

*Hi all,*

Lots of information from Western Australia in this edition.

And at last the AIPN has appointed a Secretariat. See box below for contact details.

As you may be aware, there has been a bit of a break in the chain of contact with members. If you have joined the AIPN and have not received a folder containing a Constitution, and a card with details of how to join the list serve and enter the members only section of the AIPN Website, could you please let me know.

And as mentioned in the last newsletter, there will not be a phone service from the Secretariat. Their role is detailed in the President's message and is mainly around managing the membership. If you have any questions about the organisation of AIPN or its activities that can not be managed by email, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Executive. Their contact details are on the back page.

Cheers

*Fran McFadzen*, Editor.

## A Tribute to Gayle Smith from the Victorian Safe Communities Network



Gayle Smith was one of those special people who cared deeply about preventing injury and promoting community safety. Many of us met her for the first time in 1994-95 during the lead-up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, held in Melbourne, and SafeComm5, held in Hume and Latrobe, in 1996. Gayle worked closely with the late Eric Young at the Victorian WorkCover Authority to ensure the success of these important international events.

One of the initiatives that emerged from those conferences in 1996 was Community Safety Week, which has now grown into Community Safety Month in Victoria. This was supported by a coalition of agencies, with Gayle securing and leading WorkCover's contribution. Her role was critical to the survival and successful growth

of this fledgling program, which is now the key annual event in safety promotion across Victoria. As usual, she gave of herself far beyond her organisational role. It is a sign of her far sightedness that WorkSafe Week eventually became part of Community Safety Month for the first time in 2003.

Gayle was seconded from WorkCover to become the Victorian Safe Communities Network's first Project Officer, based at the Monash University Accident Research Centre where she worked closely with Erin Cassell, now the Victorian Safe Communities Network's co-chair. When Gayle returned to WorkCover, she continued her active support of the Victorian Safe Communities Network by taking on the Treasurer's role, which she continued even after she reduced her fulltime work hours.

Gayle was an active member of the Australian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN). The AIPN has Gayle and Eric Young to thank for securing financial support from WorkCover for its successful 2001 national conference held in Warrnambool.

The strength of community safety in Victoria today is founded on several decades of good work, with an especially strong push in the last half of the 1990s from a diverse group of dedicated professionals, among whom Gayle Smith was a key contributor, both personally and professionally.

Gayle will be remembered fondly by all her community safety colleagues for her willingness to work for the cause, to contribute her own time and energy, and to do so without any expectation of personal kudos - she was a rare and wonderful human being and will be sadly missed.

February 2004

**The Conference Flier,  
call for papers and  
registration Brochure is  
in this envelope.  
Abstracts close on 7  
May. Hurry!!!**

AIPN is a professional organisation bringing together all Australians and New Zealanders concerned with injury issues.

AIPN undertakes to collate information from contributors. This does not imply endorsement, and the AIPN has not been responsible for the research reported within.

### AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK

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### Inside this edition

- **Presidents Message**
- **WA Family Violence Report**
- **WA Violence Linx**
- **Child Safety Book launched**
- **QISU website**
- **WA Cost of Falls**

## President's Message

Dear AIPN Member,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2004. As I move into the last year of my presidency, I look back on the achievements and also the disappointments I have had over the last few years. Coming up in September will be the third AIPN conference that I have been involved with as president; each conference takes a massive amount of dedication from many volunteers, including the executive of the AIPN. As each conference continues to build on the past, being involved in the development of the conference continues to be exciting and rewarding. This commitment to producing a conference comes at a price, many other activities that the AIPN could be doing are pushed to the side. However with the conference becoming bi-annual from now on this will hopefully see more activities being undertaken in the alternate year.

The conference for 2004 is full steam ahead, the brochure will be posted to you with this newsletter and information is being placed on the new AIPN web site at:

<http://www.aipn.com.au/conference2004.htm>

. Submission of abstracts and registration will be available on-line which should be up and running by 1 April. Please note the following key dates for the conference

- 1 March 2004 Call for Abstracts
- 7 May 2004 Student bursaries close
- 7 May 2004 Last date for receipt of Abstracts
- 16 June 2004 Applicants notified of Abstract selection
- 14 July 2004 Early Bird registration closes
- 2 August 2004 Whitsunday Escape expression of interest received
- 20 August 2004 Program finalised
- 30 August 2004 Polo shirt orders received

In my first term as President, I was lucky enough to be able to send to all AIPN members a copy of the inaugural Injury Prevention Plan. This plan is now being evaluated and concurrently a new plan is being developed. SIPP has tried to ensure that any information collected as part of the evaluation feeds into the development of the new plan. The evaluation team from CARRS-Q (Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety-Queensland) are on a tight time-frame for the report. If they come knocking on your door please help them as much as possible.

