



President's report to Annual General Meeting 30/09/02

The past 12 months have been an exciting period for the AIPN with the beginning of the development of policies; the establishment of Indigenous and student representatives on the AIPN Executive; work towards conferences in 2003 and 2004; awarding of student bursaries; a good financial outlook; the release of the Commonwealth Injury Prevention Plan Priorities for 2001-2003 and its implementation plan; and representation on Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Committee (ATSIIIPC); and Head of Occupational Health and Safety committee. The only disappointing thing has been the slight decrease in membership.

Although I am talking to the converted, I would like to take this opportunity to explain AIPN's position in the injury prevention community in Australia. AIPN is the peak injury prevention body in Australia and as such performs an important role in informing governments about the size of the injury problem and advocating for more money for injury prevention. It also allows members to voice their concerns about injury prevention issues (from poor government policy to successful programs).

To be effective in this role, the AIPN takes its strength from its members and both individuals and organisations are needed. Even though the AIPN sits on several important government committees, we still need to forge formal links between other groups so that we can advocate for increased injury prevention activity in Australia. The AIPN continues to inform members of what is happening in injury prevention in Australia through its regular newsletter, list server, website, regular conferences and smaller workshops. Please ask your colleagues, work mates, friends and associates to become members and join us.

The AIPN is in the process of fully updating its website and later on this year you will see a new look AIPN website, to be officially launched at the Perth conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank

Darryl Peddler and his crew in Warrnambool for organising an excellent conference under somewhat difficult circumstances with the collapse of ANSETT and the September 11 attack. Over the next two years, the AIPN will be holding two conferences, the first in Perth in March 2003, and the Second in Mackay in September 2004. The Perth conference is shaping as another excellent conference as Mark Stevenson has managed to combine the AIPN Conference with the 1st Asia Pacific Conference on Injury Prevention.

Due to the difficulty of finding an external agency to underwrite the financial liabilities that are associated with a conference, the AIPN has decided to try and build up a conference account of \$20,000 to \$30,000 so that we can underwrite future conferences ourselves. This means that any profits from conferences or workshops will be put into this account. For the Perth and Mackay conferences, the AIPN has provided \$5,000 seeding funding to get them going. This money is to be paid back after each conference.

The AIPN established student bursaries for the conference in Warrnambool and will continue this practice. We would like to thank Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging for their continued support to AIPN Injury Prevention Conferences.

The AIPN is the non-government member of SIPP and continues to advocate for more funds for injury prevention and development of state workforces to undertake injury prevention. SIPP members include representatives from all the state and territory government health departments, National Injury Surveillance Unit, Commonwealth Health and Treasury. This committee has been in limbo since the last chair resigned, but with Rod McClure and John Scott appointed as joint chairs, it is hoped that the committee will now be re-invigorated. A major job of SIPP will be to undertake the evaluation of the National Injury Prevention Plan over the next few years.

As a member of ATSIIIPC, the AIPN has been a regular contributor to the meetings. Unfortunately our Indigenous representative resigned from the position, but we hope that with a new person in the role and a mentoring system in place, the AIPN will

continue to advocate for and support injury prevention in Indigenous communities. There will be a Indigenous workshop at the Perth conference to continue the good work started in Canberra and continued in Warrnambool. Commonwealth Health is in the process of commissioning a major report into injury prevention activity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The AIPN awards this year will again be of very high quality and calibre. We will announce these awards in November with several media releases intended to increase the profile of injury prevention in Australia and the work that is carried out by members.

Policy development is being undertaken by the AIPN and to date we have finished a policy on falls and general injury prevention. Water safety is part way along and we are also working on a workforce policy. We hope to showcase these policies at the conference in Perth, however all members will receive a copy via our list serve (if you have not signed up please do so) and we will also put them on the web for comment. If you have a particular area that you would like to see as an AIPN policy, please feel free to provide a draft to the Executive for consideration and discussion with other members.

The future for the AIPN is looking strong with a new Indigenous representative, and a student representative who will hopefully pass on this mantle to a new student representative in March next year. The finances of the AIPN are looking okay, but we need more members so that we can commit funds towards future conferences and other AIPN activities.

Finally, I would like to thank all AIPN members for their continued support of the AIPN. I would also like to thank the AIPN executive members for their hard work over the past 12 months and in particular would like to thank Malinda for her marvellous effort with the accounts, and Aleks for her tireless work as secretary.

Yours in helping to prevent injuries in Australia.

