



AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK INJURY INCIDENCE

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Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor—General of the Commonwealth of Australia launched the WHO World Report on Child Injury at the 9th National Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion at the Sofitel, Melbourne, July 26th 2009.

Australian Injury Prevention Network

The AIPN is a professional organisation bringing together all Australians and New Zealanders concerned with injury issues.

Please feel free to contact us for more information

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Report from the 9th National Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. Melbourne, July 2009

"For me the conference began with the welcome by the graceful and eloquent Governor General who talked of the impressive body of injury prevention work done over the past decades. This lovely start to the conference was followed by a chance to catch up and meet new people over drinks and nibbles. I had missed the workshops over the weekend and it was great to hear that they had been a success. I was also sad to miss the Sunday afternoon program that, by all reports, included engaging and interesting speakers. The Great Debate, I hear, was highly entertaining and included lively banter and friendly rivalry as well as cogent argument by each side (even if parachutes and elephants(?) got somewhat co-opted into the argument).

First up on Monday morning was a keynote address by Dr Nancy Stout who provided a well-researched and enlightening look at the evolution of, and directions for the future in, occupational health and safety. This was followed by an innovative method of poster presentations which I thought was a great way to hear a snapshot of others' work and with the morning tea directly after it provided a really good opportunity to follow-up with people.

A number of interesting sessions followed, too many to choose in both the middle and two afternoon sessions. These were punctuated by lunch and afternoon tea which were also good opportunities for meeting new people, catching up, and visiting the interesting stalls maned by dedicated staff.

The conference dinner was in a beautiful location with good food, plentiful wine and wonderful company. Only to be capped off by dance or two or three to ABBA tunes.

Early Tuesday we had a fascinating plenary with Judge Jennifer Coate and Professor Stephen Cordner who provided interesting insight into the Victorian coronial system and forensic medicine. This was followed with more break-out presentations of innovative research that were often followed with insightful questions that I always wished I'd thought to ask. Over the two days, much insight was gained into innovative research methods, policy implications and importantly new directions for programs as well steps forward in understanding injury and injury prevention. I was also fortunate to be invited to the AIPN student session during lunch of day 2. While I hope it was of benefit for students to hear about research centres across the country and how early career researchers found their way into injury prevention I found it exciting to hear about the different backgrounds, experiences and skills that are brought to injury prevention research.

The day concluded with some thoughtful closing remarks by Professors McClure and Williamson and awards with special mention of Emeritus Professor Mary Sheehan (with whom I work and who has provided valuable mentoring to me) who received the AIPN award for Sustained Achievement in Injury Prevention. All in all a highly successful and enjoyable conference!"

Lisa Buckley, QUT



Ann Williamson + Mary Sheehan

AIPN Student Meeting at Melbourne Injury Conference 2009

For the first time in AIPN's history a careers forum was organised for the student meeting held at the 9th National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference in July 2009.

Theme: Injury Prevention Career– How Do We Get There?

The purpose was to give prospective and current students the opportunity to listen and discuss available options for gaining a successful career in injury prevention, safety promotion, or other public health related role. The focus was on the possible avenues for gaining a position after study, including academic, industry, government and international options.

The meeting consisted of injury centre representatives from the main injury centre's around Australia. Panel representatives were those that had either recently completed a PhD or had gained an injury or safety related position after study. The final group of presenters were from international injury centre's. The meeting was mediated and coordinated by Dr. Lesley day, who ensured that it ran smoothly and helped to facilitate questions from the students.

Injury Centre Representatives: mainly gave a brief outline of their research centre and its higher degree research (HDR) program. Each representative included some information on gaining a post-doctoral position at their centre or suggested other possible options for students wanting to gain a post-doctoral position. The injury centre representatives included:

Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith - Department of Forensic Medicine - Monash Uni - VIC
 Professor Rod McClure - Monash University Accident Research Centre - VIC
 A/Prof Rebecca Ivers - George Institute for International Health – NSW
 Professor Ann Williamson - University of New South Wales
 Dr. Jenny Blitvich - University of Ballarat – VIC
 A/Prof James Harrison – Research Centre for Injury Studies - Flinders University – SA
 Professor Narelle Haworth & Dr Alexia Lennon - CARRS-Q – QUT – QLD
 Dr. Belinda Gabbe - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine - Monash Uni - VIC

