

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between New Zealand Fire Service and Harbour Health

Monday, 2 March 2009 saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the New Zealand Fire Service and Harbour Health.



The New Zealand Fire Service and Harbour Health work collaboratively on many community based projects with the main one being the SAFE Project.

Smoke Alarm and Fire Education (SAFE) Project

The SAFE Project is a joint initiative between New Zealand Fire Service and Harbour Health's Otago Exercise Programme (OEP*) to increase fire safety awareness and install Smoke Alarms in the homes of those on the Otago Exercise Programme.

**OEP is a home based strength and balance retraining programme funded by ACC and delivered in homes to those aged over 80 years of age through Harbour Health (a Primary Health Organisation) for a period of 12 months.*

The SAFE Project has been in place since 2005 and OEP participants are referred into this service via their OEP Physiotherapist, directly by phone to Harbour Health or by requesting this in the OEP Feedback Survey.

Referrals are received at Harbour Health. They are then emailed to the Fire Service Community Education Officer. From there they are forwarded to the closest Fire Station and the Fire Fighters then visit each household, provide and install free Smoke Alarms in addition to undertaking a Fire Safety Check and promoting fire safety through education.

The SAFE project brings together fall prevention and fire safety within the home. This service has proven to be one that is gratefully received and highly valued by older adults in the North Harbour region.



Back - from Left to Right:

Mike McEnaney (Fire Risk Management Officer), Lis Cowling (Team Leader), Murray Binning (Auckland Assistant Regional Manager), Glenn Menzies (Chief Fire Officer, Fire Risk Management)

Front - from Left to Right:

Janice van Mil (General Manager, Clinical Services), Brian Butt (Auckland Regional Manager)