

Hon Ruth Dyson

Minister of Labour, Minister for ACC, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister for Senior Citizens, Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment (Child, Youth and Family)



15 August 2006

Speech Notes

New Zealand Community Safety and Injury Prevention Awards

Rau rangatira maa,
tenei te mihi ki a koutou i runga i te kaupapa o te ra.
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

[Distinguished guests, greetings to you gathered here for this purpose today. Greetings once, twice, three times to you all.]

I am delighted to be here today to present the New Zealand Community Safety and Injury Prevention Awards for 2006.

It's just three years since I had the very great pleasure of launching the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy – a strategy which demonstrates the Labour-led government's commitment to working with community and non-government organisations and individuals to both improve injury prevention and reduce the impact of injury on New Zealanders.

The development of this strategy is a big step towards achieving our vision of a safe, injury-free New Zealand.

You will all be only too aware of the devastating consequences of injury on a person, their family, friends and community – of the waste of talents and people's lives.

As a Government, we have a responsibility to work to ensure New Zealand does not have to endure this waste of potential, with its huge personal, social and economic costs.

The policies we have developed and are implementing are beginning to have an effect, with some very positive results in some areas.

The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy provides a strategic framework that promotes a collaborative approach to improving New Zealand's injury prevention performance, and allows us to continue to build on the improvements we have already made.

Collaborative partnerships between Government agencies in the research and funding of safety initiatives are producing great results for the community.

Our injury prevention efforts are better co-ordinated and we are moving towards a common goal, united by a shared vision of a New Zealand free from injury.