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Landmines: 'a weapon of mass destruction in slow motion'

James Harrison, NISU

Landmines linger long after wars end. Something like a hundred million mines are in place in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique and a couple of dozen other countries. While data are scanty, many thousands of people are

injured by mines each year (a recent estimate from the US State Department is 26,000 persons killed or maimed). In some regions, the presence of mines causes much of the agricultural land to be left idle. Removal of mines is slow and dangerous - substantial programs are able to clear only a few square kilometres per year. In contrast, mines can be laid quickly and cheaply, sometimes from the air.

International conventions have begun to address landmines, albeit in a limited way. The 1980 Convention on Inhumane Weapons prohibits the indiscriminate use of mines, and their use against civilians. Only 49 countries have signed the convention, and it is deficient in many areas. For example, it lacks mechanisms to monitor and control manufacture of mines, and trade in them.

The Convention is being reviewed. A formal review conference will be held in September 1995 in Vienna. In the debate leading up to the conference several positions have emerged. Non-government organisations, including the Land Mines Network, call for a complete ban on all anti-personnel land mines. Military personnel, at least in some developed countries, argue for a ban on traditional long-lasting 'dumb' mines, while seeing a place for well-controlled use of more sophisticated mines. These new mines will, for example, automatically

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3rd International Injury Conference: a note from Pam Albany

Dear Colleagues,

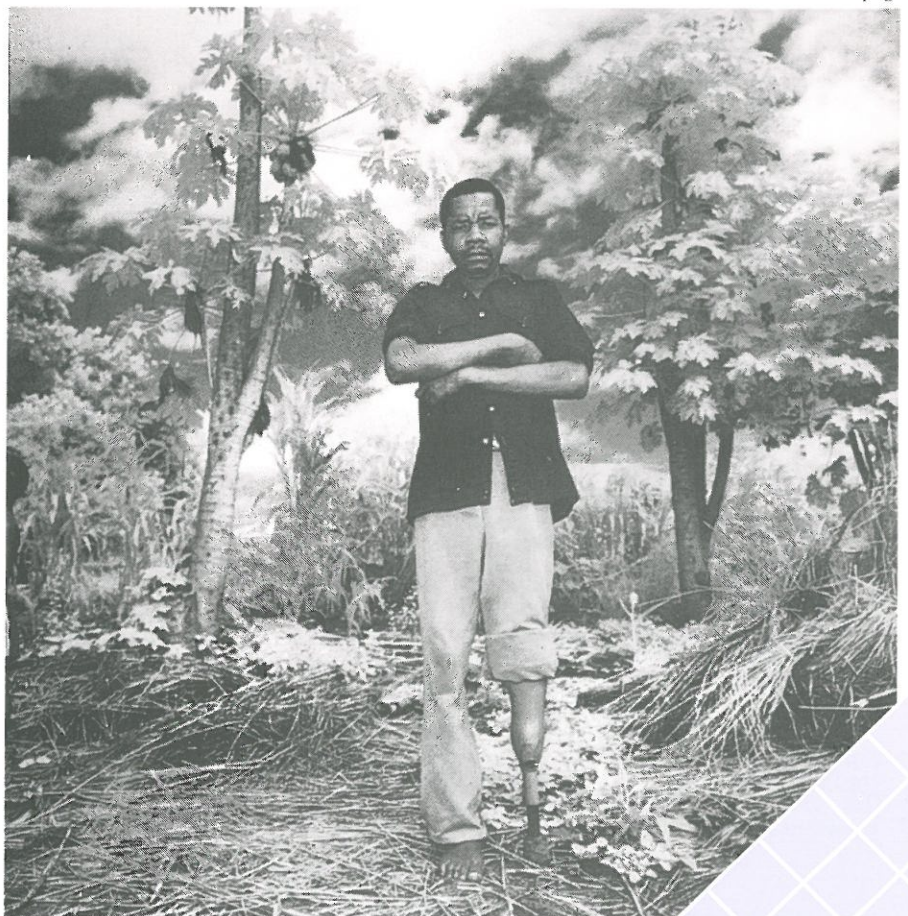
By now you will have received the registration brochure for the Third International Conference on Injury Prevention and Control which will be held in Melbourne in February 1996. The conference represents an opportunity for professional development and information exchange that is unlikely to come Australia's way again for decades. It comes with a broad range of associated meetings, training programs, technical site visits and an informative exhibition. In fact, it will be a challenge to ensure that you derive maximum benefit from the extraordinary range of options: associated meetings and concurrent symposia, oral sessions and round tables. Even if you are not contributing to the conference by making a presentation, you can contribute to round table discussions and symposium debates.

