Neighbourhood Support is a national organisation that aims to see groups in every neighbourhood getting together to make our homes, streets and communities safer and more caring places to live.

We recommend joining a group as it helps protect your home and personal security. New Zealand Police statistics show that if you are a member of a neighbourhood support group, you are less likely to be affected by a crime.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT**

- encourages neighbours to talk to each other
- helps foster a sense of community spirit, where everyone is respected and valued
- identifies your neighbourhood’s needs for personal and home protection
- educates and empowers your neighbours to take responsibility for their own safety
- reduces all kinds of crime: vandalism, graffiti, violence and disorder, burglaries and car crime

- encourages planning for a civil emergency in your area
- helps educate people to know when and how to contact the Police, other emergency services and support agencies.

**HOW TO START UP YOUR OWN GROUP**

A neighbourhood support group for your street or community is easy to set-up – you don’t even necessarily need the help of Neighbourhood Support New Zealand or the Police (though we do recommend you let them know about your existence).

**Here are some tips on how to set one up:**

1. **MAKE CONTACT**

   Contact your local council or community constable.

2. **FIND MEMBERS**

   Your community constable will help:

   - determine a practical size for your group
   - coordinate invitations to join the group
   - set up the initial group get-together
   - identify the volunteer contact person and a deputy for the group.
3. START-UP MEETING
Your community constable will attend the first meeting and:

- explain how a Neighbourhood Support group works
- distribute information packs and street signs
- help gather details for a group contact list
- stay in contact with the group via the contact person.

4. FOLLOW UP
The group contact person will:

- distribute the contact list to your group members and keep it up-to-date
- distribute information such as newsletters and crime alerts
- arrange future meetings as required, including an annual get-together.

The contact person is referred to as a street contact. This role is crucial for updating information and for keeping the community informed.

Signs, stickers, leaflets and folders are provided by Neighbourhood Support New Zealand as part of your start-up and ongoing maintenance of your group.

For more information and support, email neighbourhoodsupport@wcc.govt.nz, phone the Council’s resilience team on 499 4444 or your community constable.

ns.org.nz
Wellington.govt.nz