



COMMUNIQUE

25-26 NOVEMBER 2004 MEETING

The 14th Meeting of the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership was held in Sydney on 25-26 November 2004. Members attending the meeting were Rod McClure (Co-Chair), James Harrison (AIHW), Rebecca Mitchell (NSW), Michael Tilse (QLD), Nicola Rabôt (VIC), Nicole Bennett (WA), Steven Skov (NT), and Richard Franklin (AIPN). John Wunsch (Consumer Safety Unit, Treasury) attended on the 25 November 2004. Also in attendance was Annamaree Reisch (representing Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing) and Samantha Diplock (SIPP Secretariat).

Apologies were received from Jackie Steele (Co-Chair), Rae Scott (Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing), Ron Somers (SA), Maureen O'Brien (ACT), Stan Bordeaux (TAS), and Sandy Brinsdon (NZ).

CATI & CATI-TRG/SIPP Meeting

A joint Computer Assisted Telephone Interview – Technical Reference Group (CATI-TRG) and SIPP workshop was held in Adelaide on 21 October 2004. CATI is providing small modules (consisting of approximately 6 questions) of data items for inclusion in the National Health Data Dictionary (NHDD), and SIPP has been invited to work with CATI-TRG to develop a short injury module. SIPP will initiate an Injury Prevention Population Survey Interest Group (IPPSIG) to promote discussion and collaboration on the development and use of population surveys to support injury prevention in Australia.

National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004-2014

The name of the new national plan has been changed to '*The National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan – 2004 Onwards*' (the Plan). A revised draft of the Plan (incorporating agreed changes from the National Workshop held in Canberra on 5 November) was considered. Members agreed upon some changes to be made prior to submitting the Plan to the National Public Health Partnership (NPHP) for endorsement at its meeting on 20 January 2005. It will then be submitted to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) and the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) for endorsement¹. The Plan is expected to be publicly released in May 2005. Members agreed that consultation will be required to develop the Implementation Plan and that this should commence after the Plan is submitted to the NPHP for endorsement.

¹ The *National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004-2014* was endorsed by the NPHP on 20 January 2005. It will be submitted to the AHMAC for endorsement in March 2005, and to the AHMC for endorsement in April 2005. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be publicly released in May 2005.





Feedback received in Jurisdictions on the Draft National Injury Prevention Plan

Members reported on feedback received in their jurisdictions through consultation activities associated with the Draft National Injury Prevention Plan. Concerns included that the Plan was not wholistic, adults were not a priority group, CALD groups did not receive sufficient recognition, and there was confusion as to why alcohol was included. Many of the concerns raised in jurisdictions have since been addressed. A document will be prepared by SIPP as a means of providing feedback to stakeholders.

Public Health Education Research Program (PHERP) Presentation

Dr Suzanne McEvoy (assisted by Tracey Bruce) provided a brief presentation on the PHERP online injury unit supported by SIPP. Two courses have been developed: a 2 day short course (focusing on health promotion) and a single semester online course (focusing on epidemiology, implementation and evaluation). Feedback from students has been positive. Scholarships are available for rural and remote people interested in doing the courses. An Indigenous scholarship is also available. SIPP is assisting to fund a work placement initiative which is a practical 8-10 week placement for students who have completed the course. A stipend of approximately \$7500 is available. A falls module is also currently being developed. The Australian Government, through the National Falls Prevention for Older People Initiative, contributed an additional \$150,000 to expand this module to include a stronger focus on falls prevention.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy

A National Symposium to further develop the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy* will be held in Canberra on 2 December 2004. The Strategy is expected to be finalised after this consultation process and submitted to the NPHP, AHMAC, and AHMC with the *National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004-2014*².

Evaluation Report of the National Injury Prevention Plan 2001-2003

The *Evaluation of the National Injury Prevention Plan: Priorities for 2001-2003 and National Injury Prevention Plan: Priorities for 2001-2003 Implementation Plan* is being printed. Copies will be available on the National Public Health Partnership (NPHP) and Department of Health and Ageing websites or by contacting the SIPP Secretariat.

Updates from jurisdictions

Members provided updates on their recent work.

NSW

- the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre has been awarded a \$2.35 million Capacity Building Grant in Population Health Research from NHMRC for addressing

² The *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy* was further developed based on the input of participants at the National Symposium. Suggestions made by the National Aboriginal and Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACHHO) were also incorporated. It has since been finalised and was endorsed by the NPHP on 20 January 2005. It will be submitted to the AHMAC for endorsement in March 2005, and to the AHMC for endorsement in April 2005. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be publicly released in May 2005.





injury in a population health framework – an integrated approach to prevention, acute care and rehabilitation. The partnership involves researchers from the University of New South Wales, University of Sydney, NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre UNSW, The George Institute USyd, The Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute UNSW, School of Public Health and Community Medicine UNSW, and the Rehabilitation Studies Unit, USyd. Further information on the program can be obtained from Prof Caroline Finch (NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre) or Prof Mark Stevenson (The George Institute).

- the Triage Injury Surveillance Project is examining whether free-text entered by emergency department triage staff could be used for injury surveillance in NSW.
- an interagency forum on community safety was held in NSW on 8 November 2004. Opportunities for interagency collaboration were discussed across different sectors ie. putting together New Ways of Doing Business: Two Ways Together into practice.
- a NSW Country Road Safety Summit was held in NSW in May 2004. 137 recommendations arose from the Summit and the Government Agencies Road Safety (GARS) Council will be the coordinating body for the implementation of the NSW Country Road Safety Summit recommendations.
- a non-mandatory technical specification has been prepared for vehicle devices to reduce the risk to young pedestrians from reversing motor vehicles. It will be forwarded to the Motor Accidents Authority, Department of Transport and Road Safety, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Aftermarket Automotive Association and Standards Australia.
- the Mobility for Older People Taskforce is coordinated via Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, with taskforce members including a mix of government and non-government representatives. The Taskforce aims to recommend short and longer-term strategies and actions within existing agency budgets in response to four sub-areas (which each have a working party): mobility for older people in the built environment, older drivers, physical activity for older people and motorised transport options.

