

AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

INJURY INCIDENCE

Vol 4. No 3. Sept 2000

FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL 22 - 25 NOVEMBER 2000

You should have your registration brochures by now. If not see the AIPN site www.nisu.flinders.aipn To access the members only section- Logon: guest Password: aipnweb or contact the Conference Secretariat on Ph 07 3858 5568.

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Injury Prevention Network Inc. (AIPN) will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra at 5pm on Wednesday 22 November 2000. Nominations to the Executive close 15 October 00 Your nomination should be signed by two AIPN Members and forwarded to Marilyn Lyford, Secretary AIPN, PO Box 28, Floriat Forum, WA 6014.

The proceedings from last years' conference in Brisbane are now available. Order from: IPC99 Proceedings, C/- Intermedia Convention & Event Management PO Box 1280, MILTON QLD 4064 Ph (07) 3858 5400, Fax (07) 3858 5510 Email: ice@im.com.au Cost \$65 each or \$50 for AIPN members incl postage/handling.

In This Issue !

- ◆ NZ Injury Prevention Network Conference 2001
- ◆ Graduated Driving Licences
- ◆ QISU News
- ◆ Need for Injury Risk Management
- ◆ Baby Walkers
- ◆ Micro Scooters

On the NET !

Isolation Pool Fencing

The best site for information is that at Harborview ...

[Http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/childinjury/](http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/childinjury/)
The work there is part of the evaluated work for the Cochrane collaboration (and gives due weight to the Brisbane work by Pitt and Nixon and Pearn).

New Zealand News

Our Injury Prevention Colleagues in NZ have announced a special post graduate scholarship in injury rehabilitation. The scholarship is funded by the Health Research Council of NZ , it is for 3 years and primarily intended to support work towards a PhD.

The Injury Prevention Research Unit is managing the process and details can be found on their website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/ipru>.

Scooter related Injury

A report on increasing scooter-related injuries can be found on the web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml00/00178.html>

Report those product related injuries

Please note that the toll-free number for consumers to report unsafe products to us from states and U.S. territories is 800-638-2772.

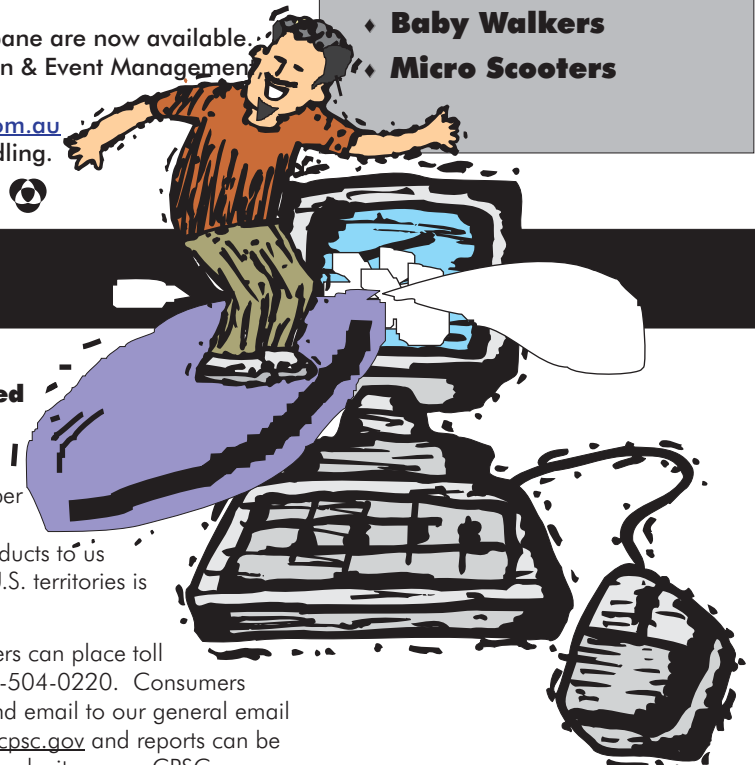
International callers can place toll calls to us at 202-504-0220. Consumers anywhere can send email to our general email address at info@cpsc.gov and reports can be filed through our web site, www.CPSC.gov

Dan Rumelt U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

NSW Health Injury Data

[Http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/chorep/inj_intro.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/chorep/inj_intro.html)

Future Directions in Public Health in NSW <http://www.nsw.gov.au/public-health/futdir/futdir.html>



MUARC

Monash University Accident Research Centre
[Http://www/general.monash.edu.au/muarc](http://www/general.monash.edu.au/muarc)

Two MUARC Reports available

Consumer Product Related Injuries to Children \$22.00 (inc GST)
Women's Injury in the Home \$16.50 (inc GST).
Phone 03 9905 4371

AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA
AIPN Secretariat
Safety Centre, Royal Children's Hospital
Flemington Road, Parkville Vic 3052

Phone 03 9345 5085
Fax 03 9345 5086
Email
safety@cryptic.rch.unimelb.edu.au

AIPN WEBSITE

<http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn>

NZ Injury Prevention Network Organising Conference 2001

Australian injury prevention colleagues will be invited to attend the first conference organised by the Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa New Zealand in 2001.