Richard Franklin

Richard Franklin
President



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Inside this edition

- Latrobe Safe Communities Evaluation
- Queensland Round-Up
- Lessons from Montreal
- Community Safety Month
- QISU Update

Evaluation of second phase of Latrobe Safe Communities completed

The Latrobe Safe Communities program began as a stand alone project in the Latrobe Valley in Victoria in 1992, and in July 1996 was incorporated into the City of La Trobe as an activity of local government. An evaluation of the first four years of this program has previously been conducted and published. Recently, the evaluation of the second four years has been completed. Process, impact and outcome measures were utilised. The program continued to build strategic partnerships and implemented promotional, educational and policy-changing activities across a range of injury types. Selected results include: Compared with non-metropolitan Victoria, the program region had a greater proportion of households with smoke detectors installed and with hand rails present in the bathroom, and a lower proportion with hot water capable of scalding. Injury outcome results were mixed, with beneficial effects observed on emergency department presentations for unintentional and intentional injury and hospital admissions for unintentional injury only, when compared with injury rates for the comparison region. There were some methodological limitations with the selected comparison region which again constrained the strength of the conclusions which can be drawn. The injury rate trends provide some, perhaps limited, support for the program being associated with the observed injury reductions. The report executive summary can be viewed, and the full report ordered (\$16.50), via the Monash University Accident Research Centre web site (www.general.monash.edu.au/muarc/pub202.html). For further details contact Dr Lesley Day at lesley.day@general.monash.edu.au.

Injury Prevention Abstracts online

SafetyLit is a service of the Center for Injury Prevention Policy and Practice at San Diego State University.

SafetyLit provides abstracts of reports relevant to preventing unintentional injuries, violence, and self-harm. The most recent weekly update is available now at: <http://www.safetylit.org>

Queensland Round-Up

Falls Prevention

A statewide action plan for falls prevention in older persons has been developed. This provides an important step towards achieving better health and well-being and sets the stage for a sustainable and coordinated approach to falls prevention in older Queenslanders. It was developed for use in the home, community, residential aged care and acute care setting. The development of the Action Plan was informed by the evidence base of existing good practice, as well as extensive consultation both within Queensland Health and with external agencies. The Action plan can be accessed at www.health.qld.gov.au/phs/Documents/shpu/13693dmp.htm

Wide Bay Falls Prevention

The first year of a major collaborative, five year Injury Research and Prevention Project in the Wide Bay / Burnett area has been completed. This project is using a community based planning and implementation model focussing on a multifaceted community driven approach to address the reduction of falls prevention in older Queenslanders. See IPCA on Page 4.

Child Injury Prevention

A collaborative child injury prevention initiative between Queensland Health and Emergency Services has been established. This 3-5 year project aims to reduce the level of child injury in rural locations to that commensurate with urban locations by trialing injury prevention strategies in children aged 0-4 years in the rural and remote locations of Mackay and Mt Isa.

Exercise Train-the-Trainer

Approximately 60 registered fitness instructors from around the state have been trained to enable the delivery of 'Steady Steps' Falls Prevention Programs for older persons. This project uses the expertise of Registered Fitness Instructors in delivering practical information to older people on how to prevent falls. It also shows people how to stay active in a safe manner. The 'Steady Steps' Falls Prevention Project aims to achieve a more physically active and informed older community that experiences less anxiety and fear of falling as well as reduced numbers and severity of falls. The improvements in stamina, balance, reaction time, flexibility and strength of participants will translate to enhanced independence, confidence, quality of life and wellbeing for older people. The Steady Steps Falls Prevention Project is a joint initiative by Queensland Health, Sport and Recreation Queensland, Fitness Queensland and the Seniors Interest Branch in the Department of Families.

Injury Prevention Resources

Queensland Health, in collaboration with Kidsafe Queensland, have developed a number of child injury prevention resources including the following:

- Poisoning prevention awareness sheets

and stickers distributed to parents/carers of children attending child care centres and creches

- preventing poisonings website has been developed (see www.health.qld.gov.au/PoisonsInformationCentre/)
- playground safety information kit distributed to local councils, schools and other playground providers containing up to date information on legal responsibilities, proper maintenance schedules and height and undersurfacing

Safe Communities

In Mackay/Whitsunday, Mt Isa, Townsville, Ipswich and Toowoomba communities, the World Health Organisation safe communities approach to injury prevention and safety promotion is being used. It is hoped that later this year, Moa Sundstrom, Coordinator of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre of Safety Promotion will be visiting these communities.

