



Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand

Certifying Centre for Safe Community Programs

On behalf of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion,
Department of Public Health Sciences Division of Social Medicine, Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Safe Community Mawson Lakes (South Australia)



Country: **Australia**

Number of inhabitants: **10,000**

Programme started year: **2007**

International Safe Communities Network Membership: **2010**

Full Application: www.safecommunities.org.nz/sc/ml

For further information contact:

Name: Alan Peucker

Institution: Chair, Mawson Lakes Safe Communities Network

Address: Level 1, 1 Main St, Mawson Lakes

City: South Australia 5095

Country: Australia

Phone: +61 432 336 955

E-mail: alan.peucker@bigpond.com

Info address on www for the community: www.mawsonlakescommunity.com.au

Background:

Mawson Lakes is a master planned community developed as a joint venture between the Land Management Corporation (on behalf of the South Australia Government) and Delfin Lend Lease, with the support and commitment of the University of South Australia and the City of Salisbury. Mawson Lakes is a rich and diverse community where people can live, learn, work and play in an environment which is integrated, harmonious, safe and sustainable. This has been achieved through planning, innovation and successfully integrating key economic, environmental, telecommunications, social and urban development strategies.

For the age group:

Children 0-14 years:

- The 'Walking School Bus' was established to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle among families. It gives children and their parents the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity and also teaches children about road safety.
- Mawson Lakes Road Safety Awareness Bike Park provides a fun and interactive environment in which children can learn road rules, how to handle intersections, and braking and judging distances.
- Bicycle safety workshops at the Mawson Lakes School teach children the importance of riding safely in and around their neighbourhood.
- Training of student traffic monitors at the Koala Road Crossing at the Mawson Lakes School reinforces road safety messages on a peer to peer basis.
- The 'Safety Hoardings Project' engaged students in the development of key safety messages relevant to the home, school, play and other aspects of day to day life.
- The Mawson Lakes School also provides regular children's safety and injury prevention information through school newsletters.
- The Mawson Lakes School also supports the prevention of injury and promotion of community safety through coordinating a range of regular activities throughout the school year such as student and parents information sessions on cyber-bullying, water safety, snake safety, participation in the Intergenerational Enterprise Partnership program, participation in Harmony Day, road safety education and the development of a School Watch program for the reporting of graffiti and vandalism.

Youth 15-24 years:

- The 'Target Work' program provides Year 10 students with real experience in the building and construction industry including completion of the requirements of the nationally accredited 'White Card' and training in the skills required for tasks such as paving, painting, carpentry, landscaping, retaining wall construction, concreting, reading plans, bridge building, irrigation and the operation of related machinery.
- Endeavour College provides regular information through school newsletters about key safety and injury prevention issues such as bullying and harassment, road safety, cyber bullying, alcohol and drugs and personal safety. The school also supports the prevention of injury and promotion of community safety through coordinating a range of regular activities throughout the school year such as student information sessions on alcohol and drugs, and participation in Harmony Day.
- Bluelight discos, coordinated by South Australia Police and the City of Salisbury, provide young people with a regular opportunity to interact in a safe and secure environment.



Target Work

Adults 25-64 years:

- The Mawson Lakes Safe and Injury Free Community Expo provides information, interactive displays and opportunities for people of all ages within the community to learn more about children's safety, seniors' safety, home safety, workplace safety and general community safety.

- The 'Ride to Work Day' encourages people to ride their bicycles to work. There is a strong focus on bike and road safety and the effective use of bicycle pathways in the community and surrounding areas. The 'Ride to Work Day' and other activities such as the BrakeFast Breakfast – connected with the international 'Tour Down Under' – promote the use of bicycles and public transport as an effective and safer alternative to cars for moving around the community. They also encourage community connectedness and well-being.

Older Adults 65+ years:

- As part of the Intergenerational Enterprise Partnership program at the Mawson Lakes School, five year old students from the reception class regularly visit local aged care facility, Helping Hand, and work with residents on a range of projects, often using information technology to support their collaboration. The transfer of knowledge is reciprocated with the seniors teaching the five year olds gardening skills. The program aims to dissolve social isolation and past barriers associated with age through the sharing of knowledge, life experiences, technology, friendship and a sense of community spirit.
- Trinity Green Retirement Village conducts an ongoing program for residents aimed at preventing falls, improving living conditions, developing independence and using public transport safely and confidently.
- A Seniors First Aid course is conducted three times each year.
- The Mawson Centre also coordinates other activities specifically targeting seniors including the Over 50s Club, Over 60s Social Group and National Heart Foundation Walking Group.

For the following environments:

Home:

- Fire Safety Seminars are conducted annually to assist residents to identify and address fire hazards in and around the home, and develop a fire evacuation plan. Kidsafe and First-Aid displays are incorporated into these events.
- The Mawson Lakes Safe and Injury Free Community Expo provides information, interactive displays and opportunities for people of all ages within the community to learn more about children's safety, seniors' safety, home safety, workplace safety and general community safety.

