



The AIPN is the peak national body advocating for injury prevention and control in Australia. The AIPN was formed in 1996 in order to establish a framework for collaboration between injury researchers, policymakers and practitioners and to provide a co-ordinated voice among injury prevention professionals. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

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

### Inside this edition

New AIPN president.....	p2
New AIPN executive members.....	p3
Injury prevention advocacy.....	p4
Latest IP releases.....	p5
Latest IP grants awarded.....	p6
Active play for children DVD.....	p7
World conference report.....	p8
Injury and violence webinars.....	p8
Staying active, staying alive.....	p9
Evidence to action symposium.....	p10
Contentious safety warning.....	p11
Forthcoming events.....	p12
AIPN student competition.....	p13
AIPN memberships.....	p13

### Dear AIPN Members,

This was a non-conference year for the AIPN when we tried to strengthen our activities and plan for the next conference. The highlights of the year include:

- Putting the final touches to our new website as the electronic face of the AIPN
- A highly successful satellite meeting on injury at the Public Health Association of Australia conference.
- The first seeding grant offered by the AIPN was won by Samantha Hauge and Dr Jeremy Dwyer of the Coroners Prevention Unit of the Victorian State Coroners Office for a study *Jumping suicide and the media: does reportage inspire imitation*
- AIPN's presence at the tenth world conference on injury prevention and control in London in September
- The introduction of a student competition for AIPN student members

One of the principle roles of the AIPN is advocacy. We have continually been trying to increase the profile of injury prevention within the health sector. As we are all aware, the health sector is left to 'pick up the pieces' after injuries on the road, in the workplace, on the sports field, in the home or in the community. Yet, over the last decade, health has shown a decreasing level of interest in injury. We have been trying to turn this around.

AIPN is the only professional organisation in Australia dedicated to promotion of injury prevention in general. For this reason, we must keep it vibrant. We certainly have the people working to make our lives safer through research, policymaking and practice. AIPN provides a coordinated voice among injury prevention professionals. We must foster our messages about injury prevention to ensure that our voice is heard and responded to by government, industry and the community.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the executive for their work and efforts this year. It has been a pleasure being the president of the AIPN executive committee. Thanks to everyone for their support.

*Ann Williamson*

President (outgoing), AIPN



## Australian Injury Prevention Network

Incorporated in Victoria

ABN 23 676 617 704

AIPN Website: [www.aipn.com.au](http://www.aipn.com.au)

AIPN Secretariat

PO Box: 21211

Little Lonsdale Street

MELBOURNE VIC 8011

Email: [secretariat@aipn.com.au](mailto:secretariat@aipn.com.au)

## New AIPN President

Welcome to the final newsletter for the network for 2010. The annual general meeting was held on October at the George Institute in Sydney, along with a strategic planning meeting for the executive. A number of positions turned over at the AGM, and as a result we have a revamped executive.

A very big welcome to the new executive committee. The new members are Stephanie King (Mt Isa Safe Communities), Alex Voukelatos (Sydney South West Area Health Service), Lynne Meuleners (Curtin University). The new student representative is Michelle Fraser, also from Curtin. As the incoming president I am very much looking forward to working with the new team who I am sure will bring fresh ideas and energy to the executive committee. Continuing on the committee are Sue Wicks (Treasurer), Alexia Lennon (Secretary), Jessica Killian (newsletter coordinator), Ann Williamson, Sophie Pointer and Tim Driscoll.

Thanks must go to the outgoing office bearers – Ann Williamson has done a tremendous job over the past three years as president and we thank her very much for her contribution. Jessica Killian is retiring as the student representative but fortunately has agreed to stay on as the newsletter coordinator.

Two members of the executive have retired from their roles. Thanks to Colin Edmonston for his role representing Indigenous issues on the committee. Pam Albany has also retired due to ill health. The executive would like to thank Pam for all her hard work over many years of advocacy for the promotion of injury prevention Australia wide. She has made a terrific contribution to the AIPN and injury prevention in general and we wish her all the best.