National manager Pania Shingleton said that plans are already underway for the conference which will be held in Wellington from Oct 31-Nov 2, 2001.

It follows the highly successful Pacific Rim Community Safety Conference held in Auckland in 1999, which attracted 280 delegates and helped launch the establishment of the New Zealand IP Network.

The theme for the conference is: Injury Prevention 2001: Weaving the Strands Collaborating, Coordinating and Creating a Safety Culture.

"As a new national network we're interested in getting people from the different injury prevention interest groups talking and planning together.

"We also have the added dimension of ensuring that Maori, Pacific Peoples and migrants all have an opportunity to hear their voices at the conference. Hopefully, an indigenous speaker from Australia can attend too," said Ms Shingleton.

The Network's first committee should be voted in on October 30, 2000 and a website launched in December, 2000.

The contact for the conference is Pania Shingleton, panias@ihug.co.nz, on (04) 380 9192 or 52 Shelley Bay Road, Miramar, Wellington, NZ.

Injury Incidence Deadline for articles

17 November 2000

Please submit your articles or news snippets to :-

Fran McFadzen, The Editor,
Phone: 07 4920 6980

Fax: 07 4920 6865

Email: mcfadze@rocknet.net.au

Call for Volunteers

If you have some spare time at the 4NCIPC in Canberra - could you please volunteer to staff the AIPN Stand. Contact Jan Shield for roster details. Ph 03 9603 9700

QISU News

Did you know that the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit (QISU) web site has been revamped?

For a user friendly approach to information on injuries (all ages), contact the QISU website. Amongst a variety of information, including the range of QISU services, you will be able to access or request all our bulletins and recent accompanying media releases.

By the way, the last two bulletins totalled 27 media hits, including prime time television!

www.qisu.qld.gov.au

Phone 07 3840 8569



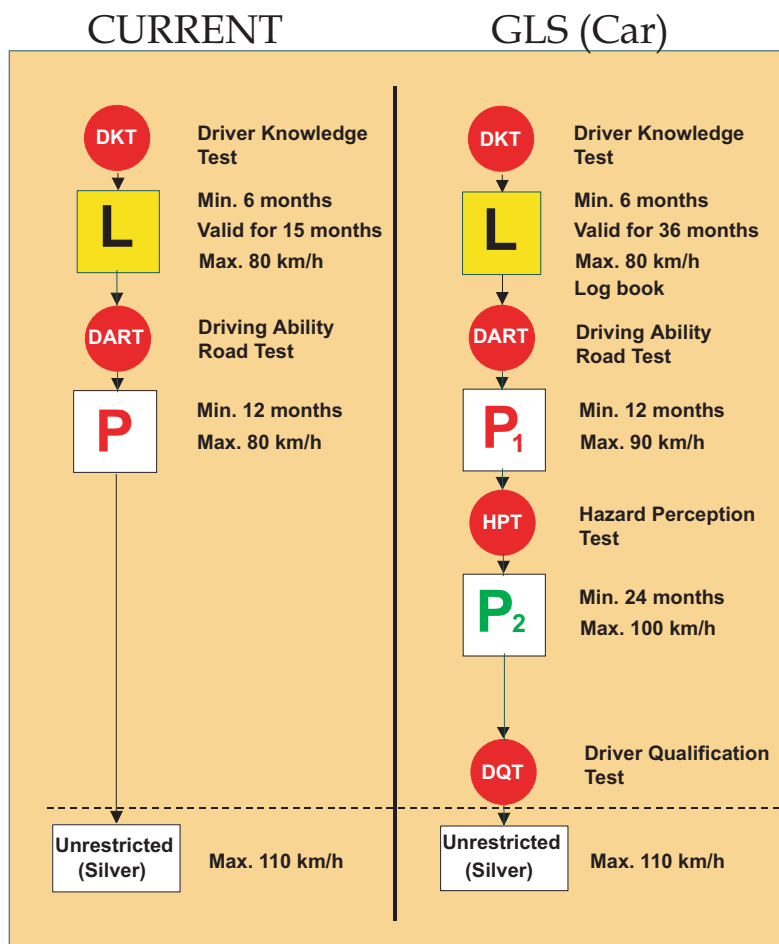
Graduated Driving Licence

Graduated Licensing Systems (GLS) have been effective in North America in reducing road trauma among young drivers. A GLS extends the period of learning and provides the newly licensed driver with additional tests and assessments throughout the GLS period.

