



## STARTING A NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP

### Referrals

Referrals to start a group can come from a number of different sources. Some common examples include: from local Police following a burglary or theft, from Victim Support, or simply from a group of residents who want to be better connected and prepared for an emergency.

On the NSNZ website there is free information provided to anyone interested in learning more about Neighbourhood Support or starting a group. They can browse our map feature to see if a group is already started in their area or can contact our National Office who then forward the message onto the relevant Area Coordinator to follow up on the query. You can direct people to sign up this way through the NSNZ website or directly through your own website, social media or email, whatever is most convenient for you locally.

### Simple Steps To Establish A Group

Here are some simple guidelines on how a grassroots street group can be established. There isn't a standard procedure for how each group starts as each group usually has their own unique needs. The following process should give you a general idea of what may work well in your area.

- Talk to immediate neighbours and see if they are interested in being part of a group. This can be done in a number of ways e.g. door knock, mail drop or perhaps a street meeting
- Discuss reasons for setting up a group: 'Creating safe, resilient and connected communities.'
- Does the street want to have an initial get together? Not every group does, some groups like to keep it informal and just share contact details for use in an emergency.
- Assign a street contact for the group. This person serves as the main contact for the group and liaises with the local Area Coordinator. This person will be responsible for maintaining their street's details, and for sharing any info they get from Coordinators or local Police.
- Finalise group; distribute resources, collect and store contact details.

### Membership Forms

You should use a standardised registrations form so you collect the same information from every member. If you need assistance setting something up, please don't hesitate to reach out.

### How Big Should A Group Be?

We are regularly asked about the ideal number of households that can be in a street group. Each street is different and some like to include the whole street, but a simple method that is common is a group of 12 households with 6 on either side of the road.