As part of the process of developing the next injury prevention plan I will be sending information through the list serve, please respond as time is limited and you will not have another opportunity for at least three years.

A major step forward for the AIPN was securing our own website. The website <http://www.aipn.com.au> has been up and running for about a month now and we are still working out some of the glitches. The executive decided to go it alone with the website after many years of fantastic support from the Flinders University Research Centre for Injury Studies. There are many reasons both for and against the AIPN having our own web address, the main reasons we went down this track are:

- With the conference now being run from within the AIPN we needed a site that we can secure and add additional pages to or allow external agencies to add additional pages.
- Increase the profile of the AIPN on the net; with the new secretariat not being available to take telephone calls, we wanted to ensure that all AIPN information was accessible and that people could easily remember the address.
- The new site gives us greater control over the listserve, secure sections, e-mail address and the ability to add additional products for short periods of time.

I would like to thank the team at the Flinders University Research Centre for Injury Studies for their support over the years and their help with our website.

As mentioned previously we have a new secretariat, Xenia Consulting, who will process payments, organise the mail out of material, maintain the members' database, and collect postal mail. You will all be receiving a letter in the mail in the next couple of weeks about the new secretariat. The new contact details for the secretariat are in the box on the front page.

There were a number of items tabled at the last SIPP meeting in March that you may be interested in:

1. The Australia Government Department of Health and Ageing have released the report called 'Projected costs of fall related injury to older persons due to demographic change in Australia'. This report is available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/strategy/injury/falls/index.htm>
2. The New Zealand government has released their injury prevention strategy and implementation plan for 2004/05. These documents are available at: <http://www.nzips.govt.nz/>
3. The Australian Government Consumer Affairs Division has released two informational flyers. The first is on blind cord safety and the second is on home fire protection. These documents are available on the treasury website <http://www.treasury.gov.au/>

This year is a year at the crossroads for Injury Prevention in Australia and the AIPN. We need a strong directional document to ensure the continued investment and strengthening of injury prevention with development in infrastructure, workforce, programs, policy and research. The AIPN needs 225 people to attend the conference to break even. We feel that this is achievable but we need your help to tell people about the conference, submit abstracts and come along.

See you all in Mackay in September 2004.

## WA Family Violence Report released

The Injury Prevention Branch, Department of Health and the Injury Research Centre The University of Western Australia, have released a new report, *Injury in Western Australia: Family Violence A review of best practice, stakeholder activity, legislation and recommendations*.

The report investigates the epidemiology, stakeholder activity, legislation and 'best practice' interventions for injurious behaviour in Western Australia and:

- Focuses on primary/ early prevention strategies to reduce family violence related injuries, as opposed to a risk management or treatment perspective.
- Provides policy makers, researchers, health professionals, advocates and volunteers involved in violence prevention with a snapshot of the level of injury associated with family violence.
- Provides an overview of the prevention and management strategies currently undertaken in Western Australia.
- Provides practitioners new to the field of family violence a useful starting point for identifying priorities, stakeholders and recommendations for future action.

It is best used in conjunction with the recently released *Injury in Western Australia: An Epidemiology of Injury, 1989 - 2000*, which identifies intentional injury (ie. Violence-related injuries) as a growing issue in Western Australia.

Together these reports can be used as a platform for profiling intentional injury and to promote support for research and early intervention strategies to reduce domestic violence in Western Australia.

To download a copy of *'Injury in Western Australia, Family Violence - A review of best practice, stakeholder activity, legislation and recommendations'* visit:

[http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Promotion/resources\\_promotion.cfm#injury](http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Promotion/resources_promotion.cfm#injury)

Reports are listed under "Injury in Western Australia".

Terry Lennard, Director, Information Policy Directorate.

