

# Volunteer Opportunities available with Safer Communities Australia

## Ensure that Safety Assist locations are accurate by six monthly checks in your local area:

- Ensure signs on all **Safety Assist** locations are correctly positioned and conspicuous.
- Check occupancy of each location
- Ensure there is easy access to premises
- Check for any improper use of signs
- Check condition of **Safety Assist** street signs

## Promote membership of Safety Assist:

- Undertake an audit in your community to identify areas where **Safety Assist** locations are most needed – for example, near schools, bus stops, railway stations, etc
- Identify appropriate local businesses and approach them regarding membership
- Organise a letter drop down streets where children often walk – eg on way to school or shops – asking local residents to consider becoming **Safety Assist** members to help with safety of local children
- Letter drops may also be appropriate around other sites such as elderly citizens homes, bus stops, etc
- Encourage local residents, neighbours, friends and family to become **Safety Assist** locations. Word-of-mouth can be very effective.

## Promote Safety Assist to local schools

Encourage local schools to:

- Become a **Safety Assist** location
- Participate in the **Safety Ambassador** program
- Include **Safety Assist** brochures in information packs to new parents
- Include articles re **Safety Assist** in school newsletters
- Be included in mailing list for regular “Updates” from Safer Communities Australia
- Invite a speaker from SCA to address a meeting of the School Council

## Promote Safety Assist to the local community

- Ensure supplies of brochures are always available at appropriate local businesses, community centres, Councils, churches, etc
- Look for opportunities to include **Safety Assist** articles in local Council or business publications. SCA can supply appropriate articles.
- Seek opportunities for “good news” stories in local Messenger Press or country publications
- Participate in local community events to promote **Safety Assist** – eg stall at local fair or trailer at community events
- Seek opportunities to represent Safer Communities Australia on local community groups and organisations
- Offer speakers to local groups. Safer Communities Australia can provide speakers if needed

## Involve local Neighbourhood Watch areas

Approach local NHW areas to:

- Gain 2 new **Safety Assist** premises in their area per year
- Help with checking **Safety Assist** signs – street signs, house and letterbox signs and business signs
- Possibly fund some street signs in their area
- Identify areas where additional **Safety Assist** locations might be required
- Have Safety Assist as a permanent agenda item for Area’s meetings

## Safety Assist Street Signs

- Identify where street signs are required.
- Seek local avenues for funding street signs in area – eg local service clubs such as Lions and Rotary

## Other

- Promote the activities of the Association.
- Participate in fundraising and other promotions of the Association.
- Taking **Safe T Hound** to schools
- Helping at Safety Ambassador workshops
- Towing trailer to events
- Helping at annual **Children’s Safety Celebration** in October

## CHECK LIST FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AREAS

*In your Neighbourhood Watch area:*

- Do you have an updated list of the **Safety Assist** locations for your Neighbourhood Watch area?
- Has your area committed to gaining 2 new **Safety Assist** locations each year?
- Are all **Safety Assist** signs on house and business premises in your area clearly visible and in good condition?
- Are the **Safety Assist** street signs in good condition and not faded or covered in graffiti?
- Do you feature a regular segment in your area's local newsletter about the **Safety Assist** program?
- Do you have a map of your Neighbourhood Watch area which has the **Safety Assist** locations marked on it?
- Have you identified gaps where additional **Safety Assist** locations are required – for example, near schools, parks, playgrounds, bus stops and shops?
- Have you approached businesses in your area to become **Safety Assist** locations?

## BOARD SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

*SCA can provide:*

- Speakers
- Newsletter articles
- Fliers for letter-drops
- Resources
- Contact with local businesses that have been identified as potential Safety Assist locations
- Follow-up with potential funding sources
- Any other assistance and support, as required
- Safe T Hound

*If you are seeking volunteer opportunities, or simply have a few hours to spare each year, we would welcome your assistance.*