We have several new initiatives underway. We will be trialling an injury bulletin in the months between newsletters – this will come out quarterly and will be an email bulletin updating you with brief items about seminars, workshops, job opportunities and so on. We will also be publishing a series of position papers on the website, and using these as the basis for continuing advocacy in injury. These will include topics such as recommendations to the Australian government on injury, the need for continuing advocacy on Aboriginal injury prevention amongst others. We seek contributions or ideas from you the membership to help us develop this list of position papers. If there is something you believe we should be advocating on, for example water safety or consumer products, please let us know. We welcome contributions from you in terms of both suggestions and in the writing of the position papers. They are generally short and pithy so don't get frightened off – we need people to contribute!

We would also like to encourage members to get together in each state. We are currently planning the next conference, set for Brisbane in November 2011, but hope to also establish seminar series in each state. For this we will rely on you - the members - to work with us. If you have a visiting expert, or ideas about someone local who you think members in your state would enjoy hearing from, please get in touch with us and we can help to organise a seminar.

Finally, we will be continuing to advocate for injury at the highest level. It is important that we maintain a presence in Government with representatives on various committees and working groups and we will be aiming to ensure broad representation of the network where appropriate.

I would like to hear from members directly about your ideas for the network and how I can best represent you. I believe that now, more than ever, we need to be heard and to have strong voices in government and industry. I can be contacted at [rivers@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:rivers@georgeinstitute.org.au) - please feel free to drop me a line.

Rebecca Ivers



Associate Professor Rebecca Ivers is the current president of the AIPN. She is the Director of the Injury Division at the George Institute for Global Health and Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney.

## New AIPN Executive members

### Stephanie King

Stephanie commenced employment with the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health in August 2006 as the Administrative / Student Placement Officer. She also studied part-time and obtained the Associate Degree in Indigenous Community Management and Development in 2007.

Stephanie was appointed the Mount Isa Safe Community Coordinator in March 2009. The Mount Isa Safe Community Advisory Team will work towards a vision of making Mount Isa a safer community, a community where injury prevention measures will make a difference to high -risk groups and programs which promote safety to all members of the city.

Stephanie's main research interests lie within Indigenous community management and development, mainly the analysis of major historical, social, political, economic factors and the ways they have influenced contemporary Indigenous society. Her main objectives are to encourage and implement changes for the betterment of Indigenous and non- Indigenous people and communities, whether from a community development or primary healthcare perspective.



### Alex Voukelatos

Dr Alexander Voukelatos has been the program manager for injury prevention and safety promotion at Sydney South West Area Health Promotion for the past 5 years. Alex has degrees in Science and Psychology. He recently obtained a PhD in Injury Epidemiology from Sydney University. Alex was the principal investigator for the Central Sydney Tai Chi trial which examined the effectiveness of a introductory level Tai Chi program in reducing falls in older people. He is currently principal investigator of two falls prevention studies: the Easy Steps to Health study which is examining the effects of a

self-managed brisk walking program in reducing falls in sedentary older people, and the modified Otago Exercise Program which is a pilot study evaluating the feasibility of running the OEP in a community setting. Alex has also published several papers on youth violence and bicycle safety. Research interests include epidemiology, injury prevention, biostatistics, and health promotion. In his spare time Alex likes to look at the heavens and hope that the Wallabies win a game.

### Lynn Meuleners

Associate Professor Lynn Meuleners has been working in the field of road safety and injury for the past six years. She is currently working in the newly established road safety centre Curtin Monash Accident Research Centre (C-MARC) which is a joint collaboration between Curtin University and MUARC at Monash University. Her previous position as a Main Roads WA senior research fellow has resulted in evidence-based research which has encompassed a variety of projects including the Heavy Vehicle Project, the Older Driver Project and evaluation of both the State's Black Spot Programs and Road Enhancement Program. She has also undertaken research funded by the ARC in the area of older drivers and cataracts and has an interest in prevention of falls and interpersonal violence.



### Michelle Fraser

Michelle is currently undertaking a Masters in Public Health by research at Curtin University in WA. Her project involves looking at issues surrounding cataracts, cataract surgery and driving. Michelle's undergraduate degree was in health promotion and since graduating she has worked closely with Lynn Meuleners at Curtin University, mostly in the area of road safety research but also on other injury issues such as violence. While studying, Michelle is also doing some work in the Curtin Monash Accident Research Centre. Her interest areas are older driver road safety and injury prevention in older adults. injury issues such as violence.



