



AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

INJURY INCIDENCE

Vol 6. No 4. Dec 2002



Dear AIPN Members

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the AIPN newsletter. Much is happening around the place at the moment and next year looks to be as busy as this one. The next injury prevention conference

(<http://www.congresswest.com.au/injury>) is full steam ahead and by the time you receive this newsletter those of you who are hoping to present a paper should know if your abstract has been accepted. The conference will start on Sunday 16th March and run through to the conference dinner which will be held on Tuesday evening.

The AIPN will host a breakfast on the Tuesday morning and Kerry Smith from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging has agreed to talk about the Commonwealth's approach to injury prevention, in particular the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Action Committee (ATSIIIPAC) of which the AIPN is the non-government representative for injury prevention in Australia.

Those of you who regularly visit the AIPN website will have noticed that a new page is up saying the site is under construction. A new website for the AIPN should be active by the end of the year.

Malinda Steenkamp has left the fold for greener pastures in the United States. During her tenure as treasurer she has done a fantastic job of running the AIPN finances and has stream lined much of our accounts.

I am delighted to announce that Stan Bordeaux has now been elected to the Treasurer's position in her place.

The SIPP group has taken on a new lease of life with the new chairs (Dr John Scott from Queensland Health and Associate Professor Rod McClure from the University of Queensland). During the last meeting, a brief update from each of the states was given and there is a lot excellent work being undertaken around Australia from water safety in Victoria to cross agency collaboration in Western Australia and much in between. An update of the development of a course for injury prevention being designed with the University of Western Australia taking the lead roll. The National Injury Prevention Plan that was handed around at the last conference and has been sent to all member is to be evaluated next year, the evaluation will include the work that is being undertaken by the National Injury Surveillance Unit on performance indicators. There was a general agreement at the end of the meeting for there to be joint projects between the states including working with the coroners to help define agents involved in fatal injuries. If you would like to know more about SIPP and what they have been up to please go to the SIPP web site <http://www.nphp.gov.au/sipp>.

Currently the commonwealth is funding an injury prevention project for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with the aim to examine and report on the current state of injury prevention activity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The objectives are:

- 1) To conduct a limited consultation of major stakeholders in Indigenous injury to assess their knowledge and experiences of injury prevention activities;
- 2) To conduct a comprehensive literature review of Indigenous injury prevention activities in Australia and in other countries, particularly North America and New Zealand;
- 3) To review injury prevention policies developed by government and non-government bodies;
- 4) To review unpublished research and existing Australian Indigenous injury

prevention projects;

- 5) To analyse the data collected with view to recommending strategies for reducing injury rates in Indigenous communities.

And the anticipated output is to be a report that presents the information obtained by the project, an analysis and recommendations. It will include discussion of:

- The findings of the consultation process and the literature review;
- Existing information on the nature of the injury problem in Indigenous communities;
- The scope of injury, including the amount, circumstances, effects and relevant influencing factors;
- Examples of important existing injury prevention activities and programs (including substance misuse, environment, violence, etc.)
- Opportunities to enhance injury prevention activities for Indigenous people.

The project is currently trying to find as much grey literature (ie reports, newsletters, publications, etc. that have not made it to the peer reviewed literature) in this area as possible. If you have any or know of any information that would be relevant please contact Dr Emma Kowal (Emma.Kowal@menzies.edu.au or phone 08 8922 8697) at the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health.

As we move into the festive season my heart felt sorrow goes out to those families and friends who have lost someone close to them from violence, particularly those who lost someone in the Bali tragedy.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Richard Franklin

Richard Franklin
President



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AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

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Marilyn Lyford - Indigenous Rep for AIPN

As the Indigenous representative for the AIPN my role of the next two years is to improve the communication links between the Indigenous injury prevention community and the members of the AIPN. This will enable the AIPN members to increase their knowledge of Indigenous injury issues and encourage members of the Indigenous injury prevention community to join the AIPN.

Currently the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Action Committee (ATSIIAPAC) is preparing a Draft Indigenous Injury Prevention Action Plan that will propose interventions for immediate attention, as well as addressing infrastructure and capacity building. The AIPN is represented on this committee.