Safe Houses

Given that almost half of all injuries occur in the home setting, a Safety in Residential Dwellings Taskforce has been operating within Queensland for the last couple of years. This taskforce has strategic representation across government, industry and private sectors. Recent achievements of this taskforce have included:

- joint submission regarding the review of state housing act 1945;
- inclusion of smoke alarms in tenancy entry condition reports;
- and input into smart housing booklet series (to access the safety and security booklet see www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au/org/smart/ss_booklet/index.htm)

Indigenous Injury Prevention

A three year project in with a Central Queensland Aboriginal community is nearing completion. Interventions included:

- sponsorship of sports teams to intervene on violence and to help with clean-up of broken glass on community streets
- development of an injury prevention traineeship within Council
- establishment of a Community Justice Group

A final report detailing the barriers and enablers to working with remote or rural communities is being developed

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**The Sixth World Conference
Injury Prevention and
Control, Montréal, Canada,
12-15 May 2002**

**Injuries, suicide and violence:
Building knowledge, policies and
practices to promote a safer world**

It was estimated that more than 1,500 people from about 100 attended the conference.

The conference provided many opportunities for networking, but the program was packed and there were too many presentations to choose from.

For the upcoming conference in Perth in March 2003, I would like to point out some valuable lessons that could be learnt from the Montréal conference:

- Chair persons should be briefed and instructed to keep presenters to time and to not change the order of presentations unless absolutely necessary.
- The conference program should be thoroughly checked for possible clashes of speakers, etc.
- If at all possible and appropriate, facilities for simultaneous translation into at least one other language is an excellent idea this was done very well at the Montréal conference.
- A program packed to absolute capacity hinders networking in that not enough time is available.
- Lunch time speakers if any should be entertaining.
- Meals should be provided in a timely and efficient way.
- Keynote and plenary speakers should be chosen for their expertise, as well as their presentation abilities.

Malinda Steenkamp



COMMUNITY SAFETY MONTH

October 2002

Victoria set to celebrate

Victorians are getting ready to celebrate their first Community Safety Month in October 2002. The month is an extension of the successful Community Safety Week concept which began as an initiative of the Victorian Safe Communities Network in 1996.

Community Safety Month is being co-ordinated by Crime Prevention Victoria. There are four themed weeks throughout the month, namely, Crime Prevention Week (1-7 October), Emergency Services Week (8-14 October), Injury Prevention Week (15-21 October) and Business and Community Safety Week (22-28 October). Organisations are encouraged to think outside the square and organise relevant activities throughout the month as well as during their "themed week".

Community Safety Month is an opportunity for local communities, groups, schools, councils, regional services, businesses, government agencies and departments to undertake activities that promote a safer Victoria.

A key element to the success of Community Safety Month is its emphasis on a partnership based approach to safety issues. It is an ideal opportunity for individuals, groups, organisations and communities as a whole to link together and run activities that are of mutual safety concern.

In 2001 there were 640 activities run in Victoria during Community Safety Week organised by 450 organisations. Close to half of these activities had an injury prevention focus. As well Mackay in Queensland and Maclay-Hastings in New South Wales linked in with Victoria's week and organised activities with a Community Safety theme.

To find out more about Victoria's Community Safety Month, check out our website on www.communitysafetymonth.com. If you have an activity that you would like to register, do so via our onsite registration. Alternatively you can contact the Community Safety Month Co-ordinator, Jo Lamb on 03 9651 6216 or jlamb@justice.vic.gov.au.

Australian Injury workers overseas

There is a growing trend for lower income countries to consult with the World Health Organization about injury control. Accordingly, the WHO is beginning to look to Australians to support this consultation process. Recently, there were four Australians doing assignments in the Asia/Pacific Area. Ian Scott completed an assignment in Vietnam, Mark Stevenson recently returned from China, Jerry Moller was in Northern China during August and Pam Albany visited Mongolia in August/September. More interestingly, Ian Scott will be employed for an 11 month period by the Western Pacific office of the WHO (WPRO) in Manila to support these kinds of developments.