## Injury Prevention Advocacy News

### New Injury Prevention Minister

**Introducing the potential new injury prevention Minister.**

The newly elected Gillard government has promoted Mark Butler to the position formerly held by the Hon Justine Elliott. The Hon Mark Butler MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, now has responsibility for Mental Health, Ageing and Alcohol and Other Drugs. The Health Department website has yet to provide a full list of portfolio responsibilities so at this stage we can only assume that injury prevention remains lumped in with falls prevention. As we all know issues with the ageing Australian population, mental health and drug and alcohol consumption are big ticket items that take up a lot of time and money so the likelihood of injury prevention rising above the perception of being about preventing falls in older people is not great!

However, we also know that alcohol and drug use are major risk factors for injury so now more than anytime in the previous Rudd government there is opportunity to have injury prevention recognised as the National Health Priority area it is.

The AIPN will be writing to the Hon Mark Butler very soon pointing out the importance of injury prevention in Australia and the neglect it has suffered in the past from being sidelined as a problem for older Australians at risk of a fall. Feel free to do the same! His contact details are as follows:

The Hon Mark Butler MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Health  
R1-89  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6277 4414  
Fax: (02) 6277 8502

email: [mark.butler.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:mark.butler.mp@aph.gov.au)

Sophie Pointer

### Australian National Preventive Health Agency

The AIPN welcomes the long awaited Australian National Preventive Health Agency. It is now vital that AIPN strongly advocated for injury to be incorporated as a key focus of the agency. The AIPN has recently written a letter to the Hon Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing, calling for injury prevention to be a focus of the new Health Agency. Please visit the AIPN website ([www.aipn.com.au](http://www.aipn.com.au)) to read the letter.

The AIPN also urges all members to write to the minister as soon as possible because many voices are heard louder than one! Please visit the website for the contact details.

## Latest Injury Prevention Releases

### New Reports/ Articles

#### **The extent to which behavioural and social sciences theories and models are used in sport injury prevention research.**

McGlashan, A.J. and Finch, C.F. Sports Med 2010; 40 (10): 841-858.

The paper outlines the systematic review of electronic databases for Behavioural and social science theories and models (BSSTM). The study aimed to identify which BSSTM theories have been incorporated into published sports injury prevention research studies and to identify which theories were adopted and how they were used. The study concludes that few studies relating to sport safety behaviours have explicitly used any BSSTM .

#### **A sports setting matrix for understanding the implementation context for community sport**

Finch, C.F. and Donaldson, A. Br J Sports Med 2010; 44: 973-978.

This paper provides a novel extension to the RE-AIM framework, which accounts for the fact that many sports injury interventions need to be targeted at multiple levels of sports delivery. Specific examples are given for coach-delivered exercise training interventions.

#### **Injury prevention: A strategic priority for environmental health?**

D.H. Stone and G.P. Morris.

This paper argues that injury deserves consideration as a major strategic priority by environmental professionals.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=GatewayURL&\\_method=citationSearch&\\_urlVersion=4&\\_origin=SDVIALERTASCI&\\_version=1&\\_uoikey=B73H6-511BPK0-2&md5=f7381a9a7c51676834fa542294d09b6b](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=GatewayURL&_method=citationSearch&_urlVersion=4&_origin=SDVIALERTASCI&_version=1&_uoikey=B73H6-511BPK0-2&md5=f7381a9a7c51676834fa542294d09b6b)

### New journal theme

*Epidemiologic Reviews*, a sister publication of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, is devoted to publishing comprehensive and critical reviews on specific themes once a year. The theme of the 2012 issue (volume 34) will be injury and violence.

Submission of manuscripts is now solicited on topics related to injury and violence, including the effects of cross cutting factors such as alcohol and racial differences. Manuscripts can be up to 6000 words exclusive of the abstract, table, figures and references. Consult the journal website for acceptable format.

[http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/epirev/about.html](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/epirev/about.html)

Complete documents should be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com./epirev> by March 1, 2011.

#### **PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED**

If anyone is aware of any new publications, courses, grants or awards in injury prevention, the AIPN would love to hear about them.

Please email us on [secretariat@aipn.com.au](mailto:secretariat@aipn.com.au).

## Latest Injury Prevention Grants Awarded

The AIPN congratulates the following researchers for being successful in the latest round of ARC and NHMRC grants.

### Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grants:

#### Monash University

Rod McClure, Anneliese Spinks, Neil Sipe. *Social determinants of childhood injury*. \$690,042.

#### University of Sydney

Rebecca Ivers, Kathleen Clapham, James Harrison, Teresa Senserrick, Russell Gruen, Alexandra Martiniuk. *Road safety and Aboriginal people*. \$374,082.

Lisa Keay, Rebecca Ivers, Soufiane Boufous. *Evaluation of a program to enable older, at-risk drivers to stop or limit driving, but maintain mobility*. \$431,828.

#### Queensland University of Technology

Lisa Buckley, Mary Sheehan, Victor Siskind. *Protecting young people from harm and injury: investigating the utility of risk and protective framework*. \$329,133.

#### Curtin University of Technology

Lynn Meuleners, Andy Lee, Delia Hendrie, Jonathon Ng. *The impact of first and second eye cataract surgery on falls and utilisation of mental health services among older Australians*. \$145,000.

#### The University of Western Australia

Alison Reid, Lin Fritschi, Anthony LaMontagne, Seeromanie Harding, Erik Lenguerrand. *Work-related fatal and non-fatal accidents and injuries and exposure to workplace hazards in migrant workers in Australia*. \$401,000.

### Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grants:

#### Monash University

Paul Salmon, Mike Lenne, Caroline Finch and Erin Cassell. *Understanding and preventing injury in the Australian led outdoor activity domain: a theory driven approach to injury surveillance and prevention*. \$169,447.

Lesley Day, Mike Lenne, Mark Symmons, Peter Hillard, Stuart Newstead, Rod McClure, Peter Bellion. *Managing increasing challenges in motorcycle safety: strengthening research evidence for effective policy and countermeasure development*. \$336,000.

#### The University of NSW

Raphael Grzebieta, Andrew McIntosh, Mike Bambach, Roger Zou, Kennerly Digges, Frank Pintar, Raymond Job, Efford Chirwa, Donald Friedman, Jeffrey Simmons. *Dynamic Rollover Occupant Protection (DROP): evaluation and regulation*. \$510,000

### National Health and Medical Research Council Grants:

#### University of Sydney

Katharine Steinbeck, Catherine Hawke, Philip Hazell, Susan Skinner, Rebecca Ivers, Robert Booy, Robert Cumming, Gregory Fulcher. *Adolescent Rural Cohort Study: Hormones, Health, Education, Environments and Relationships*. \$975,651.60

#### University of Queensland

Len Gray, Nancye Peel, Ian Cameron, Mohanraj Karunanithi, Sanjoy Paul, Maria Crotty, Susan Kurrle. *Promoting activity for frail aged in post-acute hospital settings: a randomised controlled trial of accelerometry*. \$527,240.90

Peter Hill, Cindy Shannon, Philip Davies, Anthony Zwi. *Uptake of evidence to policy: the Indigenous Burden of Disease case study*. \$424,034.00

## Latest Injury Prevention Grants Awarded cont...

### National Health and Medical Research Council Grants:

#### Monash University

Anna Barker, Caroline Brand, Terrence Haines, Keith Hill, Sandra Brauer, Damien Jolley, Mari Botti. *Falls prevention in the acute hospital setting: a multi-centre cluster randomised controlled trial of efficacy, cost effectiveness and sustainability of the 6-PACK program.* \$1,179,850.40.

#### University of Melbourne

Jane Pirkis, Matthew Spittal, David Studdert, Lyle Gurrin, Matthew Miller. *An individual level study of suicide method substitution over time.* \$ 211,440.40

Kelsey Hegarty, Jane Gunn, Angela Taft, Gene Feder, Ann Taket, Stephanie Brown. *Women's Evaluation of Abuse and Violence Care Randomised Controlled Trial- long term Outcomes.* \$277,190.40

#### University of NSW

Richard Mattick, David Fergusson, Mohammad Hayatbakhsh, John Horwood, George Patton, John Toumbourou, Louisa Degenhardt, Delyse Hutchinson, Wendy Swift. *Investigating the relationships between cannabis and other drug use, mental health, early-life factors and life course outcomes; integrative analyses of data from four Australian cohort studies.* \$284,472.00

Louisa Degenhardt, Lucinda Burns, Don Weatherburn, Tony Butler, Amy Gibson, Jo Kimber, Richard Mattick. *Determining the impact of opioid substitution therapy upon mortality and recidivism among prisoners: A 22 year data linkage study.* \$204,472.00

## Active Play for Children

A new DVD designed to encourage children aged 3 to 8 years to play and keep active has been launched. Funded by the Department of Health, the *Active Play for Children* DVD provides a practical and innovative resource for practitioners to support active play in childcare and educational settings. It also provides a valuable and engaging tool for practitioners to promote the benefits of active play to families.