Just a little of my background during the past 4 years I have been working with the Indigenous community in Western Australia in my role as Health Promotion Manager at Royal Life Saving. I regularly lecture to trainee Aboriginal health workers on injury prevention and control and project manage on behalf of the Department of Housing and Works, aquatic facilities in three remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia Burringurrah, Jigalong and Yandeyarra. This role includes traveling to the communities and spending time there, meeting community members and promoting the importance of swimming and lifesaving programs to not only prevent drowning, but to enhance community health. A number of social and recreational programs are also conducted, and each aquatic facility has become the

'hub' of the community. Research into the health of the children since the pools have been operating is being conducted by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. Preliminary results indicate the children are healthier since the pools have opened and the incidence of skin sores and ear disease has decreased.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University has been an excellent learning centre for me to increase my

theoretical knowledge in this area, but gaining practical knowledge through meeting local community people in metropolitan, rural and very remote areas of Western Australia has been invaluable.

Marilyn can be contacted by phone 08 9383 8200 or email: mlyford@rlsswa.com.au



Above: Medal winners at Burringurrah



Above: Marilyn with Heather and kids at the toddlers Pool.



Below: Marilyn with Mark, Pool Manager from Burringurrah, and Alison who is a very good swimmer.



Above Left: Boys at the Carnival at Jigalong giving a sunscreen demo.

Above Centre: Marilyn at Jigalong, pretending that she is actually hard at work.

Safe Communities NSW



COMING EVENT

'Safe Communities in NSW - Building a Stronger Foundation' - a symposium
The Third symposium organised by NSW

SafeComm will be held at the Citygate Sebel (Formerly Furama Central) in Sydney on the 25th and 26th of March 2003. This symposium is for anyone with an interest in safety promotion and injury prevention, including community and road safety officers, local government, health, fire, education and police services, local business and community members.

It will:

- Highlight progress, innovation and opportunities for Safe Communities including 'Safety by Design', suicide prevention, hearing local governments' perspective and plans for a Foundation.
- Showcase and workshop the evaluation of the NSW Safe Comm Pilot Program, sponsored by NSW Health and the RTA.

Confirmed speakers include Marilyn Wise (Australian Centre for Health Promotion), Prof Simon Chapman (Dept Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney) and Penelope Coombes (Managing Director, People for Places and Spaces, sponsored by the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW)

The cost is \$80.00 per day.

Full program details will be available shortly, but in the meantime visit the website (www.nsh.nsw.gov.au/safecomm.htm) for the first announcement.

Please register your interest to ensure you receive registration forms. Contact details below.

NSW SAFECOMM LISTSERV

With the help of NSW Health, NSW SafeComm now has a listserv. This will enable all people working in Safe Communities to receive regular information and updates on the Safe Community scene in NSW, Australia and Overseas. You can use the listserv to find others working on projects similar to yours, to pose questions, and to share information.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE NSW SAFECOMM LIST:

- prepare an email to: majordomo@lists.health.nsw.gov.au
- in the body of the message write: subscribe safecomm
- send the message
- you will get a message back to say that you have subscribed.

Joanne Karcz

NSW SafeComm Program Coordinator

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NH&MRC Scholarships & Grants

News from the Trauma and Sports Injury Prevention Research Unit, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.

Staff and students from our Research Unit were very successful in this year's round of NHMRC funding. All will work under the supervision of A/Prof Caroline Finch

Fiona Clay was awarded an NHMRC PhD Scholarship to undertake research into "Predictors of functional outcome following major road trauma in Victoria".

Rebecca Braham was awarded an NHMRC PhD Scholarship for her project the AFIPP (Australian Football Injury Prevention Project) - a randomised controlled trial of the effectiveness of headgear and mouthguards for preventing head/neck/dental injuries in Australian football

Tsharni Zazryn was awarded an NHMRC PhD Scholarship to undertake a prospective study of cumulative brain injuries in boxers and

Belinda Gabbe was awarded an NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to investigate the long term outcomes and costs of both trauma and sports injuries.

The Unit has also been awarded a 2 year grant to establish an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery Registry in Victoria. This registry will initially be established at The Alfred and Royal Melbourne Hospitals and is a collaborative effort between staff of the T&SIPRU and Orthopaedic Surgeons at these two hospitals. It will focus on profiling orthopaedic trauma patients, monitoring their clinical and surgical management and assessing the long term outcomes and impairment following such injuries

Update on the Conference in WA

Exciting news on the forthcoming conference the 1st Asia-Pacific Injury Prevention Conference and 6th National Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, to be held in Perth, Western Australia from 16-18 March 2003. Two hundred and eight abstracts have been submitted, suggesting high calibre and variety of presentations.