Panel Members: mainly focused on their own career path into their area of work. Each of the panel members included their experiences and any advice on gaining a post doctoral position or other research position after completion their studies. Some information on advocacy and gaining experience in advocacy was also mentioned. The panel members included:

Dr. Rebecca Mitchell - Research Fellow - University of NSW
 Dr. Kirsten McKenzie - Research Fellow - National Centre for Classification in Health - QLD
 Dr. Bernadette Matthews – Manager - Research and Health Promotion - Life Saving Victoria
 Dr. Rebecca Lilley – Early Career researcher - Injury Prevention research Unit – New Zealand
 Dr. Lisa Buckley – Post-Doctoral Fellow - CARRS-Q – QUT
 Ms Debbie Scott - Manager – Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit
 Ms Aleksandra Natora – Senior Policy Officer, Department of Human Services VIC
 Dr. Sophie Pointer – Assistant Director - Research Centre for Injury Studies – Flinders Uni SA

Positive feedback was received from several students who attended the meeting and overall the meeting ran smoothly. The students heard from a variety of injury, safety and policy researchers about the steps involved in gaining a successful career in the area. Some of the helpful tips for PhD students included:

- Having good mentors
- Having a good workplace environment that supports its students
- Becoming part of a research group within the research centre
- Discussing options with your supervisor/s
- Accepting casual, part-time or even full-time RA positions during or after the PhD as a first step
- Becoming a member on a relevant committee
- Approaching and networking with appropriate people at conferences
- Being in the right place at the right time (or putting yourself in the right place at the right time)
- Talking to senior researchers and letting them know you're interested in working with them
- Keeping an eye out for grants that you may be able to write or put your name on with other researchers
- Looking for a range of grants including short-term ones
- Looking further afield and not only sticking to academia
- Learning or improving your advocacy skills
- Working out where your passion is and speaking to as many people in that area as you can

It is hoped that the AIPN will be able to hold similar meetings or presentations, for students, in the future.

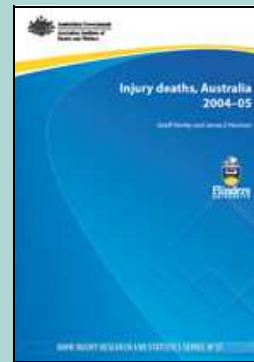
Jessica Killian
 AIPN Student Rep

New AIHW Report: Injury Deaths, Australia 2004-05

Accidental falls, suicide and transport-related injuries are common causes of death in the Australian community. This report finds that overall, rates of injury and death in Australia during 2004-05 increased with the remoteness of the injured person's residence, with those who resided in very remote areas having a rate more than double that of the national rate. When considering only deaths resulting from motor vehicle transport accidents, the mortality rate for those who resided in very remote areas was 4 times the national rate. When considering state and territory of residence, those who resided in the Northern Territory, where much of the population lives in remote and very remote areas, had mortality rates almost 3 times the national rate for motor vehicle transport-related deaths, more than double the national rate for suicides, and more than 4 times the national rate for homicides.

AIHW catalogue number (INJCAT 127)
Available from CanPrint for \$25 (1300 889 873)

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10777>



The National Coroners Information System – Update

The National Coroners Information System (NCIS) is a national data collection which contains information about every death reported to a coroner since July 2000 (1 January 2001 for Queensland data). The system is used by coroners, forensic scientists and doctors, and researchers to obtain information about the frequency and circumstances surrounding reportable deaths.

Activities currently underway at the NCIS Unit include:

- Formalisation of legal agreements to allow New Zealand data to be added to the system
- Upgrade of the NCIS interface which will allow improved searching by dates of relevance, occupation and industry classification, and allow the display of supplementary reports.
- Piloting of an automatic notification feature which will alert users via email to new fatalities of interest which are added to the database.

Geo-coding of residential and incident addresses for all deaths reported nationally in 2005 and 2006, to allow mapping of occurrence rates by population.