The DVD highlights the importance of physical activity to a child's physical growth as well as their cognitive, social and emotional development.

The DVD brings together a range of experts in children's health and development and focuses on empowering viewers with information about the benefits of daily physical activity for children.

It was developed through the *Filling the Gaps* program, which is managed by the Royal Children's Hospital in collaboration with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Australian Catholic University. *Filling the Gaps* is a partner program of Kids - Go for your life.

The DVD will be available to professionals, including childcare workers and teachers and will be disseminated with training to relevant organisations from October to December 2010.

#### **For further information**

To find out more about training opportunities and to obtain a copy of the DVD, please contact [natasha.hampson@rch.org.au](mailto:natasha.hampson@rch.org.au) or call the *Go for your life* Information Line on 1300 739 899.

#### **Related links**

[Kids - Go for your life](#)

[Royal Children's Hospital](#)

[Murdoch Children's Research Institute](#)



## World Conference Report

### ***Report of Safety 2010 World Conference, London, September 21-24.***

The key theme of the conference was Safe and Equitable Communities, chosen to reflect the disproportionate burden from almost all types of injuries that poorer communities experience. Such differences are apparent both within countries, between countries and even between global regions. Unintentional injuries and violence continue to represent major challenges to public health.

There were a number of keynote presentations over the four days, including AIPN colleague Associate Professor James Harrison who spoke during the State of Art sessions on surveillance, Sir Michael Marmott an internationally renowned epidemiologist in public health, and Dr Etienne Krug from the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability from the World Health Organization. Dr Jeremy Shiffman from Syracuse University presented a new and thought-provoking framework on generating political priority for global health issues.

Of course with any large international conference it is always difficult to decide what sessions to attend! Some of the sessions I attended included areas on injury epidemiology, child injury prevention research and policies, road safety, including children, youth, pedestrians and evaluation, and alcohol and risk factors.

A presentation by Helle Avesson from Sweden - *Knowledge and evidence in child injury prevention: 10 years between clinical ideals and public health practice* concluded from a Cochrane review on child injury prevention programs that the promising intervention for preventing child injuries was the WHO Safe Communities model. This is indeed encouraging for the Safe Communities movement worldwide and for the future safety of all children.

The Conference social event was held at the fabulous Natural History Museum building, where the 2011-2020 Decade of Action for Road Safety was officially launched. Delegates enjoyed multicultural food stalls and the entertainment from 'Beatles to Baroque' throughout the evening.

Whilst the key theme's focus was on Safe and Equitable Communities, it was however disappointing that there were few delegates from developing countries and Indigenous populations represented. Perhaps this is something for conference organisers to consider for the 2012 Conference.

Marilyn Lyford,  
Research Fellow,  
The George Institute for Global Health  
Email: [mlyford@georgeinsitute.org.au](mailto:mlyford@georgeinsitute.org.au)

## Injury and Violence Webinars

The WHO recently launched a series of injury and violence webinars. The series began with several of the superb State of the Art presentations given at the 10th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion held in September 2010 in London. The webinar format permits interaction with the speaker, including written and spoken questions to the speaker. All webinars in the series will be recorded and subsequently made available on the VIP website.

If you would like to be informed about the dates and topics of upcoming webinars, please send your email address to [vipwebinars@who.int](mailto:vipwebinars@who.int).

For more information, please contact Dr David Meddings ([meddingsd@who.int](mailto:meddingsd@who.int)).

