

# Neighbourhood Support

Waitakere



Hi. My name is Olivia McPherson and I am the new Area Coordinator for Piha Neighbourhood Support (previously Piha Neighbourhood Watch).

My husband Lachlan and I have lived in the area for almost seven years and we have two children.

I have recently taken over the Area Coordinator role from Mary Mead, who has been managing Piha Neighbourhood Watch with Phil Wallis since 2002.

I'm sure the community will join me in thanking Mary and Phil for the excellent job they have done in managing the group for the past eight years - I hope you both can now enjoy some well-deserved time off.

Piha Neighbourhood Support operates under the umbrella of Neighbourhood Support (Waitakere branch, known as NSW).

This group was formerly known as Neighbourhood Watch, however it collapsed nationally in 2005 and all its member records were removed.

Neighbourhood Support evolved in its place in 2007 and all around New Zealand, the group is in the process of obtaining new Area and Street Coordinators, as well as new members.

As such, Piha Neighbourhood Support is currently in the process of rebuilding its membership to establish a new and up-to-date network of members in the community.

In my role as Area Coordinator, I would like to invite everyone in the community to join Piha Neighbourhood Support.

My personal goal is to have at least 80% of the community signed up to the group by the end of 2011, and I have a fantastic team of volunteer Street Coordinators working with me to make this happen.

The objective of Neighbourhood Support is to make our homes, streets, neighborhoods and communities safer and more caring places to live. The group works in partnership with the NZ Police, the NZ Fire Service and Civil Defense.

Joining - by the simple act of filling in a membership form and returning it to your Street Coordinator - is a great opportunity to work with your neighbors to create the safe and supportive Neighbourhood that we all want Piha to be.

We can achieve this by sharing information, insights and ideas to minimize opportunities for crime to occur and to improve safety for families and their neighbors; alerting neighbors and the Police to criminal or suspicious activity in our streets; assisting neighbors in times of need or emergency and knowing when and how to contact police and other emergency services in Waitakere.

Best of all it is **free** to join – there are **no meetings** to attend and it requires no commitment other than maintaining vigilance around your and your neighbors' property, and reporting any crime or suspicious activity to the Police and your street coordinator.

The information you give is **completely confidential** under the Privacy Act and may not be viewed or used for any purposes other than Neighbourhood Support.

Once you have signed up to Piha Neighbourhood Support, you will start receiving weekly Police Intelligence Reports from NSW via email (administered by your street contact), which list criminal activity that has been committed in Waitakere recently.

You will also receive notification of any crime or suspicious activity which has occurred specifically within Piha, as it comes to hand.

Additionally, signing up means you will be a part of a phone and email tree should a Civil Defense emergency arise in the area.

Once you have submitted your membership form to your Street Contact, you will receive a **welcome kit** via post which includes:

- **Important leaflets and documentation detailing how to keep your home, contents and property safe and secure**
- **Information about how to identify suspicious activity**
- **Information about how to report a crime**
- **Civil Defense advice**
- **NSW emergency contact numbers**
- **A household emergency plan**
- **NSW stickers for your property**

Neighbourhood Support Waitakere receives government funding based on the number of members it has.

More funding means more staff, more efficient systems (as we have seen activated in recent months) and faster response times to NHS issues, which can only be a good thing.

Reporting **all** crime and suspicious activity is of the utmost importance as it enables the police to keep an accurate, official record of unlawful behavior in Piha.

This is essential in uncovering patterns of activity - when crime goes unreported, police are unable to see a clear sequence of what might be repeat offending.

Reports of suspicious activity are **never** unwelcome by Neighbourhood Support or the Police.

Obviously the more members we have, and the more relationships we forge with members of our street and community at large, -the stronger, safer and more vigilant a community we will have.

This is the reason my husband and I chose to move to Piha and raise our children here. I hope you will join me in working towards a safer community in 2011.

If you would like to join, or would like more information, please contact me on 812 8171 or [pnspiha.seaview@gmail.com](mailto:pnspiha.seaview@gmail.com) and I will put you in touch with your street coordinator.

Lastly I would like to invite you to our summer event for 2011:

**Neighbourhood Support Waitakere FREE Sausage Sizzle**  
**Saturday January 15**  
**11am - 1pm**  
**Piha Playground**

Come down for a complimentary sausage and a chat to our friendly Piha Neighbourhood Support Street Coordinators about becoming a member.

Samantha Farquhar from Neighbourhood Support Waitakere and a policeman from the Henderson Police will also be in attendance to answer any questions you might have.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Have a fantastic summer; please be safe and report any crime or suspicious goings-on.

For more information about NHS Waitakere, please visit:  
[www.nswaitakere.org.nz](http://www.nswaitakere.org.nz)