



COMMUNIQUE

18 - 19 NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING

The 10th Meeting of the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership was held in Melbourne on 18 –19 November 2003. Members attending the meeting were Rod McClure (Co-Chair), James Harrison (AIHW), Bruce Wight (Department of Health & Ageing), Richard Franklin (AIPN), Pam Albany (NSW), Michael Tilse (Queensland), Ron Somers (SA), Ingrid Coote (ACT), Nicole Bennett (WA), Nicola Rabot (Victoria), John Wunsch (Consumer Affairs Policy Division, Treasury). Also in attendance were Kerry Smith and Belinda Brandon (SIPP Secretariat), Annamaree Reisch (Commonwealth) and Karen McIntyre from Victorian Department of Human Services attended for part of the first day.

Apologies were received from John Scott (Co-Chair), Tarun Weeramanthri (NT), Stan Bordeaux (TAS) and Sandy Brinsdon (New Zealand).

Updates from jurisdictions

Members provided updates on their recent work.

Treasury

John Wunsch discussed the new mandatory standard for sunglasses that came into effect from 1 October 2003. He also reported that a mandatory standard has existed for vehicle jacks since 1985 and is currently being revised to include high lift jacks used for recreational/4WD vehicles. There have been 13 deaths related to these devices in the past 10 years, however these have been related to inappropriate use. A consumer awareness campaign will be conducted from February 2004 to raise public awareness and highlight the risks of using a jack to support a vehicle with a person under it.

Home fire safety is on the Treasury agenda, with the mandatory standard for portable fire extinguishers being upgraded. One component will be an education program about fire blankets and fire safety. In addition, the issue of baby bath seats was discussed as the NSW Product Safety area is reviewing these products. Work is currently being completed in the United States on a mandatory standard for baby bath seats that may hold some possibilities to improve product design.

Western Australia

Nicole Bennett, the representative for Western Australia spoke about the successful publication of two injury prevention reports; *Injury In Western Australia - An Epidemiology of Injury 1989-2000* and *Injury In Western Australia - The Health System Costs of Falls in Older Adults in Western Australia*.

South Australia:

Ron Somers spoke about progress in the relationship with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and collaborative work occurring to alert the public of potential hazards. It was also reported that both universal dog leashing and reform regarding swimming pools are gaining momentum in South Australia. Finally, Ron spoke about child restraints for children aged 1- 9 years and the pressing need to have this issue re-considered at the national level.

Secretariat: Injury Prevention Section
Department of Health and Aged Care
MDP 27, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 02 6289 8625 Fax: 02 6289 7837
www.nphg.gov.au/sipp





Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing:

Bruce Wight reported that the National Falls Prevention in Older People Initiative has completed an evaluation of the Initiative. Secondly, the Department is involved in a joint Treasury and Department of Health and Ageing campaign to prevent blind cord strangulation of infants. Finally, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Action Committee workshop will be held in Canberra on 1-2 December 2003 to develop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention component of the National Injury Prevention Plan.

New South Wales:

Pam Albany reported the positive news of the appointment of Dr Caroline Finch to the position of Professor of the NSW Injury Risk Management Centre. Also work is currently occurring in NSW on a linkage program on alcohol. The implementation of the NSW Aboriginal Safety Strategy is progressing with the appointment of an indigenous worker to the program.

Queensland:

The Queensland representative, Michael Tilse, spoke about a positive outcome with the update of pool fencing legislation, including measures to reduce exemptions and enable more effective enforcement of legislation by local government. The Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP), strengthening national capacity in injury epidemiology, prevention and control short course was recently held in Queensland and received positive feedback from participants.

Australian Capital Territory:

Ingrid Coote spoke about progress of the ACT Water Safety Working Party, an inter-sectoral partnership including agencies such as the Federal Police, Royal Life Saving Society and ACT Health. This has culminated in the launch of the Safe Waters ACT campaign including distribution of printed campaign materials such as the Safe Waters ACT brochure which was distributed to every school child in the ACT. The brochure was adapted from NSW water safety campaign material by broadening it to include an increased emphasis on inland waterways, such as lakes and rivers. Other aspects to the campaign include breathalysing boat drivers and improved water safety signage for new walking trails.