Richard Franklin  
President.

## Indigenous Injury Reports

The Australian Government, Department of Health and Aging has released two volumes of "Injury Prevention Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Project Report". Volume 1: Current Status and Future Directions was authored by Jerry Moller, Neil Thomson and Janette Brooks. Volume 2: Programs, Projects and Actions was authored by Kathleen Clapham.

There is no info in the documents on where to obtain copies. Perhaps try the Department of Health and Aging website for more information.

## (WA) Violence - make a difference



Linking Injury Networks X-sectors

Intentional injuries have emerged as a growing issue in Western Australia, particularly for males, young people, Indigenous people and rural residents. The Department of Health's recently released "Injury in Western Australia: An Epidemiology of Injury 1989-2000" ranks self inflicted injuries as the most common cause of injury death in ages 25-59 years and demonstrates that the rate of hospitalisation for injuries inflicted by another increased by 43% between 1989 and 2000.

To address the growing violence problem, the Department for Health's, Injury Prevention Branch and the Department for Community Development's Family & Domestic Violence Unit partnered on November 25, 2003 for the 'Making a Difference' Conference. The purpose for this partnership was to explore roles and reduce duplication of efforts in violence prevention, share resources and identify ways to link and add value to the work already being done.

Dr Donna Cross, Director of the WA Centre for Health Promotion Research presented the World Health Organisation's World Report on Violence and Health. Participants were provided the opportunity to explore recommendations from the report and discuss the strategies and recommendations most relevant to Western Australia. To further partnerships and a commitment to action, a panel of experts, policy makers and researchers from organisations currently addressing violence was convened to advance violence prevention work.

Research on Men's Perpetrators Programs and Intimate Partner Homicide and its Relationship to Domestic Violence was also presented.

Department of Health's Manager Injury Prevention Branch, Nicole Bennett said the conference provided an excellent grounding for future collaborative projects in injury prevention. "The conference was highly successful in facilitating partnerships, expanding and strengthening violence prevention networks and increasing knowledge and information sharing for violence prevention," Ms Bennett said. "Agencies are keen to work together in a coordinated and integrated approach to address the violence problem in Western Australia," she added.



INJURY  
INCIDENCE

Vol 8. No 1. Apr 2004



### VSCN Meeting Schedule 2004

Full Network Meetings

9:30am Wednesday 19 May 2004 (AGM)  
City of Hume

9:30am Wednesday 18 August 2004  
City of Wyndham

Note: A light lunch will be provided at the close of each meeting at approximately 1:00pm

Please RSVP your attendance or apology a week prior to meeting

### Special Announcement:

Wednesday 17 November 2004

2<sup>nd</sup> VSCN Annual Conference 9:00-5:30  
followed by Annual Dinner 6:00 - till late.

Contact: Barbara Minuzzo

Ph: 03 9345-5193

Email: [vscn.vscn@rch.org.au](mailto:vscn.vscn@rch.org.au)

Website: [www.vscn.org.au](http://www.vscn.org.au)

## QISU website

Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit is proud to launch their new look website:  
<http://www.qisu.org.au>

Apart from the aesthetic upgrade, the site is even easier to navigate and has some additional functions and links and the addition of a discussion forum. Please feel free to use this forum to raise questions, seek clarification on issues or start a debate. Remember, the site is also accessed by the media who may well pick up on your discussion. Those of you who have used the site before would already appreciate its value, particularly for accessing bulletins and searching our specific injury topics.

Please note that some users may have to update links and or bookmarks linking to particular pages of the old QISU website as they will no longer work. Also please report any problems accessing the site.

Over the next four months Debbie Scott will be acting as manager while Liz Miles is seconded to Acting Senior Health Promotion Officer, Statewide Public Health Unit, Queensland Health.

Debbie Scott, QISU, Ph 07 3840 8677

## New Child Safety Book launched

Australian Athlete, Lauren Hewitt recently launched the new *Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook* to prevent accidental injuries to children aged 6-12. This handbook was launched to the public in December.

In 2001, there were 2,499 hospital admissions and 9,432 Emergency Department visits in Victoria from children aged 10-12.