## Staying Active, Staying Safe Workshop

The AIPN, in conjunction with the PHAA Injury SIG and a consortium of researchers from the three South Australian Universities, recently held a satellite meeting at the PHAA's 40th annual conference in Adelaide. Staying Active and Staying Safe was the overall theme for the one day workshop with its focus on looking for new ways forward for injury, bringing together key researchers, advocates and leaders to set a national strategic injury prevention agenda. The workshop attracted participants from a number of areas including transport, urban design and public health. Four sessions were held with 8 different speakers, and Richard Franklin from the Royal Life Saving Society was the facilitator for the day. The speakers were:

- Patsy Bourke, Area Falls Injury Prevention Coordinator for Hunter New England Population Health (Tamworth)
- Peter Sainsbury, Director of Population Health in Sydney South West Area Health Service and an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at Sydney University
- Sophie Pointer, Assistant Director of the Research Centre for Injury Studies, Flinders University, which houses the National Injury Surveillance Unit.
- Andrew McIntosh, Associate Professor in Biomechanics at the School of Safety Science, and directs the Biomechanics and Gait Laboratory at the University of NSW
- Ron Somers, Director, Epidemiology, SA Dept of Health. Ron maintains a formal academic appointment at the University of Adelaide, Discipline of Public Health
- Matthew Baldock, Research Fellow at the Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide
- Mandy Stanley, Senior Lecturer in occupational therapy at the School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
- Martin Small, Director of Road Safety, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI's role is to enable the safe and efficient movement of people and freight across South Australia).

Three of the four sessions included presentations on how urban design influences public health, advocacy for injury prevention and the current political landscape, mobility in older people and the impact on the health and well being of older Australians as their mobility needs change. The fourth session was dedicated to identifying injury prevention and safety promotion strategies and the steps required to fulfill the vision.

Presentations from the workshop will be available shortly on the AIPN website.

Sophie Pointer



**SSSM**  
Consortium



From Left to Right: Patsy Bourke, Andrew McIntosh, Ron Somers, Sophie Pointer, Richard Franklin

## Evidence to Action symposium

### **Evidence to Action symposium Townsville 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November**

An enthusiastic group of some 80 delegates met in Townsville for the Queensland Injury Prevention Council-sponsored symposium. After a gracious welcome by Prof Ian Wronski, Pro-Vice Chancellor of James Cook University and Prof John Pearn, Chair of QIPC, and a challenge from Assoc Prof Vivienne Tippett to acquire at least 10 new names (and there was to be a test I understand) it was down to business and a packed schedule of speakers. We heard from Prof Cindy Shannon who inspired us with her story about her experiences leading research and policy change for indigenous health and challenged us to think how we might better provide evidence that can be turned to action in this area. Sessions on the first day addressed three of the QIPC areas of priority covering the life-span: safe childhood, safe old age and safe youth. Speakers were drawn from the health, academic and regulation sectors and covered epidemiology, research, intervention, regulation and evaluation. Dr Dale Hanson throwing down the gauntlet, encouraging us all to remember the 'Power of One' (apologies for the poetic licence, Dale!) particularly sticks in my mind, though all presentations were well delivered and only a few ran the risk of being crash-tackled for going over time (Richard Franklin's role). The day was exhausting but very well received.

Day one concluded with dinner at the Reef HQ Townsville aquarium. Before dinner, delegates were split into teams and given a chance to showcase their exceptional injury prevention knowledge while playing the interactive Educational First Aid and Accident Prevention Game (Preventit) led by Ms Bianca Raine. Dinner was followed by a fascinating tour of the aquarium with commentary by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff member.

Day two saw a solid representation on issues of water safety, rural and remote safety as well as sports injury specific to Queensland conditions. Keynote speaker, Prof James Harrison, drew our attention to the many ways in which data has helped change the face and concerns of those of us in the injury community and presenters demonstrated to us how this plays out in the community as well as in potential policy change. Dr Kerriane Watt bravely stepped into the role of last keynote speaker of the day as well as the symposium, and successfully managed to keep the audience attention as she explained how QIPC intends to build capacity for injury prevention in Queensland.

All in all it was a very busy program with 50 speakers in two days,-but a worthwhile drawing together of injury practitioners, researchers and policy makers.

