

# THE AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK (AIPN) STRATEGIC PLAN

2007-2010

## **Mission Statement**

AIPN will facilitate the minimisation of injury-related harm throughout Australia and for all vulnerable population groups, through supporting coordinated national action in advocacy, knowledge sharing, research, policy and practice.

## **Who are we?**

AIPN is a self funded national body representing all-age, all-cause injury prevention and control in Australia. The AIPN is Australia's key professional body for practitioners, researchers, academics and allied professionals. It has a broad-based membership from all sectors of the injury prevention community, including health, transport, emergency services, crime prevention, education, planning and industry. Membership can be individual, corporate or community-based. AIPN is a non-government organisation with a written constitution, an elected Executive Committee, supplemented by co-opted members, and a partially funded Secretariat. AIPN has a website, newsletter and highly successful conferences where research and knowledge is shared with its membership and other interested parties. AIPN represents the interests of its constituents, encourages best practice in injury prevention and control as well as research and surveillance. The AIPN strives to promote knowledge of the causes of injury and safety promotion in order to minimise injury-related harm throughout Australia.

## **Background**

Injury prevention and control was declared a National Health Priority Area by the Australian Government in 1998 in recognition of its enormous impact on Australia's health and its largely preventable nature. The results of the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey undertaken in 2004 revealed that 18% of the population (3.6 million people) had sustained an injury in the 4 weeks prior to being surveyed and of those, 16% sought medical assistance (ABS, Injury in Australia: A Snapshot, 2004-05). In 2003-04, injury accounted for 344,849 hospitalisations (approximately 7% of all hospitalisations in Australia) and was the underlying cause of 7,966 deaths in 2004 (Australia's Health, 2006).

The AIPN recognises that measured in these terms, injury is unquestionably a public health problem of major importance.

## **Aim of the Strategic Plan**

The aim of the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan is to set the agenda for AIPN for the next three years and guide its activities to maximise the potential for achieving its mission. The AIPN has identified four broad strategic objectives and a range of goals to achieve these. The four objectives are:

1. To identify ways to strengthen our role as a key advocacy body.
2. To identify emerging injury issues
3. To provide a forum for collaboration and knowledge sharing between injury researchers, practitioners and policymakers.
4. To strengthen our capacity for the provision of professional workforce development

Within each area, the following goals have been identified:

1. Advocacy

- Continue to raise awareness of injury as a national priority area
- Encourage a vision of injury prevention and control as an all-of government issue.
- Promote the role of injury prevention practitioners in industry and government.

2. Emerging injury issues

- Utilise the extensive knowledge of AIPN members to maintain a watching brief on injury issues
- Establish a mechanism to identify emerging injury issues
- Create a communication strategy in order to disseminate information about emerging issues to the wider community

3. Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

- Facilitate collaboration between sectors and encourage the inclusion of all Australian injury related bodies.
- Disseminate evidence-based preventive strategies.
- Promote best practice models, needs identification, priority setting, quality assurance and program evaluation.

4. Professional development

- Facilitate continued education and training for Network members
- Continue to provide a National forum for information dissemination by way of the National Conference
- Encourage development of workforce capacity