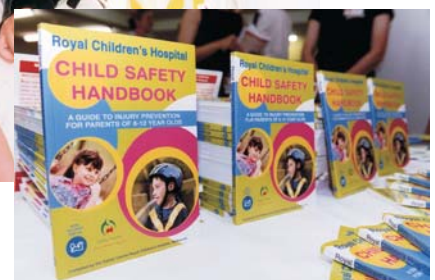
"The *Royal Children's Hospital Child Safety Handbook* is a resource guide for parents of children aged 6-12. The aim of the handbook is to educate parents about how to protect their children from accidental injuries in the home, farms, school, playground, and it covers water and road safety," said Manager of the Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre, Helen Rowan.

"We need to reduce the number of unintentional injuries to children in Australia and this handbook will show parents how to avoid accidents and injuries to children in the home and external environments," said Helen.

This handbook was developed with the Department of Education and Training, Catholic Education Office and Association of Independent Schools of Victoria and various health and safety advisory groups. The *Royal Children's Child Safety Handbook* will be distributed to all Grade 6 students throughout Victoria.

"Parents can obtain a free copy of the *Royal Children's Child Safety Handbook* by calling the Royal Children's Safety Centre on (03) 9345 5085. The cost of the handbook has been subsidised by local businesses through advertising," said Helen.

For further information please contact: Annessa Conquest 03 9345 5138



## WA - COSTS OF SENIORS FALLS PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE

New statistics released by the Department of Health reveal the projected costs of accidental falls in West Australians aged 65 and over will more than double in less than 20 years.

It forecasts falls will cost the WA health system \$174 million by the year 2021 which translates into an additional 220-bed acute care facility required to accommodate the demographic changes in the population.

The Department of Health Injury Prevention Branch in collaboration with the UWA Injury Research Centre conducted the research into the health system costs of falls.

The report "Injury in Western Australia: The Health System Costs of Falls in Older Adults in Western Australia" researched in November 2003 shows the pressure of falls on emergency departments and hospital admissions and highlights the current and future impact on health system resources of accidental falls by seniors.

In the year 2001/2002 falls cost the health system \$83 million which is approximately 1.5% of current health expenditure. Falls is the second most expensive category for hospital admission.

**Table.1 Composition of Health System Costs by Type of Cost, 2001/02**

Item	Cost	
	\$000	%
Inpatient hospital treatment	43 400	52.1
High-level residential care	7 900	9.4
Hospital outpatient services	7 000	8.4
Emergency department presentations	5 000	6.0
Allied health consultations	4 300	5.2
Ambulance transport	4 000	4.8
Specialist consultations	3 200	3.9
Domiciliary care services	2 800	3.4
GP consultations	2 100	2.5
Community nursing	1 900	2.3
Other	1 200	1.5
Pharmaceuticals	400	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>83 200</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Seniors falls prevention is a state health priority and collaborative falls prevention programs play an important role to reduce the incidence and severity of fall-related injuries.

The Injury Prevention Branch, Department of Health coordinates the development and implementation of the Stay On Your Feet WA (SOYFWA) program. The SOYFWA program is a community based falls prevention program for seniors aged 65 years and over which has the potential to reduce the number of older adults with falls related injury presenting to emergency departments and resultant hospital admissions.

The SOYFWA falls prevention program costs \$330,000, which equates to \$2.20 per head of adults aged 65 years and over. As a public health program, SOYFWA primarily increases the focus of the health and other systems on the importance of preventing falls-related injury among older people. Specifically this includes education and awareness of older people in self management strategies, developing an informed and responsive workforce, improving links between health professionals, older adults and other sectors, generating local falls prevention initiatives in regional and local areas.

Deb Cutting, Ph: 08 9222 2061, Email: Deborah.Cutting@health.wa.gov.au

## A plea from the Newsletter Editor!

**Send more articles. Send more information. Send more news. Send more details of projects you are working on. Send more findings from research you are doing.**

**Otherwise the newsletter is going to have big gaps in every edition.**

**Your Newsletter - make it interesting.**

**Gap**

### DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2004.

1 June 2004

1 September 2004

1 December 2004

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### Brain Injury Association of Tasmania CONFERENCE

13-14 May 2004

Country Club Resort, Launceston.

For more information contact [Info@conferenceplus.com.au](mailto:Info@conferenceplus.com.au)

## AIPN Executive Committee (Elected 26 September 2003)

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