A number of world renowned keynote speakers including Dr Etienne Krug, from the World Health Organisation in Geneva, Dr Le Cu Linh, from the Hanoi School of Public Health in Vietnam and Professor Gopalakrishna Gururaj, Department of Epidemiology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, India will be addressing the delegates at the conference.

Special meetings and workshops will also be held; including suicide, drowning and the progress towards the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Plan will be presented. ISCAPE.

The AIPN Breakfast will be held on the Tuesday morning, 18 March and Kerry Smith from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing will address the members.

AIPN Policy Review

Please read and provide feedback on the DRAFT AIPN Policies that have been included in this Newsletter.

Contact Rebecca Mitchell, Phone 02 9391 9951, or email rmitc@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Some Websites of interest?

Treating violence as a public health problem

BMJ 2002;325:726-727

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7367/726>

<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7367/731>

World Report on Violence and Health. The report includes sections on youth violence, child abuse, violence by intimate partners, abuse of elderly people, sexual violence, self directed violence, and collective violence. For information on the report, visit

www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention. To order a copy of the report, contact bookorders@who.int.

World Health Report 2002 The 2002 report represents one of the largest research projects ever undertaken by the World Health Organization. The report, subtitled Reducing risks, promoting healthy life, measures the amount of disease, disability and death in the world today that can be attributed to some of the most important risks to human health. It then goes on to calculate how much of this present

burden could be avoided in the next 20 years, opening the door to a healthier future for people in all countries. <http://www.who.int/whr/en/>

National Health and Medical Research Council, NHMRC publication released August 2002: When it's right in front of you: assisting health care workers in rural and remote Australian to manage episodes of violence.

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/hp16syn.htm>

MedlinePlus Redesigned The consumer health site from the National Library of Medicine has a new design, organisational structure and search engine. The new design retains many elements of the current site, but introduces a three-column home page and "In the Spotlight" section. The home page retains the five choices that were on the left and adds two new ones: Medical Encyclopedia and News.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

Interactive data on health expenditure Five 'data cubes' containing Australian Health Expenditure data have been added to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website. The cubes present health expenditure data at the national level for the period 1960-61 to 2000-01 and for each State and Territory for the period 1996-97 to 2000-01.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/expenditure/datacubes/index.html>

Treasurer's Report for financial year ending 30 June 2002

Prepared by Malinda Steenkamp,
30 September 2002

BALANCE

Adjusted bank balance as at 30 June 2002:
\$20,585.93 (\$7,822.40 in Conference Account)

INCOME:

Membership

By the end of June 2002, the AIPN had 120 members. Of these, 45 was corporate, 64 professional and 11 community memberships. (Membership for 00-01 was 141. All types of memberships were down in 2001-02.)

The total income from membership fees was \$9,708.00. This is down from the previous year where the amount was \$13,460.40.

The membership fee structure was reviewed, but it was decided not to increase fees for the 01-02 financial year.

In order to increase the number of members, an article on the AIPN was placed in the Injury Issues Monitor published by the Research Centre for Injury Studies. Also, included with the renewal letters were AIPN brochures and each member was encouraged to enlist at least one other person.

It is suggested that the AIPN executive conduct a well-designed drive to increase membership. One opportunity to do this in a concentrated manner is at the 2003 Injury Conference in Perth.

Grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC)

DHAC provided a grant of \$22,000.00 towards the Injury Prevention 2001 conference. A sum of \$15,000.00 was provided to the AIPN in the 00-01 financial year, with the balance of \$7,000.00 paid in August 2001.

In September 2001, the amount of \$20,000.00 allocated to organising the conference was paid to University of Melbourne. The Injury 2001 Conference was organised under the auspices of this University. A profit of about \$7,000 remains outstanding.