Victoria:

A positive initiative occurring in Victoria in injury prevention has been the Injury Prevention Week launch in October. This included the launch of a baby safety video/ DVD that targets first time expectant parents regarding issues of home safety in preparation for the new baby. There has been a wide dissemination of the material including pre natal education networks and GP waiting rooms. Nicola Rabot also mentioned that two reports have been released from the Victorian Coroner's Office, the first about bath tub drownings and the second relating to swimming pool drownings.





Australian Injury Prevention Network:

The AIPN representative, Richard Franklin reported on positive progress with plans for the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference to be held from 15-17 September 2004 in Mackay, Queensland. The conference will incorporate a Safe Communities theme. Secondly, he reported that Dr Kathleen Clapham is the newly appointed AIPN representative for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Action Committee. Paul Vardon from Queensland Health is also a welcome addition to the AIPN Secretariat. Finally, Richard was able to report that the Injury Prevention Journal is now published bi-monthly. Further information about the 2004 Conference is available on the AIPN website at: <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/aipn/>

National Injury Surveillance Unit:

James Harrison spoke about the recent approval of the International Classification of External Causes of Injury (ICE-CI) which will be circulated early in the New Year with a discussion document. WHO's acceptance provides international recognition of this classification system and has taken over ten years to achieve.

James also reported on a new injury severity measure based on ICD 10 codes involving threat to life. The aim of the project is to develop more meaningful indicators and the report is currently in-press. A short presentation was given to brief SIPP on NISU's contribution to the population survey tool known as Computer - Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI); Injury Risk Factors, Attitudes and Awareness. The final issue discussed was a new report about Aboriginal Injury mortality. Further information about the work of NISU is available at : <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/index.php>

Northern Territory

The Secretariat reported that the representative for the NT, Dr Tarun Weeramanthri has been promoted to the position of Principal Medical Adviser in the NT Department of Health and Community Services. Tarun will inform SIPP of the new NT representative once appointed. Members suggested that a letter of thanks and congratulations be sent to Tarun.

Development of Priorities for a new National Injury Prevention Plan

The National Injury Surveillance Unit (NISU) has written a discussion paper for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to identify options and potential priority issues for the next National Injury Prevention Plan. It was previously agreed that Jurisdictions would use the draft options document to generate discussion with stakeholders within their constituency. A proforma has now been developed and distributed to Members to use throughout the consultation phase that is currently underway in the Jurisdictions and Department of Health and Ageing.

Site visit to the Victorian Coroners Office

Members attended a site visit to the Victorian Coroners Office where a discussion was held with Dr Graeme Johnston and a demonstration was given by officers of the Monash University National Centre for Coronial Information (MUNCCI).





Workforce Issues

SIPP members previously gave in-principle support for the injury workforce project based at the University of WA and funded through the Commonwealth under the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP Innovations Round 2) to increase the capacity of the injury prevention workforce. As part of this project three short courses were held in WA, NSW and Qld in 2003. An injury prevention short course was held in Brisbane in November. The course was well received with participants providing positive feedback.

Joint projects

Members previously agreed to auspice the National Poisons Prevention Initiative, a joint project between the Injury Surveillance and Control Unit from the South Australian Department of Human Services and the Injury Prevention section of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The project aims to assess the child resistance of pharmaceutical products sold in non-reclosable packaging in Australia and has recently completed a literature review as part of the first progress report for the project.

WHO Initiative for Guidelines for injury and violence prevention

The NSW representative reported on the outcomes of the World Health Organisation (WHO) meeting attended on 23-24 October 2003, in Geneva to develop the future configuration and intention of country plans for violence and injury prevention.

World Health Day – 4th April 2004

World Health Day will be held on 4th April 2004 and will have a road safety theme. Members discussed how they could support World Health Day 2004 by linkages to jurisdictional activities. Further information about World Health Day is available from the WHO website at: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/en/>

Future meetings

SIPP first meeting date for 2004 is:

- 3 and 4 March 2004 face to face meeting in Sydney.

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