Alexia Lennon



Visit the following website for more information on the program [http://www-public.jcu.edu.au/idc/groups/public/documents/event\\_description/jcuprd1\\_065613.pdf](http://www-public.jcu.edu.au/idc/groups/public/documents/event_description/jcuprd1_065613.pdf)

## Contentious Safety Warning

### Warning to turn off mobile phones when filling up

**VACC, the peak Automotive Industry body in Victoria, is urging motorists to switch off their mobile phones when refuelling their vehicle.**

Any battery-operated equipment used at a service station may cause a spark which could ignite fuel vapours emitted from the tank when refueling. The risk of a fire starting at a service station as a result of using a mobile phone may be low but, nevertheless, there is a risk.

Static electricity is a common cause of fire and one of the most common generators of static at a service station is movement. Motorists are reminded not to return to the interior of their vehicle during the refuelling process as it is potentially dangerous. Movement also increases the possibility of a mobile phone being dropped, which could create a potentially dangerous spark.

If refuelling cans or containers, motorists should make sure the items are removed from the vehicle or trailer and placed on the ground before pumping.

Service station operators are obliged by law to clearly display signs near the bowser, warning of the risks and health and safety requirements when refuelling. Therefore, the operator of a service station is correct to stop customers doing anything deemed unsafe, such as operating a mobile phone, while filling up their vehicle.

The operator would, in fact, be contravening the Australian Standards and Codes of Practice if they did not shutdown the dispensers when a customer did not comply.

Failure by an operator to enforce the standards would be a failure to fulfil their duty of care to maintain a safe workplace and a safe site for customers.

“We should not forget that a service station is a potentially dangerous place and refuelling is a potentially dangerous activity,” VACC Executive Director David Purchase said. “But some of service station owners are reporting that motorists are either ignoring the on-site warning signs or unaware of the risks. It is an issue taken seriously by mobile phone manufacturers and oil companies, and motorists should take it seriously too.

“Today’s safety standards at service stations are extremely high for a reason. To ensure those safety levels are maintained, motorists are reminded that they should follow service station operating procedures.”

,” VACC Executive Director David Purchase said. “But some of service station owners are reporting that motorists are either ignoring the on-site warning signs or unaware of the risks. It is an issue taken seriously by mobile phone manufacturers and oil companies, and motorists should take it seriously too.

“Today’s safety standards at service stations are extremely high for a reason. To ensure those safety levels are maintained, motorists are reminded that they should follow service station operating procedures.”

[www.safetysolutions.net.au](http://www.safetysolutions.net.au)



### Mobile phones and petrol stations

According to Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, this is an urban myth which emanated from a hoax email which was sent to a shell employee some years ago. The Australian transport safety bureau examined 243 petrol station fires worldwide, 1993 – 2004, and found that no fires were started by mobile phones. To read the article or for further information go to Dr Karls’ great moments in science at <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2006/11/30/1799366.htm>

## Forthcoming Events and Conferences

### Young people, risk and resilience: The challenges of alcohol, drugs and violence conference, Melbourne, 7-8 March 2011

The Australian Institute of Criminology and the Victorian Safe Communities Network will hold a two-day conference in Melbourne in March 2011 to discuss the nature and extent of young people's involvement in alcohol, other drugs and violence, and to share the experiences of young people and practitioners in reducing risks and increasing resilience to these potentially harmful activities.

Major themes for the conference include:

- Understanding the nature and extent of young people's involvement in alcohol and other drug use, and the motivations for their use
- Understanding the nature and extent of young people's involvement in violence
- Identifying effective programs and initiatives to reduce young people's risk and increase their resilience
- Case studies from practitioners and young people on outcomes achieved

Those working with young people in the fields of alcohol and drug services, education, criminal justice, health and welfare, and police and emergency services are invited to attend.

The program is available on the conference website at <http://www.aic.gov.au/events/aic%20upcoming%20events/2011/vscn.aspx> or contact the Conference Coordinator at [aic.events@aic.gov.au](mailto:aic.events@aic.gov.au) or on 02 6260-9272.



### World Conference on Drowning Prevention, Denang, Vietnam, 10-13 May 2011

The conference is hosted by the International Life Saving Association and further information is available from the website <http://www.worldconferenceondrowningprevention.org/>

### 20th International Safe Communities Conference, Falun, Sweden, 6-9 September 2011

To be held in Falun Municipality, Darlarna, Sweden. Further information from the website [www.falun.se/safecom2011](http://www.falun.se/safecom2011)

### World Injury and Safety Promotion Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, 1-5 October 2012

The 11th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion is to be held in Wellington from 1-5 October 2012. You can share your ideas for content on the website <http://www.conference.co.nz/worldsafety2012>

## Calling all students

The AIPN runs regular student writing competitions to encourage and assist budding injury prevention specialists in every field to hone their writing skills.