It is time to make your plans to attend NOW. Australians who would find a letter of invitation to participate in any of the round table sessions appearing on the preliminary program helpful in ensuring their attendance should call or fax Helen Gordon Clarke at Convention Network (Tel: 03 9646 4122; Fax: 03 9646 7737) specifying the relevant round table session/s.

Please call me on (08) 374 0970 if you have any queries about the meeting. I look forward to meeting you all in Melbourne.

Pam Albany, Conference Coordinator

Landmines are attractive to armed forces. Conventional military doctrine holds that mines have specific applications, principally as obstacles to advancing forces. Without mines, according to this view, defence would be more expensive and dangerous. Much of the current problem with mines results from internal wars, often involving guerilla or non-governmental forces. Here, the cheapness of mines has encouraged their use in other ways, sometimes directed against civilian populations.



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self-destruct and deactivate after a short period of deployment.

Current indications are that the review conference will agree to extend the Convention to apply to internal conflicts, to ban non-detectable mines (ie mines with a very low metal content), and to ban remotely delivered long-lived mines (eg 'dumb' mines dropped from aircraft).

The Australian government plans to argue for additional provisions to ban all long-lived mines, to introduce trade constraints, to encourage information exchange, and to establish a commission and fact finding missions to verify compliance with the Convention. Some other governments (Sweden, Belgium, Ireland, Cambodia and several more) have indicated their support for complete prohibition of landmines.

We will report on the outcome of the September Conference in a future issue of the *Monitor*.

Further information:

- Landmines will be the subject of a session at the Third International Conference on Injury Prevention and Control in February 1996.
- Sister Patricia Pak Poy, Co-ordinator, Land Mines Network, GPO Box 2602, Adelaide SA 5001 Tel: (08) 210 8172; Fax: (08) 231 5175.
- Medical Association for the Prevention of War (Australia), 215 Brougham Place, North Adelaide, Tel: (08) 275 1751.
- Henry Fox, Disarmament Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tel: (06) 261 3528.

AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY OF INJURY CONTROL PERSONNEL

July 1995



Australian Institute of Health & Welfare
NATIONAL INJURY SURVEILLANCE UNIT

Directory of Personnel

Sporting a new blue cover, the second edition of the *Australian Directory of Injury Control Personnel* is now available.

Copies of the Directory are available from NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: nisu@flinders.edu.au

AIHW Has Moved

On 24 July 1995 The Australian Institute of Health & Welfare moved to a new address. The Institute's contact details are now as follows:

6A Traeger Court, Fern Hill Park
Bruce ACT 2617
Telephone: (06) 244 1000
Facsimile: (06) 244 1299
GPO Box is same as before:
GPO Box 570 Canberra ACT 2601

Coronial Information System

Past issues of the *Monitor* have reported on efforts to establish a national coronial information system (NCIS) and an update on progress seems to be due.

The push for establishing an NCIS continues to gain momentum. During April, the Australian Coroner's Society (ACS) held its annual national conference in Darwin at which it endorsed the findings of the feasibility study jointly undertaken by NISU and Worksafe in 1994. The ACS resolved to actively pursue the establishment of an NCIS through steps such as setting up a working party to produce an implementation plan and timetable for development of an NCIS; approaches to all State/Territory Attorneys-General enlisting their support; and approaches to anticipated major users seeking their participation in a future steering committee.

Gaining the commitment of Australian coroners for an NCIS has been fundamental to the success of this venture. Coroners, as the collective owners of such a system, have readily recognised the many benefits of improving the accessibility of coronial information and are now actively engaged in making an NCIS become a reality.

The Department of Human Services and Health (HS&H) has made a grant of \$40,000 to commence implementation in 1995/96. A project plan is being developed in collaboration with the ACS.