The other \$2,000.00 of the DHAC grant was allocated for bursaries to students to attend the Injury Prevention 2001 conference. Originally the bursaries were offered to Helen Thomas, Kerriane Watt and Heidi Lindner, but Helen Thomas indicated that she was not attending the conference. The third bursary was therefore offered to Riana Nugrahani. Each student received free registration and free AIPN membership. For two of the students an amount of \$500.00 was paid towards travel cost. The remaining candidate lived in Victoria and did not have to travel far - no amount was paid towards travel.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Changes in banking details

As reported in the Treasurer's report for the financial year 00-01, new types of bank accounts were set up by the Treasurer to replace the two previous accounts held by the AIPN. That is, the 'General' AIPN account was changed from a business cheque account to a cash management account. The 'Conference' account was changed from a business cheque account to a V2 Plus

account. For both of these new accounts, no account servicing fees were charged when the balance was above \$5,000.00. Both accounts also attracted interest. The interest rate for the Conference account was 3.36% as at end of June 02, with the interest rate of the General account varying according to the balance available in the account. The changes in types of bank accounts have resulted in a saving of about \$170 in bank fees for the AIPN. Moreover, a total of \$454.81 was earned in interest. The executive should consider consolidating the two accounts to streamline bookkeeping.

AIPN Financial Records

In the Audit report for the 00-01 financial year, it was recommended that the bookkeeping be improved.

Initially, the Treasurer continued with a similar format as for the 00-01 financial year.

This format was used to complete the relevant Business Activity Statements for the 01-02 financial year.

The Treasurer completed a bookkeeping course and reorganised the finances as follows:

A Cash Receipts Journal and a Cash Payments Journal were set up.

- Quarterly bank reconciliations were done (the small number of transactions did not warrant monthly ones).
- Journals were set up to allow for GST transactions.
- A system to account for income from membership fees and grants were also set up.

It has to be kept in mind that subscriptions are handled by the Secretariat in Perth, with the Treasurer located in a different State.

Tax invoices are sent to AIPN members, but subscriptions are voluntary on year to year basis. Tax invoices sent to members are not numbered. Deposits of membership fees are done by the Secretariat and a merchant facility is also available. The Secretariat sends the Treasurer a summary of the funds deposited on the day the deposits are made. A new document called Deposit Document (2001-02) was created.

This system has been in place since February 2002 and continues to be the practice. In the first instance, only cash deposits were reflected on the Deposit Document, but this has been changed to reflect the credit card transactions as well. Before February 2002, information on income was obtained from bank statements.

The next step in regard to bookkeeping is to look into financial packages in order to streamline operations for the Treasurer. A preliminary investigation into MYOB and QuickBooks showed that the basic package for both products start at around \$210.00. Initial advice from different accountants indicates that there is little difference in terms of performance in regard to these software programmes.

An application for exemption of debits tax has been made and has been successful. As of 1 October 2002, the AIPN will not pay debits tax any more.

The books have been audited by John Fisher of Advanced Book Keeping Practices. His conclusions were:

- There is no 'Authority to pay' noted on the invoices

by a delegated officer and this is an audit requirement. The fact that the cheques are signed by two persons within the organisation is not sufficient.

- Advice provided to the Treasurer by a tax consultant on creditable GST acquisitions is not correct. Where AIPN has reimbursed a member for an expense and is in receipt of the original Tax Invoice then it can claim the tax credit. A verbal inquiry with the ATO on 25/09/02 confirmed this.
- Bank reconciliations were well managed and improved compared to the previous year.
- Cash at bank (both accounts) agrees with reported balances.
- It remains of significant concern that accounting for income - membership fees etc. and receipt of monies from interstate sources is not accountable. A proper register of accountable books should be kept with numbered receipts books issued to appropriate personnel.

GST

The AIPN registered for GST from 1 September 2001.

Four Business Activity Statements were prepared and sent to the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Journals were adapted to allow for GST.

The AIPN received a total of \$1,958.00 in GST rebates, while a sum of \$191.00 has been paid to the ATO.

OTHER MATTERS

A list of specified tasks for the Treasurer has been drawn up to smooth the transitional phase when a new Treasurer is appointed.

Required documentation has been sent to the Consumer and Business Affairs.

The committee decided to appoint someone from the committee as the Public Officer. Caroline Finch is now the public officer. We thank Jan Shield who was the previous public officer for her contribution.

THANK YOU

I will be stepping down as Treasurer as it will not be possible to continue due to a change in my circumstances.

I would like to thank the executive for their help, specifically Richard Franklin (President) and Aleks Natora (Secretary). I also thank the secretariat for their efficient cooperation in regard to financial matters.

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2003.

1 March, 1 June, 1 September and 1 December.

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