NSW introduced a GLS on July 1, 2000 the basis of which is a Logbook which requires the novice driver to achieve a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving experience and recommends training and education partnerships between parents and professional driving instructors. The graphic below shows how the GLS works.

Allan Porter, Australian Driver Trainers Association

A new Graduated Licencing Scheme, ensures that novice drivers acquire adequate knowledge and experience before progressing onto the next stage.



RESEARCH REVEALS NEED FOR INJURY RISK MANAGEMENT

A Queensland farm safety survey shows a lack of understanding of injury risk management on rural properties and a need for more farmers to undergo training.

The Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Division of Workplace Health and Safety Rural Principal Adviser, Mr Keith Ferguson released the survey results today.

"To reduce farm injury on Queensland farms, farmers must understand risk management and be trained how to carry out this process correctly," he said.

The survey, conducted in 10 Queensland rural regions during September 1998, was undertaken by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety assisted by Farmsafe Queensland, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of Economic and Statistical Research.

Questionnaires were mailed to more than 5,000 producers in 11 rural industry sectors based on the towns of Malanda, Innisfail, Ayr, Longreach, Bundaberg, Kingaroy, Gympie, Dalby, Oakey and Stanthorpe.

Mr Ferguson said the survey showed the majority of farmers had difficulty understanding injury risk management and

how to prioritise risk.

He said the survey, the third in a series over five years, showed there was a lack of regular safety checks being carried out on most rural properties. The results also showed that high risk issues such as unguarded machinery, tractors without Roll Over Protective Structures or unfenced play areas for young children were receiving less attention than lower risk issues such as first aid items and personal protective equipment.

"If injury risk management is to be undertaken effectively, farmers must identify and understand that high risk health and safety issues must have a far higher priority and action rating - rural industry needs to be far more aggressive in farm safety training," he said.

"There has been a dramatic reduction in injury rates per 100 farms in the plantation fruit sector (bananas and pawpaws). Improved trends have also been noted in cotton, cereal grain and meat cattle. Plantation fruit has halved its injury rate and cotton, cereal grain and meat cattle have also shown decreases. However, the milk cattle injury rate has risen by 50 per cent."

The survey is available on the Internet at www.defir.qld.gov.au (click on Workplace

Health and Safety, then Applied Research) and free bound copies may be obtained by contacting Kay Hui on 07 3836 0657.

Contact: Rural Principal Adviser Mr Keith Ferguson 07 3836 0659



In the Court Reports:

From a little book called "Disorder in the Court." They're things people actually said in court, word for word.

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

A: It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.



Baby Walkers

GOOD NEWS!

Finally something is being done about baby walkers!

The NSW Department of Fair Trading, under its Minister John Watkins, has introduced a requirement that baby walkers sold in NSW must comply with the US ASTM Standard.

The change is made under the Fair Trading (Product Safety Standards) Regulation 2000 and came into force on 1 September.

Wholesalers must not order or supply babywalkers that do not comply with the standard after three months and retailers must not sell non-standard walkers after six months (ie after 1 March 2001).

This is the first time a construction standard for babywalkers has been required in any Australian jurisdiction. No babywalkers are made in Australia.

At the moment the regulation only applies to NSW there are however two ways in which the regulation may affect other states and

territories. The most immediate effect is that it may influence retailers and importers in other jurisdictions to refrain from supplying non-standard walkers. The increased risk in financial, legal and publicity terms from a child injured in a non-standard walker will hopefully induce retailers and suppliers in other states and territories comply with these reasonable design to requirements.

The second way in which the NSW action may have wider implications is through the process of mutual recognition. New Zealand and the jurisdictions throughout Australia act in consort and in due course the regulation will need to be considered by them. If they agree then the regulation will come into force generally.

CONTINUING WATCH NEEDED

Until the development of the re-designed products as a result of the US standard scientific evidence, a product ban was the only viable means of reducing injuries. Given that there is evidence that the American Standard may be reducing injuries then there is a viable alternative to a product ban and it is reasonable that the less restrictive action should be preferred. However it should be noted that the evidence of reduced injuries in the United

States needs to be confirmed by more detailed studies. If subsequent evidence shows that the re-designed products do not reduce the risk of injury to acceptable levels then a product ban should be instituted.

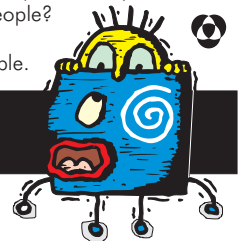
The continuing issue of second hand products will also require work. Babywalkers are a long lived product that are commonly handed on or sold second hand. Industry surveys indicate that more than half (55%) of the baby walkers in use are second hand.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

The Infant Nursery Product Association strongly supports the requirement that babywalkers comply with the American Standard. Following advice from Kidsafe it included this requirement in the industry's safety code of practice, the SafeBaby Code (the code was developed in co-operation with Kidsafe with support from Commonwealth Health).