VIC

- research in poisoning looking at barriers and promoters to safety practices has been completed.
- tenders for a communication strategy for research outcomes (targeting groups including parents, grandparents, CALD and low SES groups) are currently being assessed.
- the State Coroner's Office has made a recommendation that personal flotation devices be made mandatory for recreational boaters (to be worn when boat in motion). This issues has been taken up by Marine Safety Victoria and will soon be considered by Parliament.
- the Safe Smart Homes booklet produced under the SafeStart initiative is to be distributed Statewide. The booklet contains a range of safety tips to avoid child injury in the home and has been translated into other languages.
- numerous partnership opportunities had been identified in Victoria by the SafeStart demonstration sites with very positive outcomes. An example involved Bunnings Warehouse running safety sessions in the Dandenong area.
- Supplementary funding grants are being considered for two of the original SafeStart demonstration sites to develop best practice guidelines for injury prevention at a local

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level and to evaluate and refine an injury prevention resource for intellectually disabled parents.

- Injury Prevention week went well, and the VIC Safe communities Network (VSCN) held a 1 day conference (with a practitioner focus) in November. The possibility of running this next year in Injury Prevention Week and expanding it to be available nationally are being explored.

QLD

- a partnership is being developed with Council of the Ageing (COTA). This involves providing information to be passed on, discussions around training, and examining ways of working together. COTA advised that the website was a useful way of providing information and the falls website is consequently being upgraded.
- draft guidelines have been developed to link injury prevention work with health impact assessment work, and these are currently being progressed through EnHealth.
- information is currently being collected on injuries in child care centres and a small scale child injury prevention social marketing campaign is being developed for the Child Injury Prevention Project in Mount Isa and Mackay.
- the Draft Water Safety Plan is currently with the Premier and Cabinet, and discussions as to where responsibility lies are taking place.
- the CHIP Program is proceeding well with strengthened networks through all parts of DES (including the Ambulance Service, Fire Service and Rescue Service).

WA

- the Injury Prevention Branch has released some information on business directions for 2004-2005. Initiatives include community injury prevention in drowning prevention, seniors falls prevention, childrens falls prevention and violence related issues, and policy development in seniors falls, drowning prevention and investigation on the feasibility of a state injury prevention framework. Further information can be found at http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Promotion/injury_prevention.cfm
- the Falls Prevention in Older People Learning Circles has been completed, and a series of documents to further the seniors falls prevention work has been released. A social marketing campaign for seniors falls prevention to support community education activities is being developed.
- services have been contracted to address children's falls prevention. These include Child Safe Play Areas in Rural Western Australia – Children's Falls (Farmsafe WA), The Cost of Children's Falls (Injury Research Centre), and Causes of Prevention of product-related (including furniture) falls in Children (Injury Research Centre).
- The Western Australian Water Safety Framework 2004-2007 was released in Drowning Prevention Week 25-29 October 2004. Drowning prevention programs contracted include the *Keep Watch Toddler Drowning Program* (Royal Life Saving WA), *Look after your Mates Surfing and Risk Management* (Paraplegic Benefit Fund), and *What are you Diving Into, Children and Drowning Prevention* (Paraplegic Benefit Fund).
- services contracted in relation to violence-related injury include the Cost of Intentional Injury (Injury Research Centre), An Epidemiology of Violent Victimization in the Pilbara and Kimberley Regions (Injury Research Centre), and Specific project research

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advice to the Injury Prevention Branch, Population Health Units, and Non-Government Organisations.

NT

- injury prevention is gaining a greater presence in NT, and recent consultation workshops for the National Plan have been particularly useful for engaging interested agencies and individuals.
- Steven Skov is now on the Road Safety Council.

AUST GOVT (Department of Health and Ageing)

- a report on sports injury has recently been published and is available on the Department of Health and Ageing website.
- the Falls Conference held in Sydney, opened by the Minister for Health and Ageing, attracted almost 500 participants, and increased the profile of the National Falls Prevention for Older People Initiative.
- a tender for raising awareness of falls prevention in older people, in the top five CALD groups in Australia was recently advertised.
- a Consumer Falls Prevention Booklet is expected to be launched by the Minister soon.

AIPN

- the Injury Prevention Conference held in Mackay in September was successful, and feedback was very positive. In particular, it was noted that the conference brought researchers and practitioners together.
- Chris Costa will take over presidency of the AIPN for a 2 year period commencing on 1 January 2005, and will replace Richard Franklin as the AIPN representative on SIPP.
- The AIPN website is currently being improved, with a listserv for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues to be added.
- the next Injury Prevention conference will be held by the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre in 2006.

NISU

- a publication titled *Descriptive Epidemiology of Traumatic Fractures in Australia, and Spinal Cord Injury, Australia 2002-03* has been released.
- a publication titled *Reported injury mortality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, 1997-2000* is due to be released on 1 December 2004.
- a report on Injury Mortality for 2002 will be released in January 2005.
- other recent activities have included providing statistical data and associated information for the National Plans currently being developed.
- input into the next ICD-10-AM is being finalised.
- a new website is being developed of the National Injury Surveillance Unit.

Future Meetings

The next meeting is to be held via teleconference on 11 February 2005.





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