BMJ Injury Prevention Journal

Have you seen September's NEW issue of Injury Prevention? The Editor's choice article for this issue is on the effectiveness of the US safety standard for child resistant cigarette lighters. To view this article please go to <http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/8/3/192>

For FREE access to the current September issue and all IP Online issues please visit www.injuryprevention.com where you also have FREE access to a number of Injury Prevention Supplements. The September 2002 supplement focuses on reducing young driver crash risk, to view click on http://ip.bmjournals.com/content/vol8/suppl_2/ IP Online offers an additional FREE email @lets service notifying you when new issues of Injury Prevention are available online. There is a list of future articles that will be published in future issues of Injury Prevention - along with future supplements available on IP Online posted on the website. To view the archive of supplements and articles available please go to <http://ip.bmjournals.com/contents-by-date.0.shtml> Online subscription to Injury Prevention is absolutely free, however you can subscribe to the print version and have a copy delivered directly to you or your library. Interested parties should: Email subscriptions@bmjgroup.com

Australian falls prevention trial results published

Results from the No Falls randomised trial conducted by Monash University Accident Research Centre in collaboration with the City of Whitehorse have recently been published in the British Medical Journal. The No Falls trial tested three interventions for falls prevention among community-dwelling older people aged 70 years and over. The three interventions were exercise for strength and balance, home hazard modification, and vision assessment and treatment. The design of the trial was such that the effects of each intervention alone could be examined, as well as the effects of the various combinations of two or all three interventions. The results showed a statistically significant benefit for exercise alone (7% reduction in annual fall rate), and a statistically significant effect for all interventions in which exercise was combined with other interventions. The strongest effect was observed for all three interventions together (14% reduction in annual fall rate). Neither home modifications nor vision treatment alone resulted in a significant reduction in falls. The article is available from the British Medical Journal website (bmj.com). For further details, contact

Dr Lesley Day at lesley.day@general.monash.edu.au.

QISU you've got what you deserve!

We are delighted to announce that QISU has finally achieved recognition as a mainstream resource within Queensland Health and offered QISU a four-year service agreement.

Queensland Health has examined their data needs and recognises the value of the QISU data. Set against the growing interest in Safe Communities here in Queensland, we are now able to support hospitals with level two data collection.

We also have funding to support the growth of Safe Communities. If you are involved in this project anywhere in Australia, please contact us so we can learn from each other, and circulate the information.

We haven't been working alone. A few committed and industrious people in Queensland Health have certainly helped with this achievement. Again, it's all about people who are committed to a cause, who are prepared to stop the administration merry go round. Thank you Queensland Health, for giving Queensland the opportunity to deliver the service we know will benefit our community. Staff members:

- Dr Rob Pitt, Director
- Liz Miles, Manager
- Richard Hockey, data analyst
- Dr Kieran Cunningham, Research Fellow
- Merle Lange, data coder and administrator
- Linda Horth, data coder
- Dawn Spinks, Marketing and Safe Communities consultant

Injury Prevention and Control Australia Launched

IPCA was launched on 1 October 2003 in Brisbane. It is a collaboration of research organisations, community and industry partners and government entities. This group has received funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council as well as contributions from others in the partnership. There are five research programs being undertaken.

Injury in Older Persons will implement and evaluate a 5 year multi-component, community-based, falls prevention plan. It is based in part, on the successful Australian Stay on Your Feet program evaluated in Northern NSW from 1992-1997. The quasi experimental program is targeting non-institutionalised adults 60 years and older in two provincial / rural areas in NSW (Northern Rivers) and QLD (Wide Bay/Burnett).

Indigenous Injury A North Queensland Indigenous Injury Prevention Partnership (NQIPP) has been formed to analyse all aspects of the pathway towards injury and injury outcomes among Indigenous people.

This partnership aims to:

- focus on alcohol related intentional harm in Cape York
- address spectrum of intentions
- take a whole of life perspective
- build on existing activities
- ensure sustainability.

Injury in the Workplace focuses on the mining industry. The settings for the research will be Queensland and New South Wales, with the Health and Safety Trust and Leighton Holdings as major collaborators. Reasons for this focus on the mining industry are:

- high risk 24 hour industry with significant injury problems
- social and financial costs of injury are immense
- Australian mining industry is one of the world's largest and the nation's leading individual export earning sector.

Injury in Young Adults aims to:

- provide an understanding of risk taking behaviour in Australian Youth in order to develop effective interventions in injury prevention in this group
- compare effectiveness of population level and targeted interventions to improve the safety of high risk takers

Childhood injury: Research is occurring in all the nationally established priorities for injury prevention in children.

Rugby injury fact sheet

The Victorian Smartplay Program, through the Victorian Minister for Sport, has formally released an evidence based review of injury prevention for rugby union. This is the result of a collaborative effort between Dr Caroline Finch, Dr John Best (Medical Director, Australian Rugby Union), Dr Andrew McIntosh (University of New South Wales), A/prof David Chalmers (University of Otago) and Rochelle Eime (Monash University). Copies of the Executive summary and plain language rugby union injury prevention fact sheet can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/units/traumaepi/index.html>

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2002.

29 November 2002.

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