



COMMUNIQUE

14 SEPTEMBER 2004 MEETING

The 13th Meeting of the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership was held in Mackay on 14 September 2004. Members attending the meeting were Rod McClure (Co-Chair), James Harrison (AIHW), Rae Scott (Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing), Rebecca Mitchell (NSW), Michael Tilse (QLD), Nicola Rabot (VIC), Nicole Bennett (WA), Stan Bordeaux (TAS), Steven Skov (NT), Ron Somers (SA), John Wunsch (Consumer Safety Unit, Treasury, Australian Government), and Richard Franklin (AIPN). Also in attendance was Annamaree Reisch (SIPP Secretariat) and Rex Milligan (WA) as an observer.

Apologies were received from Jackie Steele (Co-Chair), Maureen O'Brien (ACT), and Sandy Brinsdon (NZ).

Evaluation of the National Injury Prevention Plan

The Evaluation Report on the National Injury Prevention Plan 2001-2003 was released under embargo to SIPP members. There was general consensus that the Evaluation Report is a valuable tool that will be fully utilised in the development of the National Injury Prevention Plan 2004 onwards. SIPP has endorsed the distribution of the Report and is seeking approval to publicly release the report.

Development of the National Injury Prevention Plan: 2004 Onwards

The first draft of the National Injury Prevention Plan: 2004 Onwards (the Plan) was released for public consultation in August, with submissions closing at the end of September. Distribution and avenues for feedback are through SIPP members, the NPHP website, and direct email of stakeholders. Copies were also provided to all persons attending the Australian Injury Prevention Conference from 15-17 September 2004. A contractor will analyse submissions received through the public consultation process and produce an issues paper that reflects issues raised. A National Symposium with representatives from all jurisdictions and peak organisations will be held in Canberra on 5th November to discuss the issues paper and further development of the Plan. The third and final draft will be discussed by SIPP members at the meeting to be held 25-26 November in Sydney.

ATSIIPAC Update

The first draft of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy (the Strategy) was released for public consultation in August, with submissions closing at the end of September. Distribution and avenues for feedback are through SIPP and ATSIIPAC members, the NPHP website, and direct email of stakeholders. Copies were also provided to all persons attending the Australian Injury Prevention Conference from 15-17

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September 2004. A workshop is being held in Canberra on 18-19 October to discuss further development of the Strategy.

Standards / Legislative Clearing House Project

A special account is being established to enable the Standards/Legislative Clearing House Project to commence. A SIPP subcommittee has been formed to oversee the project. Three newsletters will be produced, with topics to include an Update on child restraints and Pharmaceutical Packaging.

ICD-10 AM

James Harrison informed SIPP members that a workshop on changes to ICD-10 will be held at the Australian Injury Prevention Conference. Changes are to be finalised over the next few months to fit in to the revision cycle of ICD10.

Updates from jurisdictions

Members provided updates on their recent work.

NSW

- Boundary changes to NSW Health's 17 Area Health Services (AHS) with 8 new AHW boundaries established.
- NSW Health Minister launched NSW management policy to reduce fall injury among older people on 3 July 2004, with a funding package of \$8.5 million over four years.
- Coordinator's position for the implementation of the *NSW Aboriginal Safety Promotion Strategy* has been moved to the new Collaborative Centre for Aboriginal Health Promotion (CCAHP). A forum for Aboriginal health workers in NSW regarding injury prevention and safety will be held by CCAHP on 24 September 2004.
- NSW Water Safety Taskforce functions and NSW Water Safety Framework 2001-03 have been reviewed. It is likely the Taskforce will become the NSW Water Safety Council, have an Advisory Committee and subcommittees attached, and seek an independent Chair. A new NSW water safety plan is being developed. It is likely a review of the *Swimming Pool Fencing Act 1992* (NSW) will be undertaken by the Department of Local Government early in 2005, following the release of the revised Australian Standard for Swimming Pool Fencing. NSW Water Safety Week is being held during 19 to 25 September 2004.
- NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC) has updated its internet site (www.irmrc.unsw.edu.au), and includes information on research projects being undertaken by the IRMRC, profiles of staff, and reports completed by the Centre. IRMRC is currently producing an updated Injury Profile for NSW which should be available in late October 2004.
- 4th Annual Safe Communities Symposium: Planning Safe and Strong Communities held 28-29 July 2004, with over 200 delegates attending. A state wide capacity building program for new and emerging Safe Communities has been developed and includes a 2-day training package, a model for a 1-day community planning forum, and a 'starter' brochure for new and interested Safe Community partners. Local

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councils expressing an interest in the Safe Communities model include: Great Lakes, Coffs Harbour, North Sydney, Goulburn, Blacktown, Sydney, Leichhardt, Eurobedalla, Sutherland, Shoalhaven, Wollongong and Queanbeyan.