The winning author will receive \$500, enjoy complementary AIPN student membership for 12 months and have their article printed in the AIPN Newsletter *Injury Incidence*.

The AIPN has a broad remit when it comes to injury prevention covering areas such as health, transport, emergency services, crime prevention, education, planning and industry.

Articles will be accepted from any field within the injury prevention sphere.

Please go to the [AIPN website](#) for further details.



## Reminder—time for renewal is overdue

**AIPN memberships for 2010 were due in July. If you have not already renewed your membership, please go to the AIPN website ASAP ([www.aipn.com.au](http://www.aipn.com.au)) for a renewal form and return it ASAP.**

The Australian Injury Prevention Network welcomes people from a wide range of backgrounds who have an interest in injury prevention and control. The benefits include:

- Being part of a coordinated voice on injury prevention research, policy and practice issues to government
- Discounts on registration fees for AIPN conferences
- Receiving the AIPN *Injury Incidence* newsletter
- Belonging to an e-mail discussion list to facilitate communication among members on topics of interest
- Affordable membership fees.

The AIPN offers 5 membership types covering most individual and corporate needs.

<u>Individual</u>		<u>Institutional</u>		<u>Note:</u>
Concessional	\$65	Small institution	\$325	Additional memberships are available for each Institutional category at a discounted rate of \$65 per additional membership.
Professional	\$95	(up to 5 members)		
Not for Profit (On application only)	\$200	Large institutions (6 to 10 members)	\$455	
				GST is included in all prices.



# AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

The National peak body for all age and all cause injury prevention and control in Australia

## AIPN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010

Rebecca Ivers (President)	<a href="mailto:rivers@george.org.au">rivers@george.org.au</a>
Alexia Lennon (Secretary)	<a href="mailto:ai.lennon@gut.edu.au">ai.lennon@gut.edu.au</a>
Sue Wicks (Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:sue@kidsafewa.com.au">sue@kidsafewa.com.au</a>
Stephanie King (Indigenous Liaison)	<a href="mailto:stephanie.king1@jcu.edu.au">stephanie.king1@jcu.edu.au</a>
Michelle Fraser (Student representative)	<a href="mailto:m.fraser@curtin.edu.au">m.fraser@curtin.edu.au</a>
Jessica Killian (Newsletter editor)	<a href="mailto:jessica.killian@monash.edu">jessica.killian@monash.edu</a>
Aleksandra Natora (Public Officer)	<a href="mailto:anatora@bigpond.net.au">anatora@bigpond.net.au</a>
Tim Driscoll	<a href="mailto:timd@health.usyd.edu.au">timd@health.usyd.edu.au</a>
Sophie Pointer	<a href="mailto:sophie.pointer@flinders.edu.au">sophie.pointer@flinders.edu.au</a>
Ann Williamson	<a href="mailto:a.williamson@unsw.edu.au">a.williamson@unsw.edu.au</a>
Lynn Meuleners	<a href="mailto:l.meuleners@curtin.edu.au">l.meuleners@curtin.edu.au</a>
Alex Voukelatos	<a href="mailto:avouk@email.cs.nsw.gov.au">avouk@email.cs.nsw.gov.au</a>

## CONTACT AIPN

AIPN Secretariat  
PO Box: 21211  
Little Lonsdale Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 8011

Mobile no: 0427 286 723 \*

Email: [secretariat@aipn.com.au](mailto:secretariat@aipn.com.au)

Website: [www.aipn.com.au](http://www.aipn.com.au)

\*If unattended please leave voice message so that the part-time Secretariat can respond to your enquiry. Thankyou.

Do you have any articles, news, stories or information on injury prevention research or activities?

For inclusion in the February edition of the newsletter, please submit any articles, news or stories to the newsletter editor by **31st January 2011**.

**This edition of *Injury Incidence* has been edited by Jessica Killian, with acknowledgment to Jan Shield**