Only babywalkers that have demonstrated compliance with the standard carry the SafeBaby Swing Tag.

Ian Scott, KIDSAFE.



INJURY
INCIDENCE
Vol 4. No 3. Sept 00

Micro Scooters

There has been a substantial increase in the use of small scooters, the number of injuries and, following some initial reports, a flurry of media interest. As there is also likely to be considerable Christmas gift giving some simple points about what is known might assist.

Non-motorised scooters come in a range of sizes. The 'new' ones are smaller than traditional scooters, they appear to have wheels of around 7 to 10 cm. They tend to fold up, to have front handles with adjustable heights and to have a braking system based on a push down bar that operates on the back wheel. The original American brand name is "razor-scooter", which has 10 cm wheels, weighs 3 kgs, and retails for as high as \$300. It is regarded as the elite product. Cheaper scooters such as the "Laser" and the "micro" are also on the market. JD corporation, manufacturer of the Razor, has a patent on that folding mechanism so other manufacturers have had to develop their own.

Injuries associated with scooters have been rapidly rising. There have been more presentations to hospital this year than in the four previous years combined. 2 out of 3 of those injured are under 14 years. Injuries of concern include fractures to the arm and face / head injuries. On the basis of sketchy data to hand Kidsafe estimates that there are likely to be at least 500 emergency department cases of scooter injury this year. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported that emergency room-treated injuries related to popular lightweight scooters have increased 700 percent since May. There have been more than 9,400 emergency room-treated injuries reported for 2000 so far; 90% of the injuries are to children under 15 years of age.

The small wheels on the scooter are likely to give rise to increased risk. Any uneven surface or item can result in a fall. Low ground clearance may also be a factor in loss of control. I am not aware of any evaluation of the braking system but the size of the wheel and the nature of the brake give rise to concern that it is inadequate at the speeds that can be generated. Sharp objects in construction. (eg the edge of a handle bar that pierced a child's cheek) and modest construction (eg a rear wheel held on by 4 pop rivets) are also of concern..

As for other wheeled items (bicycles, skateboards, in-line skates) it is important that children: wear appropriate protective equipment (helmets, knee and elbow guards); learn and practise in a safe environment; do not use them in high risk areas (uneven surfaces, traffic, high pedestrian areas, steep slopes) and obey the road rules. There is some attempt to work out whether use of wristguards should be advised - while they help in the event of a fall, there is some discussion over whether they limit wrist action and may contribute to loss of control.

The larger wheel scooters are likely to be much safer.

More research is being undertaken by the Sydney Children's Hospital and a detailed study of injury is being undertaken by Monash University Accident Research Centre. A paper on the scooters is available from Kidsafe.

Phone: 03 9427 1008
E-mail iscott@kidsafe.org.au

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.



Youthsafe Forum 3

Youthsafe Forum 3 will bring together professionals working in a broad range of fields who have an interest in the prevention of injuries in young people aged 15-24 years.

The objectives of the Forum are to:

- o Launch the Youthsafe Website & Young Driver Fact Sheet/s.
- o Provide information on current Youthsafe initiatives including feedback from the previous forum.
- o Provide current information on general areas of interest in the field of youth injury prevention.
- o Provide opportunities for consultation with young people on a range of injury prevention issues.
- o Promote informal networking and collaboration in the youth injury prevention community.

Date: Friday 8th Dec
Time: 8.30am - 1pm
Venue: AAP Centre Cnr George & Jamison Streets, Sydney (near Wynyard Station)

Contact: Judith Molloy
PO Box 3023
PUTNEY NSW 2112
Phone: +61 2 9808 9202
Fax: +61 2 9809 6521
Email: coord@youthsafe.org

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

AIPN Executive Committee

Member	Phone	Fax	Email
Rod McClure (P)	07 3240 5809 <small>(Message)</small>	07 3391 4784	r.mcclure@spmed.uq.edu.au
Marilyn Lyford(S)	08 9383 9988	08 9383 9922	mal@space.net.au
David Rich (T)	03 9207 5509	03 9207 5510	drich@vff.org.au
Jan Shield	03 9603 9700	03 9603 9777	Jan.Shield@justice.vic.gov.au
James Harrison	08 8374 0970	08 8201 7602	James.Harrison@nisu.flinders.edu.au
Fran McFadzen	07 4920 6980	07 4920 6865	mcfadzef@rocknet.net.au
Beth Fuller	02 6553 1804	Nil	Beth@tsn.cc
Tim Driscoll	02 9577 9295	02 9577 9300	DriscollT@nohsc.gov.au