VIC

- Safe Start Program has been completed (18months). The evaluation shows a need for the program to be run over 3 years, but good results have been identified after the first 18 months.
- Injury Prevention has targeted a number of areas to raise awareness, including booklets in 4 CALD community languages, injury in corporate plans for local governments thru fostered partnerships, built a safe kitchen for use by disadvantaged groups and people with a disability thru community and local government partnerships.
- Part one of the research project on poisoning is complete and the results will be available to this group. The focus is on qualitative rather than epidemiological factors and the messages are aimed at the community and parents thru education and awareness raising opportunities. Part two is due for completion in 12 months.
- Vic. Safe Communities Conference aimed at practitioners will be held in mid November.

QLD

- Looking at putting together a proposal for a business case to increase investment in falls prevention activities. This represents a significant commitment by Queensland Health to this priority issue.
- Implementation Plan for the Falls Strategy is being developed as falls in the elderly is a major issue in Queensland.
- Mackay is Queensland's first safe community.

SA

- changes to legislation requiring dogs to be restrained when walked on footpaths.
- progress on pharmaceutical project, with 3 panel tests completed. Packaging used in Australia doesn't comply with British standards and is currently very easy for children to access.
- mandatory "size- based" child restraints are being promoted by an SA Minister for adoption as a national standard.
- high level committee being established to provide advice on suicide prevention.

WA

- Seniors Falls prevention is progressing and was identified as the 3rd recommendation on the health reform agenda for WA, specifically calling for a targeted health promotion program.
- Injury Prevention Branch is taking a greater role in seniors falls prevention and health promotion, and has attracted some resources (non-recurrent) for a social marketing strategy for Stay On Your Feet WA to be run in 2004/2005.





- Policy developed around water safety, the *Western Australian Water Safety Framework 2004-2007* is about to be launched.

NT

- Increase in focus on Injury Prevention in NT Health.
- Epidemiology Unit is reporting on suicide, morbidity and mortality data with the Injury Prevention Unit

TAS

- Child Injury Coalition is being funded and will support a couple of initiatives.
- A fire safety project targeting parents of young children in disadvantaged areas.
- Information on injury included in the Child Health Book/Record has been updated.
- The Falls Audit is progressing.
- Falls risk assessment clinics are to be provided across the State.

AUST GOVT (Department of Health and Ageing)

- Department of Health and Ageing in Caretaker mode due to Federal election on 9 October 2004.
- Injury Prevention Team is now part of the 'Targeted Prevention Programs' Branch within Population Health Division.

AUST GOVT (Treasury)

- Treasury is in Caretaker mode due to Federal election on 9 October 2004.
- New tobacco regulations came into effect as of 1st September 2004. These regulations include a significant increase of health risk advice on cigarette packages. The new information also covers cigars and nasal snuff.
- A baby bath aids awareness campaign is being progressed with posters and information brochures. NSW has introduced legislation requiring specified warnings on these products. WA and QLD are moving towards similar legislation. The Treasury is also preparing a regulation impact statement on proposed mandatory warnings on baby bath aids under the Trade Practices Act.
- A vehicle jack risk awareness campaign is being developed in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing.

AIPN

- 196 registrations received for the Australian Injury Prevention Conference to be held in Mackay 15-17 September 2004.
- AIPN website has been updated to be more user friendly and accessible.
- Next AIPN Conference in Sydney in 2006 and NZ Injury Prevention Conference in Wellington in 2005.
- Richard Franklin will be retiring as AIPN President and therefore SIPP member at the end of 2004.

NISU

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- Reports are now available on Mortality, Aboriginal Mortality, and Spinal Cord Injury.
- National Coronial Information System (NCIS) is moving from the Monash University to the Attorney General's Division of the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine, with an increase in funding and staff security.

Future Meetings

The next face to face meeting is to be held in Sydney on 25-26 November 2004.