Traffic:

- The *Mawson Lakes Active Transport Strategy – Towards a Greener, Safe and Healthier Community* aims to reduce the dependency of the community on motorised transport and enhance social, environmental, economic and health outcomes in the community.
- Mawson Lakes Road Safety Awareness Bike Park provides a fun and interactive environment in which children can learn road rules, how to handle intersections, braking and judging distances.
- The 'Walking School Bus'.



Road Safety Awareness Bike Park

Occupational:

- The 'Target Work' program provides Year 10 students with real experience in the building and construction industry including completion of the

requirements of the nationally accredited 'White Card' and training in the skills required for tasks such as paving, painting, carpentry, landscaping, retaining wall construction, concreting, reading plans, bridge building, irrigation and the operation of related machinery.

- The introduction of a 'Contractor (identification) Card', an initiative of local police, was part of a community policing initiative aimed at addressing theft from construction sites. Over the four year period of the project, construction site theft dropped from \$3,000 per annum to \$500 per annum.

School:

- The 'Walking School Bus' was established to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle among families. It gives children and their parents the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity and also teaches children about road safety.
- Training of student traffic monitors for the Koala Road Crossing at the Mawson Lakes School reinforces road safety messages on a peer to peer basis.
- The 'Travel Smart Program' conducted at the Mawson Lakes School aims to reduce road incidents, improve car and bicycle safety, and reduce the school's environmental footprint by making better use of public transport.
- The 'Safety Hoardings Project' engaged students of the Mawson Lakes School in the development of key safety messages relevant to the home, school, play and other aspects of day to day life.
- Participation in annual Harmony Day, at both the Mawson Lakes School and Endeavour College, celebrates cultural diversity and promotes understanding, respect and a sense of belonging.
- Students from the Mawson Lakes School participate in the Intergenerational Exchange Program which aims to dissolve social isolation and past barriers associated with age through the sharing of knowledge, life experiences, technology, friendship and a sense of community spirit between students and seniors.
- Development of a School Watch program at the Mawson Lakes School has facilitated the reporting of graffiti and vandalism, and the provision of a quick and effective response.



Walking School Bus

Sports and Leisure:

- An award winning 'Hike and Bike Trail' map has been developed to encourage residents to leave their cars at home and use the trails to move around the community. Residents can use the trails to access retail, recreation and community facilities, including the Town Centre, the Mawson Centre, schools and the university.

Violence prevention:

- A safety and security audit conducted in 2007 identified a range of community safety and security risks within the community that have been progressively addressed through the establishment and ongoing work of the Mawson Lakes Safe Communities Network.

- The University of South Australia's 'UniSA-UniSafe' program aims to reduce intentional and non-intentional personal injuries to staff, students and visitors to the Mawson Lakes campus of the University of South Australia.

Programmes aiming at "High risk-groups":

- 'The Nursery' – an initiative of the Indigenous Landscaping Group – was established to positively engage recovering substance abusers, through training and education, in the collection and propagation of seeds for later planting within the community.
- A Defence Force program was established to support the integration of defence families within the Mawson Lakes community.
- Bedford Industries, a local organisation that provides integrated skills development, training and support to people with disabilities, developed a highly visible training and employment program. Conducted in Mawson Lakes, the program provided meaningful work experience for people with disabilities and dispelled the myths about people with disabilities within the community. Paralympian swimming champion and former Endeavour College student, Michael Cowdray, worked with the program as an advocate for young people with a disability.
- Mawson Lakes and the City of Salisbury developed a highly successful migrant settlement program for Sudanese families.
- The integration of university students within the Mawson Lakes community is facilitated by the University of South Australia's 'International Student Integration Program'.



Nursery Programme

Surveillance of injuries:

The Mawson Lakes community has developed and delivers a range of activities that promote safety and prevent injuries to people of all ages who live, work, play and visit the community including children, young people, families, seniors, students, workers and visitors. Strategies are developed in response to available information about injury and community safety, and feedback from the local community. This data is sourced from partner agencies including South Australia Police – crime data and road crash data, City of Salisbury – community survey results, Mawson Lakes community focus group consultation, Mawson Lakes Safety and Security Audit, Mawson Lakes Community website polling, and injury prevention and community safety data collection and research publications.

- *Injuries within the broader community* - A recent report titled *Australia's Health 2010 – The twelfth biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare* indicated that the number of high threat-to-life cases in Australia has increased over time and accounted for 21 per cent of all hospitalised injury cases in 2007–08 and 54 per cent of injury patient days in 2007–08. The report found that the incidence of injury varies with age. The most numerous cases were for teenagers and young adults, but the highest rates are in the oldest age groups.
- *Seniors* - The rate of hospitalised injury at ages 90 years and over was more than 11,000 per 100,000 persons, slightly more than 1 hospitalisation for

injury for every 10 people at these ages during 2007–08. This high rate is almost entirely due to injury from unintentional falls. Falls account for about one-third of all hospitalised injury cases and one-fifth of all fatal injury in Australia. The overall age-standardised rate of injury from unintentional falls requiring hospitalisation in 2007–08 was 654 per 100,000 population. The rate increased rapidly with age. For Australians aged 65 years and over, the rate was 2,516 per 100,000 population. South Australian data indicates that there are over 11,000 ambulance attendances to older people who have fallen in the Adelaide metropolitan area in any one year. Approximately 9,000 older people, who have fallen, require hospital admission each year as a result of a variety of injuries.

