

# Wanganui District Neighbourhood Support

## Perception Survey

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Prepared by:  
Wanganui Neighbourhood Support  
Bell Street  
Wanganui

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT PERCEPTION SURVEY RESULTS

### INTRODUCTION

Neighbourhood Support and Safer Communities are all about assisting in keeping the community safe and allowing the residents to feel comfortable in their homes, places of work and their local surroundings.

One of the issues considered important is that the people of Wanganui are able to go about their business and leisure any time of the day or evening without fear for their safety. To this end, the survey was conducted over a period of two months - August to October 2010 - and a questionnaire developed [*Appendix A*].

The survey was closed on 22 October 2010.

In undertaking this survey six hundred questionnaire forms were distributed and two hundred and twenty two, (37%) were returned.

### THE SURVEY

The survey asked participants generic items such as gender, age grouping and the location in which they live, before going into their perceptions. It was considered that those generic categories would have a bearing on the answers given.

The rest of the survey was broken down to cover participant's perceptions on issues that enable them to go about their business and leisure in a safe manner. They cover such items as:

- How they felt about the different areas of the Central Business District;
- Whether they were aware of the liquor ban;
- The safety of their vehicles;
- What they think about the area in which they live; and
- Ways in which to make the city safer.

A total of 222 forms were returned and the results are based on the indications noted on the returned forms.

It is accepted that the results will have a bias towards those who have an interest in matters of security and the age and gender of the respondents.

77% of the respondents were aged 55 years and over.

69% of the respondents said that there was an active Neighbourhood Support Group in their area.

## FINDINGS

As a result of the findings of this survey, the following can be said about the area encompassed by this survey, Wanganui City:

- It is generally a safe place in which to live;
- The majority of neighbours are trustworthy;
- People feel safe when visiting the Central Business District during the day; but
- People feel less sure about the safety of their vehicles.

85% of those who returned the questionnaire felt that Wanganui was a safe place in which to live, but consideration needs to be given to the 7.5% who felt unsafe. The respondents have given sufficient ideas and thoughts in their comments for future consideration by the people charged with the safety and wellbeing of the city.

The findings of the survey for each category or groupings are listed in *Appendices B through E*.

## Appendix A

### QUESTIONNAIRE

#### Survey on perception of safety

1. Please circle one      Male                      Female

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2. Age. Please circle one

15-24yrs	25-34yrs	35-44yrs	45-54yrs
55-64yrs	65+		

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3. What area do you live in? Please circle one

Durie Hill	Aramoho	City	Gonville
Castlecliff	St Johns	Springvale	Tawhero
Bastia Hill	Putiki	Wanganui East	Westmere
Brunswick	Kaitoke	Mowhanga	Fordell
Other (please name)			

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4. How safe do you feel in the area in which you live? Please circle one

A Very safe	B Safe	C Unsafe
D Very unsafe		

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5. Does this feeling change if it is daytime or night time? Please circle one

Yes	No
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6. Do you think the Wanganui area is generally a safe place in which to live? Please circle one

A Definitely	B Probably	C Not really
D Definitely not		

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7. How well could you trust your neighbours? Please circle one

- A Very trustworthy      B Trustworthy      C not sure  
D Not really              E Definitely not
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8. How safe do you feel when visiting the Central Business District? Please circle one for day and one for night

**In the day**

- A Very safe              B Safe              C Unsafe  
D Very unsafe

**At night**

- A Very safe              B Safe              C Unsafe  
D Very unsafe

9. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe in the Central Business District:

What makes you feel unsafe in the day time?

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What makes you feel unsafe at night time?

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What would help to improve your safety in the Central Business District?

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10. Are you aware of the areas covered by the liquor ban? Please circle one

- Yes                      No



## Appendix B

### Demographics of responders

#### Gender

Male	67
Female	130
Not given	25

#### Age

15-24	5
25-34	9
35-44	15
45-54	20
55-64	36
65+	135
Not stated	2

#### Suburb

Aramoho	20
Bastia Hill	2
Brunswick	6
Castlecliff	6
City	15
College Estate	2
Durie Hill	4
Fordell	3
Gonville	23
Kaitoke	1
Mowhanga	2
Putiki	3
Springvale	40
St Johns	31
Tawhero	5
Wanganui East	41
Westmere	4

Areas not listed 14

(Upokongaro x1, Okoia x1, Marybank x4, suburb not stated x8)

## Appendix C

### Wanganui City

#### *In the area in which they live during the day*

31%	felt very safe
54%	felt safe
3%	felt unsafe
1.5%	felt very unsafe
10.5%	did not answer the question.

#### *At night*

27%	said that the feeling did not change
68%	said the perception changed and they felt more vulnerable

#### *In the Central Business Area*

92%	felt very safe or safe during the day
59%	felt the safe in the evenings

This is probably indicative of the ages of the majority of respondents (77% over the age of 55 years).

91% of respondents felt that their neighbours were either very trustworthy or trustworthy.

69% stated that they were aware of the liquor ban areas but 23 % did not know about it. It may be this is because of the age of the majority of the respondents.

Reasons given for feeling unsafe were:

- Groups of young people roaming
- Lack of police presence
- Risk was greater if you were a female
- Too many cruising vehicles
- Not many people around in the evenings
- Drunken people on the streets in the evening
- Boy racers
- Roaming street kids in Wanganui East

Suggestions on how to make people feel safer:

- Cameras manned 24 hours a day
- More cameras
- Better lighting
- Ban skateboards on footpaths
- More Maori Wardens on patrol
- More police patrols
- Better street lighting

## ***Appendix D***

### **Vehicle safety**

There was an even split of respondents about the safety of their vehicles with 48% feeling concern around theft of/from vehicles and 48% not feeling concerned about it.

The areas of most concern were listed as:

- The riverside
- Public parks
- CBD at night
- Supermarket car parks
- Opposite the Opera House
- Behind the picture theatre
- Beach carparks

Ways suggested to assist in keeping the vehicles safer were:

- Extend the liquor ban area
- Catch boy racers
- Judder bars in more streets particularly listed were Halswell, Durie and Cornfoot Streets
- More stationary speed cameras

## **Appendix E**

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

As listed in previous appendices people were asked for comment on ways they felt that the areas of concern could be made safer. Because of the wide variety of comments given they have been bracketed in generic wording.

The highest area of comments was on the issue of Policing. There was a clear desire from those who responded to see Police Officers in uniform, whether that was an officer walking the beat in the CBD and suburbs or in a vehicle at night.

Coupled with this was the issue of the number of cameras operating and the hours that they were manned. There was a desire to see more cameras placed around the city as well as more speed cameras.

Also closely associated with the policing issue is the desire for more security lighting in areas of public gathering.

The following issues and potential solutions are listed in no particular order of priority:

- More Neighbourhood Support groups
- More security cameras
- More/better street lighting
- Policing of boy racers
- More activities for young people
- Police on the beat in the suburbs
- Complete ban on gangs
- Ban gang patches
- Extra street lighting in country areas
- Zero drink driving limit
- Make Kai Iwi Domain vehicle free
- Police station in Wanganui East manned
- Random speed cameras
- Effective patrols by Community Patrol
- Speed humps in dangerous spots
- Lower speed limits in residential areas e.g. Great North Road
- Raise drinking age to 20 years
- Police to take note of pedestrian crossings
- Take action on bikes being ridden on footpaths
- Get tougher on acting out young people

### **For further information**

For any questions regarding the results, please contact Janet Worfolk at Neighbourhood Support Unit, Wanganui Police Headquarters, Bell Street, Wanganui Telephone 06 3490600