



**Safer Westland** held a successful workshop Friday 31 July.

Safer Westland Coalition represents and welcomes many different individual, agencies, organisations and community groups providing an opportunity for community connectedness, a sharing of responses and knowledge providing an understanding of the concerns and issues in Westland and a response direction for Safer Westland.

**Safer Westland Workshop** presented in focus areas:

**Reducing Crime**

- Senior Sargeant Mark Rowbottom (NZ Police) discussed local issues, police response and the importance of good communication
- Julia Lavers (WestREAP) gave updates on the successful on-going DriveWEST Learner Driver Licencing programme and the necessity of getting young and old to progress through the licencing process

**Reducing Harm**

- Sarah Wilson & Rosie McGrath (Community Public Health) presented on Alcohol Harm, alcohol still being the primary cause of Health, Community and Family Harm.
- Jennifer Harris (ACC) presented and encouraged discussion on Falls Prevention, safe senior living, and access to Live Stronger For Longer activities in Westland.
- Lauren Emanuel, Emergency Management Officer Westland & Group Manager Welfare was introduced and outlined the Emergency Container Project.
- Glenys Byrne, Road Safety Coordinator gave an update on campaigns.
- Glenys Byrne, Salvation Army Driver Mentor Programme based in Hokitika called for Mentor Drivers to work with Learner and Restricted Drivers enabling progression through the Driver Licencing system.
- Karl Jackson, Westland District Council and Chair West Coast Road Safety Council gave an update on Westland roads, footpaths and community speed issues.

**Well-being, Social Connectedness and Reducing Isolation**

- Natasha Morris (Library Manager) presented on the wealth of initiatives at Westland District Library – events, activities and new project ‘Library Delivery Service’ for permanent or temporary house-bound residents.
- Adair Quaife (Heartlands) presented and encouraged discussion on Covid-19 response in our community, and the highlighted impacts of isolation in times of crisis.

**Supporting Youth**

- Whare Iraia (WestREAP) presented the ‘Be Collective’ an initiative for engaging and connecting the Goodwill of New Zealand. ‘Be Collective’ is a Volunteer Management solution for volunteers, groups and communities. <https://www.becollective.com/>
- Whare Iraia (WestREAP) talked about initiating the Youth Employability Programme – ‘A Licence to Work’ to meet the gap in programmes available for youth in Westland with no established Youth Employment Programme currently operating in Westland.
- Derek Blight (Big Brothers, Big Sisters) presented the positive difference in the lives of youth through professionally supported, mentoring relationships. Research highlights the powerful, positive and lasting impact that mentors can have on our young people. Derek explained Big Brothers Big Sisters match young people between the age of 6 and 12 years of age and the criteria that needs to be met, to make a successful match.