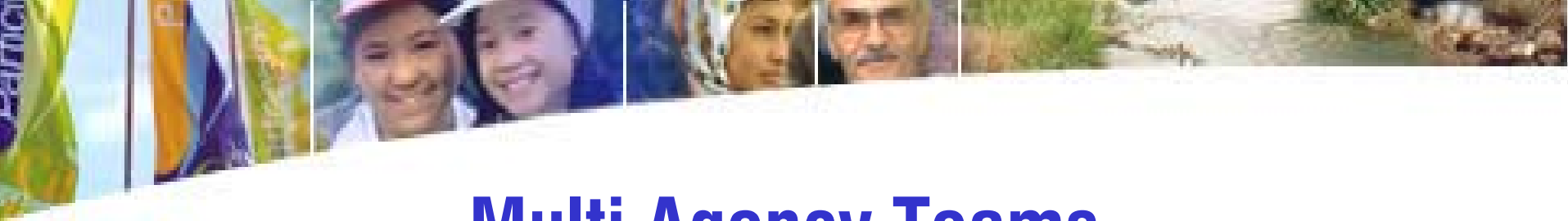
- ◆ **Chairperson, Frank McGuire**
- ◆ **Corporate Citizenship Manager,
Ford Motor Company**
- ◆ **Principal, Community Safety Services Pty Ltd**
- ◆ **Human Resources Manager, Autoliv Aust Pty Ltd**
- ◆ **Employer Services Manager, Lanes Biscuits**



Taskforce membership

Membership is diverse but members have common goals and Taskforce business sits within their core business, corporate goals. This structure allows:

- ◆ **Maximum use of available resources - time, money, expertise / human resources**
- ◆ **Facilitation of networking at high level**
- ◆ **Continuity of involvement, as each agency always sends a representative**



Multi Agency Teams

Multi Agency Teams have been established to address specific issues across the municipality. Teams report up to the Taskforce quarterly.

These include teams working on:

- ◆ **Traffic Safety**
- ◆ **Industrial Safety**
- ◆ **Multicultural Issues Forum**
(including Interfaith Leaders' Network)
- ◆ **Indigenous Advisory Committee**



Multi Agency Teams

- ◆ Positive Ageing
- ◆ Children's Safety
- ◆ Problem Gambling
- ◆ Disability Action Team
- ◆ Alcohol and Other Drugs
- ◆ Youth Advisory Committee
- ◆ Women's and Children's Safety



Advantages of 'team' approach

- ◆ strengthens and formalises existing partnerships
- ◆ creates additional opportunities for new links
- ◆ allows each team to set specific objectives, timelines and targets, yet in alignment with and awareness of other initiatives
- ◆ eliminates to some degree unnecessary duplication of meetings
- ◆ Regular reports to the Taskforce keep teams on track, key stakeholders informed re local activities and assists identify needs and gaps in local services



So, what's so useful?

**The Hume model has been held up
as a best practice model**

- ◆ **High level decision makers within Taskforce influence policy and practice, provide strategic direction, policy development, lead the way**
- ◆ **Specialist input into the Multi-Agency Teams, not just a high level committee**
- ◆ **Hume City has earned a reputation as an ideal place to pilot new initiatives**



Regular reports to the Taskforce

- ◆ keep teams on track
- ◆ keep key stakeholders informed re local activities
- ◆ assist to identify need and gaps in local services
- ◆ inspire opportunities for innovative partnership solutions



Unique role of Council

Council can assist in many ways:

- ◆ Provide co-ordination of the Taskforce and/or teams, assist with provision of suitable venues for teams, activities etc
- ◆ Provide municipality - specific knowledge
- ◆ Provide a link via Council into the broader community, through Council services, networks and Communications Unit - local publicity /promotion



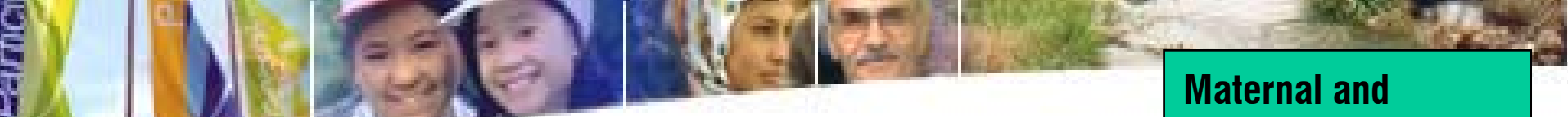
Recent achievements

- ◆ establishment of Hume Global Learning Village -
Hume Global Learning Centre in Broadmeadows
and Visy Cares Centre in Meadow Heights
- ◆ Development and implementation of
Hume Road Safety Strategic Plan
- ◆ Hume Community Safety Plan
- ◆ Hume Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- ◆ Hume Early Intervention Problem Gambling Project
- ◆ 'Guide to Baby Safety' video