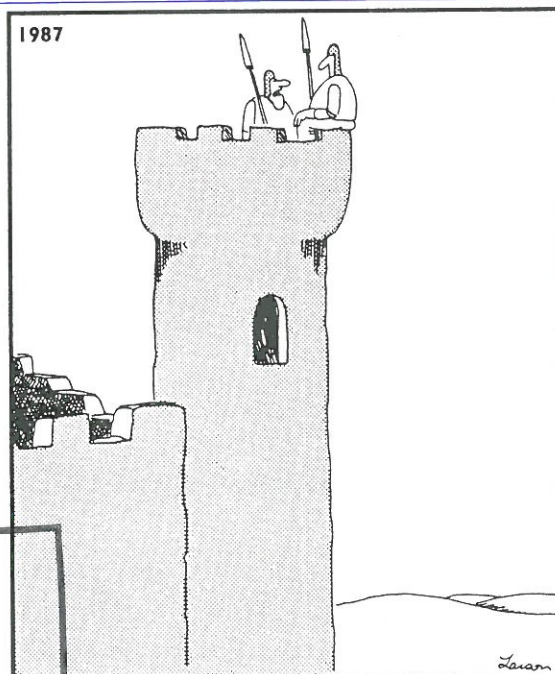
For further information about the proposed system, contact Jerry Moller at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602.

Spinal Injuries Report

Copies of a report, *A Review of the Needs and Opportunities for the Surveillance of Spinal Cord Injury*, which details the outcomes of a study commissioned by NISU, are now available. As was reported in *Monitor* 6, the findings of this study have led to the establishment of a national registration system for spinal cord injury (SCI). The register, which is being developed in cooperation with Australia's six spinal units, will provide information on causation, characteristics of the patients admitted with spinal cord injury, patient case management, as well as social and environmental factors that is essential for the development of appropriate interventions. National registration of cases began on 1 July 1995.

For further information about the Register, or for a copy of the report, contact Raymond Cripps at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: ray.cripps@nisu.flinders.edu.au

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"Mom said no sitting on the edge, Wayne."

National Health Goals and Targets

It is not just the target that is important - the journey taken is paramount

Richard Eccles
Health Outcomes Taskforce Branch
Commonwealth Department of Human
Services and Health, Canberra

Two recent decisions of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) have rendered timely some form of stocktake of where we are going with National Health Goals and Targets. At its meeting in October 1994, AHMAC agreed to concentrate effort in implementing strategies designed to realise change in terms of the four identified priority areas (of which injury prevention and control is one area). Secondly, they agreed to the establishment of a national overseeing committee to monitor and report on progress towards the set targets.

In response to this activity, the new Health Goals and Targets Section has set about speaking to States and Territories about the best means to move forward on national goals and targets. One universal theme has been the need to refocus the emphasis of goals and targets. To date, much emphasis has been placed on *progress* towards targets set, and this is vital if we are to gain a picture of Australia's health status. However, of

paramount importance is the need to understand what works or, in other words, to identify what activity in the health sector represents optimum practice likely to effect change.

Herein lies the new emphasis of the national goals and targets activity. This new emphasis is also reflected in recent structural changes in the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health. The creation of a new Health Outcomes Taskforce (within which the new Health Goals and Targets Section resides) reflects the recognition that goals and targets cannot be divorced from efforts to improve health status, and improvement in health status can be achieved through identification and sharing, at the national level, information on best practice.

A Better Health Outcomes overseeing Committee, containing representation from all States and Territories, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Commonwealth, and the National Health and Medical Research Council, has been established to oversee this process and to facilitate exchange of information at the national level. It will also act as a forum to consistently and

regularly review relevant activity. If real change is to occur, it is vital to keep goals and targets strategies flexible and with a process in place for regular review. Without this, the strategies and targets will quickly lose relevance to policy setting at all levels of government.

Of course, integral to all the above is appropriate and well coordinated national data - and in terms of injury prevention and control, NISU will continue to play a major role - not only in monitoring incidence of injury, but assisting in understanding what works best, through countermeasure assessment and data analysis.

Exhibition at the Third International Conference on Injury Prevention and Control

Exhibitions are one of the main draw cards at conferences. They are places for meeting people, picking up ideas and gaining recognition in your own field. The international conference provides an opportunity for your program, community, research group or organisation to gain a profile in the international injury prevention environment. A significant way to do this is to purchase a booth at the conference. The exhibition will be held central to the World Congress Centre, in the area where all lunches, tea breaks and poster sessions will be held. Most people will have to pass through the exhibit area to go to sessions. A number of organisations around Australia, and in other countries, have bought a booth, and the best spaces are going fast. There will be an award for the best exhibit at the conference and an incentive system for encouraging delegates to attend every exhibit. Purchasing a booth also includes one free conference registration.

Why not discuss this as a possible venture with your colleagues today and then call Nadine Hutchins at Convention Network, Tel: (03) 9646 4122; Fax: (03) 9646 7737; email: mscarlet@peg.apc.org

Road Injury in Australia 1991

This report contains information on road injury hospital separations and deaths for 1991. It presents tabulations and some descriptive commentary on a range of factors including age, sex, road user type, nature and body region of injury, injury severity, length of stay in hospital and State/Territory.

