



COMMUNIQUE

3 OCTOBER 2002 MEETING

The 7th Meeting of the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership was held in Adelaide on 3 October 2002. Members attending the meeting were Rod McClure (Chair), James Harrison (AIHW), Kerry Smith (Commonwealth & SIPP Secretariat), Richard Franklin (AIPN), Pam Albany (NSW), Michael Tilse (QLD), Nicole Bennett (WA), Ron Somers (SA), Nicola Rabot (VIC), Stan Bordeaux (TAS) and Justine Glover via teleconference (NT). Apologies were received from Anna Perkins (ACT), John Wunsch (Consumer Affairs), John Scott (Co-Chair). Cynthia Spurr from SA, also attended.

New Chairing Arrangements

This meeting was the first under the recently instituted new Chairing arrangements. The National Public Health Partnership has appointed co-chairs Dr John Scott from Queensland Health as the Partnership representative, and Associate Professor Rod McClure of the University of Queensland. Associate Professor McClure is Chief Executive Officer and Research Director of Injury Prevention and Control (Australia) Ltd and Associate Professor (epidemiology) and Director of the Injury Research Group in the School of Population Health. Associate Professor McClure takes the lead role in the co-chairing arrangements with Dr Scott assuming the Chair should any conflict of interest issues arise.

Updates from jurisdictions

Members provided updates on their recent work.

Western Australia: Nicole Bennett reported that the Injury Prevention Unit was working collaboratively with key WA academic and non-government organisations working on injury. This includes cross agency work and interests and will result in a more strategic approach to injury in WA.

Tasmania: Stan Bordeaux reported that there was an increased interest in injury following a recent restructure in the Department. The unit was working closely with Kidsafe on falls prevention and playground safety. He also reported that good progress was being made on the Falls Demonstration Project and projects were due to commence in 2003.

South Australia: Ron Somers reported that in the four years from 1997 – 2000 the South Australian Trauma Registry has show a 50 % drop in the severity adjusted mortality rate. This decrease in the risk of death of patients attending SA major trauma services is very significant for injury policy and practices.





Commonwealth: Kerry Smith reported that work is progressing on the development of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Plan, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Action Council (ATSIIPAC) now having a full committee, and the project to map injury prevention activity underway.

New South Wales: Pam Albany reported that under the work being undertaken by the Injury Risk Management Centre, permission has been received from the Privacy Commissioner and the NSW Health Ethics Committee to link Roads and Traffic Authority data and NSW Health data. There is also the possibility of linking further data sets, for example ski resort data.

Queensland: Michael Tilse reported on the successful recent launch of Injury Prevention and Control (Australia) by the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Senator Kay Patterson. Michael said that IPCA would provide an effective vehicle to address particular injury issues and programs in Queensland.

Victoria: Nicola Rabot reported on the numerous activities being undertaken for the Victorian Community Safety Month in October and Injury Prevention week from 15 – 21 October. She also reported on the project (funded through her Department) with the Victorian Coroners' Office on toddler drownings in dams. This work will be published in the near future.

Northern Territory: Justine Glover reported that new laws for isolation and separation pool fencing for new swimming pools will come into effect in the NT on 1 January 2003. The government will provide some incentives for pool owners to comply. Existing pools do not have to comply until the property is sold.

Consumer Affairs Division of the Department of Treasury: John Wunsch was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report. He reported that a mandatory standard for bunk beds comes into effect on 1 November 2002. This standard requires that there be no gaps in the structure which can present a fall through and hanging hazard. It also requires that there be an absence of protrusions, and roll out protection on all four sides of the top bunk. A new mandatory standard for babywalkers also comes into effect on 1 November 2002. This will require walkers to meet specified stability performance, a mechanism to help prevent falls down stairs and comprehensive warning labels.

Australian Injury Prevention Network: Richard Franklin reported that AIPN is extremely busy in the organisation of the 6th National Conference to be held in Perth in March 2003. He also reported that planning is also underway for the 7th National Conference which will be held in Mackay in Queensland in September 2004. The updated AIPN website will be up by early December. AIPN are also developing policies in order to respond to media requests on injury issues.





National Injury Surveillance Unit: James Harrison reported that NISU had recently published a number of reports under their contract with AIHW and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. NISU's work program includes a status report on each of the four priority areas under the National Plan.

Workforce Issues

Members noted that a consortium based at the University of WA was being funded through the Commonwealth under the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP Innovations Round 2) for a project to increase the capacity of the injury prevention workforce. The project will develop and implement a distance-based injury prevention unit run by a consortium of Australian universities. The project follows on from the findings of a Commonwealth project to identify and classify the injury prevention workforce, and extends a project previously agreed to by SIPP. SIPP members gave in-principle agreement to support the project according to their capacity and SIPP members will form part of the project Reference Group.

Evaluating the National Plan

Members agreed on the formation of an Evaluation and Performance Indicator sub-committee to implement a strategy to evaluate the current Plan and provide a review of potential priority issues for the subsequent Plan.

Future projects

SIPP members identified the need to raise the profile of injury prevention in Australia. It will therefore be identifying and implementing strategies in the next few months in order to address this issue. SIPP is also having preliminary discussions on providing background issues papers on specific injuries for the use of Coroners in their investigations of injury-related deaths.

Future meetings

The next SIPP meeting will be by teleconference in January 2003. The next face-to-face meeting will be held on 16/17 March 2003 in conjunction with the 6th National Conference on Injury Prevention and Control in Perth WA. Members agreed that the face-to-face meetings would move around the jurisdictions and further agreed to investigate the use of video conferencing facilities.

More information

SIPP is a sub-committee of the National Public Health Partnership. To obtain more information on SIPP or the Partnership, see the SIPP web page at <http://www.nphp.gov.au/sipp/index.htm> or contact the SIPP Secretariat at kerry.smith@health.gov.au

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