

Building capacity for community risk management in NSW

Lessons, laughs and luck
over the last
4 years

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**Why do I work in
safety promotion
in NSW?**

2 very good personal reasons....



3.53 billion public reasons

Estimated total lifetime cost of injury in NSW
(1998-99)

3 top ranking mechanisms..

- Falls - \$644M
- Suicide and self harm - \$588M
- Roads - \$555M

Source: Potter-Forbes, M Injury Costs! A valuation of the burden of injury in NSW, NSW IRMRC, UNSW 1998-1999 figures

Purpose of this session

- Describe the 'journey' of Safe Communities in NSW - learnings
- Discuss current capacity building strategies for local coalitions, leverage and leadership
- Open discussion about we can better communicate and sell safety in the community

NSW Safe Communities journey

- 4 WHO Safe Communities pre -1999
- ↓
- 1999 -2002 Health/RTA MOU 3 pilot projects & evaluation Sydney Uni
- ↓
- Insights, review practice & current policy context
- ↓
- Capacity building for local coordinated community risk management & long term sustainability

Insights from the pilot projects' evaluation

- See ..**Sefton C & Hawe P**, Final Report of the NSW Safe Communities pilot program, University of Sydney December 2002.
- 1 No single interpretation of what Safe Communities is or should be
- 2 Understand context and be flexible
- 3 Sustainable impact related to coordination, discreet projects and structural/policy change
- 4 Demonstrable benefits over & above existing programs

and much much more....

Inform future policy & practice: questions...

- Single purpose safety projects or integrated community risk management? What works when and why?
- How do we demonstrate the benefits of collaborating to single issue agencies and capture safety service 'synergy'?

But we all know....

Community safety
is too big and too
complex to manage
alone

Inter-related problems

Integrated solutions

At the same table:

Community groups

Police

Councillors

Local
businesses

Health



Fire &
emergency

Schools

Council staff

Key lesson?

Council leadership

Draw together the right partnerships

Local solutions

Local concerns

injuries, crashes & crime

Why? Councils already prevent injuries, crashes and crime

- designing out local hazards and risk factors
- local policy development, regulations & community driven proposals
- engaging local residents in local solutions
- enhancing public safety/minimising liability

Council doesn't haven't to fix it all....

- But well placed to lead, coordinate and allocate...
- Pull together the right inter-agency partnerships
- Engage community groups and residents in decision making

Many NSW councils already have the building blocks

- Expand and reorganise existing committees to encompass all dimensions of community risk
- Appoint a Safe Communities coordinator/planner or community risk manager
- ‘Bottom up’ approach - put pressure on state not to fund only in silos of single purpose safety programs

Key challenge?

Integrated planning!

Crime



Fire



Alcohol
Drugs



Roads



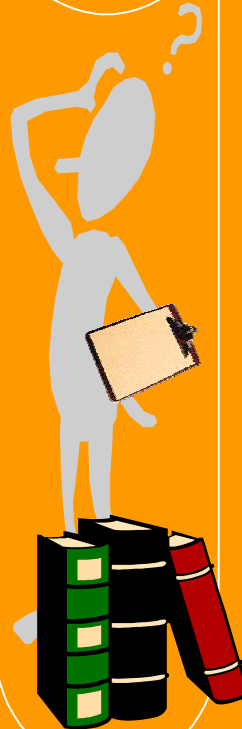
Violence



Falls



Local
Council



Demonstrate benefits and synergy



NSW capacity building strategies

Current lead agencies (State)

- NSW Health
- NSW Fire Brigades

Working on broader inter-agency committee:

Premiers, RTA, Police, AGs, Ambulance, DLG, LGA, Workcover, etc...

First steps: feasibility, forums, finding out, facts



Second steps: Local inter-agency safety planning & mapping forum...form a coalition? *Yes? No? Maybe?*



Step 3: 2 day training workshop for new coalition members



Partnership assessment & coalition building

Local government planning tools

Action plan and agreements

Community Risk Management

Local risks - injuries, crashes & crime

Safety promotion & injury prevention

C.P.T.E.D intro



Step 4: Appoint a designated coordinator/planner

- Skilled collaborators and inter-agency planners
- Conduct the community safety 'orchestra'
- Change agents
- Build respect trust and respect between partners
- Community development expert
- Understand principles of risk management in community context



No more steps

**just on-going hard work
to keep the coalition
singing and delivering
better safety outcomes
for the community**

Optional step: Designation as a W.H.O Safe Community



**Not the end of the
road..
the beginning of it!**



How do we better communicate and sell Safe Communities?

Not another project or a program,
just an integrated way of doing
business.....

Interrelated community risk
management

Coordinates community concerns
and government programs



Why work together on community risk management?

- **one message many voices**
- **multi-dimensional picture of risks and problem solving**
- **coordinate efforts, reduce duplication, integrate planning**
- **access, shared resources, expertise, creative ideas**
- **enhanced credibility with the community**

Learn ways to all work from the same map



Thank you

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