Those interested in obtaining data from the NCIS can contact Jessica Pearse, NCIS Manager on 03 9684 4414 or

jessicap@vifm.org



child safety is no accident

In March 1979, a group paediatric surgeons and business people got together to establish *The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia* (CAPFA). The purpose of the Foundation was to reduce the number of child deaths from accidents and the severity of accidental injuries to children less than 15 years of age. State Divisions of the Foundation were established between 1979 and 1983. In 1993, the Foundation adopted the trading name Kidsafe.

Thirty years later, Kidsafe is the leading non-government, not-for-profit charitable organisation, dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries and the reduction of deaths and disabilities resulting from unintentional injuries in children less than 15 years of age.

Since the establishment of Kidsafe in 1979, the number of child deaths and hospital admissions for unintentional injuries has reduced by more than half, yet despite this very significant success, injury remains the leading cause of death in Australian children aged one to fourteen, accounting for nearly half of all deaths in this age group.

Many factors have contributed to the reduction in childhood injuries since 1979. These include better product design, construction and Standards, improved consumer protection regulation, regulations covering hot water delivery temperatures, restraint of child passengers in cars and swimming pool barriers to name just a few, in conjunction with public education and awareness campaigns.

Kidsafe, along with many of Australia's leaders in injury research and injury prevention practice, has been an active advocate for the introduction of many of these measures and has conducted many education and awareness campaigns.

This year, as Kidsafe celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, it hopes to recognise some of the leading contributors to child injury prevention and safety promotion in Australia across the years through awarding some Lifetime Achievement Awards. It is envisaged that these will be presented later in the year, most likely in conjunction with *National Kidsafe Day* in October.

National Kidsafe Day is a day to focus on the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries. While the number of injury related deaths and hospital admissions for children have reduced by more than half over the last three decades, Australia is still a long way behind countries such as Germany, Sweden and Singapore.

Preventing childhood injuries does not mean "wrapping children in cotton wool" but does involve supervision, and creating and maintaining safer environments in which children can learn, grow and develop safety conscious behaviours. Minor bumps, bruises and grazes will always occur, but things can be done to prevent serious injury and injury related deaths to children.

Currently, there are Kidsafe Centres in each state and Territory around Australia. Some are based at Children's Hospitals, others are shop fronts or based in educational institutions. While each Kidsafe Centre operates within the confines of levels and sources of funding and local issues, some key common areas of focus include home safety, road safety and playground safety. Some common services include:

- Safety Demonstration Centres to highlight danger areas around the home for young children and demonstrate some key measures to reduce the risk of injury to children in the home environment.
- Child Car Restraint Fitting, Checking, hire and advisory services
- Established or developing Playground safety advisory services

Kidsafe is hosting a child injury prevention pre-conference workshop for the 9th National Conference on Injury prevention and Safety Promotion, which it hopes will lead to a re-energising of child injury prevention.

For further information about Kidsafe services and activities, visit www.kidsafe.com.au

About Kidsafe

Vision

A safer world for kids

Mission

To lead the action to highlight and to minimise the unacceptable level of risk and consequence of injury to children in our adult-focused world

Aims

To prevent child deaths from unintentional injury and reduce the severity of unintentional injuries to children aged less than 15 years, through education, research, advocacy and environmental, legislative and behaviour change.



**The MUARC girls enjoying the conference welcome party.
Jessica Killian, Karen Ashby, Karen Stephan and Marilyn Johnson**

Upcoming Events

2009 Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference.
11-13 November, Sydney
www.roadsafetyconference2009.com.au

VSCN Seminar—Planning for Bushfires: The Critical Issues. Manningham City Council, Victoria. 26 November 2009.
www.vscn.org.au

5th Australian Playground Conference, Perth, 18-21 April 2010 (TBC)

Safety 2010 World Conference. 21-24 September 2010, London UK. The key theme is Safe and Equitable Communities. Abstracts are due on 15 January 2010.
Email: safety2010@ljmu.ac.uk
www.safety2010.org.au

AIPN undertakes to collate information from contributors, and has not been responsible for the research reported in this newsletter

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