- *Children* - The *Australia's Health 2010* report also found that during the first year of life, congenital and perinatal conditions were the most common cause of death, but injury was the most common cause of death from early childhood through to middle age.



- *Road traffic injuries* - South Australian Police data indicates that 40 per cent of fatal crashes and 31 per cent of serious injury crashes occur on roads with a speed limit of 110 km/h. Another 58 per cent of serious injury crashes occur on roads with a speed limit of 60 km/h or less. Young adults aged 16-24 years make up only 11 per cent of the total population of South Australia yet they account for 34 per cent of all road fatalities and 25 per cent of all serious injuries occurring on roads. People aged 65 years and over make up 15.2 per cent of the total population. They are involved in 12 per cent of all road fatalities and 16 per cent of serious injury crashes in South Australia.
- *Crime* - Available information about crime in Mawson Lakes indicates that in 2006 reported crime was low when compared with adjoining residential areas. The majority of offences were thefts occurring from building sites. By 2007, although still characterised by a relatively low overall crime rate, the crime profile of the area was changing. The results of a community focus group consultation indicated that the main crime issues were motor vehicle thefts and breaking and entering of homes. Vandalism was also becoming an increasing concern within the community.
- *General community safety* - In 2007, the City of Salisbury conducted an annual community survey and found that 81 per cent of respondents reported feeling 'safe' or 'very safe' within the City. This was consistent with the results of a 2007 community focus group consultation conducted in Mawson Lakes which indicated that the perception of safety within the community was high. The community was described as open, welcoming and supportive. Concerns for personal safety were identified as predominantly related to poor lighting at nighttime, lack of footpaths, some areas with poor natural surveillance, overgrown landscaping and inappropriate disposal of syringes. Road safety, especially in the vicinity of the school and town centre, was also becoming an increasingly significant issue. A safety and security audit conducted within the same time period also identified young people as a high-risk group with indicators of increased involvement in crime and anti-social behavior within the community.

Publications: (Scientific)

- ⇒ *Mawson Lakes Active Transport Strategy – Towards a Greener, Safe and Healthier Community*, Draft Framework (2005)
- ⇒ 'Response to paper by Dr Geoffrey Woolcock, University of Queensland – *Child Friendly Outer Urban Communities: A Case Study*' (2006)
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes Safety and Security Audit (2007)
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes Waterways Audit (2007)
- ⇒ Mawson Centre Youth Survey (2007)
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes Economic Development Strategy (2008)
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes Primary School – Temporary Traffic Management Plan (2009)

Produced information material, pamphlets:

Some examples of materials produced within the Mawson Lakes community that have a significant injury prevention and community safety focus include:

- ⇒ Residents' Welcome Kit
- ⇒ Business Welcome Kit
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes News
- ⇒ Mawson Lakes community website – www.mawsonlakescommunity.com.au - provides access to the most up-to-date information about home safety, children's safety, poisons, fire safety, personal safety, property security, workplace safety and emergency telephone numbers.

International commitments:

- ⇒ 2002 – Sister City Agreement with the City of Mobarra, Japan
- ⇒ 2004 - Creating Child Friendly Cities Symposium, Brisbane
- ⇒ 2006 - Creating Child Friendly Cities, Second National Conference, Sydney
- ⇒ 2010 - Bi-annual exchange visit to the City of Mobarra attended by the Chair of the MLSCN, also the Chair of the City of Salisbury's Sister City Committee. The Mayor of the City of Salisbury, the City Manager, two City Councillors, Rotarians and two students also participated in the visit. The purpose of the visit was to attend the annual Tanabata Festival, the third largest festival in Japan. The Chair of the MLSCN also took the opportunity to discuss with his counterpart in Mobarra various aspects of the management of the city, including safety and injury prevention. The visit also included site visits to two factories that had a strong focus on accident/injury prevention measures.

Staff

Number: One part-time community liaison position and individual project coordinators, provided by partner agencies, on a needs basis.

Organization: Mawson Lakes Safe Communities Network (MLSCN)

Specific intersectoral leadership groups: Mawson Lakes Safe Communities Network comprising representatives of City of Salisbury, South Australia Police, the University of South Australia, The Mawson Centre, Mawson Lakes School, Endeavour College, the Land Management Corporation, Mawson Lakes



Alan Peucker par-time coordinator

Rotary, Delfin Lend Lease, and representatives of Mawson Lakes businesses and residents.