

Update

Safer Communities Australia



May 2010

A Message to all Schools

WELCOME TO the first “**Update**” from Safer Communities Australia for 2010.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide schools and other contacts with news and information from our organisation.

Please contact our office if you would like to know more about our programs, to order resources or to request speakers.

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Safety Ambassador program

EARLIER THIS YEAR your primary school was sent information about our multi-award winning **Safety Ambassador** program.

Schools are invited to nominate students to join the Safety Ambassador program. The role of these Ambassadors is to promote issues of safety within their school communities.

Ambassadors are presented with certificates, information kits and badges, and our Association conducts training workshops and supports the students throughout the year. Awards are presented annually to outstanding Ambassadors at a ceremony at Government House.

This year we will also trial the program in selected high schools

If you have not already done so, we encourage your school to participate in this program.

Safety Assist



sign of a safer community

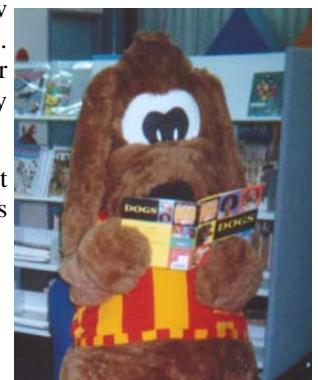
THE PREMIER PROGRAM of Safer Communities Australia is the **Safety Assist** (previously *Safety House*) program.

Safety Assist provides a voluntary network of approved locations where help can be sought if anyone is feeling unsafe. Safety Assist locations include private premises, shops, offices and other establishments.

As part of your school’s safety lessons, we encourage you to include information about Safety Assist. Students need to become familiar with the sign and to know that they can seek help at any location that displays the Safety Assist sign.

An increasing number of areas now have bright yellow Safety Assist street signs pointing to the safety locations. Many of the street signs also include the street number so the Safety Assist premises can be located as quickly as possible when help is needed.

We can provide addressees and maps of the Safety Assist locations in the vicinity of your school. The locations can then be advertised to parents via school newsletters.



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Fax: 08 8373 6203
Mobile: 0419 8277 23
E-mail: safetyhs@senet.com.au
www.safercommunities.asn.au



Resources available

OUR ASSOCIATION has a number of resources available to promote the Safety Assist program. These include information brochures, activity sheets, stickers, bookmarks and posters. We can make deliveries to your school via the school courier network. Our current list of resources is attached.



Help us to spread the word

Please help us to spread the Safety Assist message throughout your school community. Consider reproducing this article in an upcoming school newsletter. Contact us if you would like it in electronic format.

Dear Parents

Your help is needed to make your school community a safer place for everyone – young and old. We need more Safety Assist locations around our school.

The **Safety Assist** program is a voluntary network of approved residences, shops, offices and public buildings that display the Safety Assist sign as an indication that reliable help is available if anyone is lost, injured, bullied, frightened or feeling unsafe.

And Safety Assist locations aren't just houses. They could be buses, shops, offices, fire stations, banks, Surf Life Saving beach patrol bases and many other premises.

The occupants of Safety Assist premises are not expected to solve the problem but will contact police, family, ambulance or other appropriate agency as the situation requires. You do not invite strangers into your house. The person seeking help will wait outside your door while you call for assistance. Please consider becoming **Safety Assist** members. Remember ... there are no

restrictions on the times that residents are required to be available at the premises.

Businesses are also encouraged to join.

Please help to make our area safer. Call Safer Communities Australia on 8373 0818 for further information or email safetyhs@senet.com.au

An application form can also be downloaded from our web site at: www.safercommunities.asn.au

Safety lesson plans on web site

WE INVITE YOU to check out the information on our web site at:

www.safercommunities.asn.au

The site contains information about our organisation and its 3 programs:

Safety Assist – the former *Safety House* program

Stay Safe – a safety education program

Safety Associates – promoting links to other safety services and organisations

Safety information includes *Stay Safe* while doorknocking, on public transport, at public events, on the internet and what to do if you are bullied. This information is also available in a set of 5 brochures. Each brochure has 2 parts – one for parents and the other for children. *You are welcome to reproduce this information.*

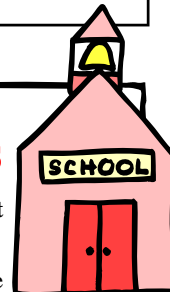
Lesson Plans and **work sheets** can be found under "Teachers' Zone". These cover a range of year levels and set out the relevant curriculum links.

Schools as Safety Assist locations

SCHOOLS AND PRE-SCHOOLS may now apply for Safety Assist membership.

Your school is invited to apply for membership and take a more active role in local community safety and security. This means that it will become a location where anyone can seek help when needed during the school's opening times. Your school's membership will also serve to reinforce the message to children that they can ask for help where they see a Safety Assist sign.

Contact us for an application form.



Attaining School Watch Level 1 accreditation

Participation in Safer Communities Australia programs will assist schools in attaining **School Watch Level 1 accreditation** and hence increasing safety in your school community.

There are 2 avenues for schools:

- ◆ Having the school signed as a **Safety Assist location**
- ◆ Participation in the **Safety Ambassador program**

Contact our office for further details.