Guide to Baby Safety video

- ◆ A special project of the Children's Safety Multi-Agency Team - steering committee plus wider reference group
- ◆ Funded by Department of Human Services in recognition of a statewide need for a stand-alone resource
- ◆ Targeted specifically to provide information to one particular group, in a true 'settings' approach
- ◆ Catering to the specific needs of expectant parents, eliminating irrelevant material
- ◆ Steering committee and reference group provided input
- ◆ eliminating irrelevant material
- ◆ Providing a statewide resource



AIM: Provide a CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM to parents and carers of children under 12 years and to the children themselves, with emphasis on particularly vulnerable under 5's, through a variety of strategies which raise awareness of main causes of childhood injuries and promote applicable prevention strategies

Maternal and Child Health: parent safety info, sessions + staff training, advice, board design

Resource providers - access to groups, distribution of and feedback on resources

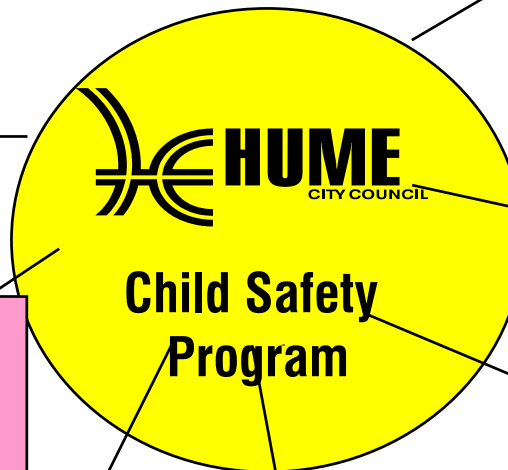
Pre-school: safety info - for parents and children via sessions, for staff + Safety Audit input

External clients -Local residents: displays, direct contact, advice + advocacy

External clients - professionals working with local families and schools: advice, resources + presentations

Other Council departments: input into/involved with their core business

Childcare: parent information via displays; Safety Audit input

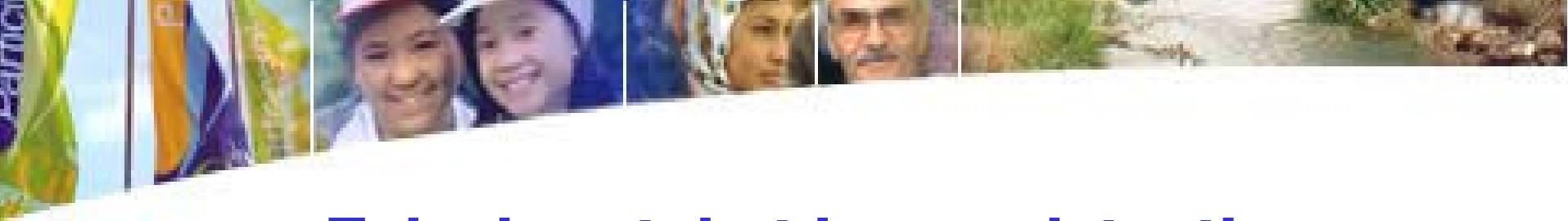




Current challenges for community safety

Consider the important role of VSCN:

- ◆ Lack of career paths leads to ‘revolving door’ syndrome, loss of knowledge
- ◆ Breaking down the barriers / the ‘silos’ - what about shared resources?
- ◆ Tracking of existing research, programs and resources - list server has been a boon, let’s upgrade the website and build on the wealth of knowledge



Take heart, but be persistent!

- ◆ The ground is fertile - but it is time to act! Aim high and see what happens in your patch....
- ◆ From little things, BIG things grow!
- ◆ Community Safety Month 2003 has been a great success - let's enjoy our achievements and look forward to 2004 - see you there



**PS - and *thankyou!*
(and that means YOU!)**

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