Data on hospital separations were provided by State/Territory health authorities through the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare. Fatality data were provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Some of the more interesting findings are:

1. In 1991 more than 1 in every 10,000 Australians were killed in road crashes and more than 20 in every 10,000 were admitted to hospital.
2. Between 1990 and 1991 there was a 10% reduction in the age-standardised road injury hospital separation and fatality rates. The extent of the reduction increased with increasing injury severity. Motorcyclists were the only road user group whose separation rate did not decline.
3. The number of separations for male motorcyclists exceeded, by a third, the number of separations for the known high risk group of young male drivers in the 15-29 age group. (This has not been shown elsewhere in the Australian road safety literature.)
4. Head injury separation rates were highest in occupants of motor vehicles and pedal cyclists, especially in males. Spinal injury was predominantly a feature of motorised transport (vehicle occupants and motorcyclists).
5. The road user group with the highest average length of stay in hospital (ALOS) was pedestrians (12 days). Pedal cyclists had the lowest ALOS (3.7 days). ALOS was greatest for spinal (14 days) and lower extremity injury (13 days).

The report has now been released.

For further information, contact Peter O'Connor at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: peter.oconnor@nisu.flinders.edu.au

'Casemix' and the treatment of vehicle injury cases

Hospital funding in several States is now based on a 'casemix' system. Every case is given a code, called an AN-DRG. Each AN-DRG is intended to identify a group of cases which all cost about the same amount to treat. Government payment to a hospital is related to the mix of different types of cases that it treats (ie to its 'casemix').

A project was initiated under NISU's Road Injury Information Program to contribute to an understanding of the potential effects of 'casemix' on the level of reimbursement provided to hospitals for the treatment of vehicle injury cases. This project, undertaken in conjunction with KPMG Management Consulting, has now yielded a report, *Examination of length of stay differences of vehicle injury and other separations within diagnosis related groups*.

Length of hospital stay is often used as an index of the approximate level of resource consumption for an episode of care. To the extent that it models costs well, comparison of the length of stay of

different separation sub-groups within AN-DRGs provides information on the relative level of resource consumption. Where 'casemix' provides for a fixed payment for an AN-DRG, with the level of the payment reflecting the average resources consumed, sub-groups having a higher length of stay than the average could be relatively poorly reimbursed in relation to the resources consumed in treatment and sub-groups having a lower length of stay would be relatively well reimbursed.

An important impetus for the study was the results of US research which suggested that the US DRG-based prospective payment system was inadequate to cover the hospital costs of injured patients due in part to prolonged length of stay.

Data on length of stay was collected on all separations over the period July to December 1992 from six South Australian public hospitals (75,877 separations). Vehicle injury separations were, at 1.4%, not an insignificant pro-

portion of all separations. Overall, their average length of stay was substantially higher than separations from other causes.

The study showed that where 'casemix' prescribes a fixed payment which reflects the average resources consumed at AN-DRG level, vehicle injury separations could be substantially under-reimbursed compared to other separations in a number of AN-DRGs and slightly over-reimbursed in a smaller number of AN-DRGs. Payment for length of stay outliers could modify this.

The report recommends further examination of the funding of trauma under 'casemix'. It has been submitted to the Australian Casemix Clinical Committee for consideration of its implications during revision of Australian casemix groups.

For further information, contact Peter O'Connor at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: peter.oconnor@nisu.flinders.edu.au

Some changes in the Capital ...

Since 1993, the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health (DHS&H) has had an Injury Prevention and Control Unit.

Well ... in Canberra these days, people commonly don't occupy the same seats, or wear the same hats, for prolonged periods. Time has brought with it changes to the way in which injury is being tackled within the DHS&H, and to the line-up of workers engaged in this task. DHS&H has kindly supplied us with some details of these changes to keep interested *Monitor* readers up to date:

Just before Easter, the Secretary of the Department of Human Services and Health announced a further restructuring of the Department to take effect from May 1995. Among a variety of changes, responsibility for injury prevention and control was transferred to a new Public Health Division (PHD). The Division is headed by Dr Tony Adams, who also retains responsibilities as the Department's Chief Medical Adviser.

The changes also saw Richard Eccles relinquish his position as Director of the Injury Prevention and Control Section, with Dr Peter Gray taking over as Section head. Erin Cassell, Mary Sexton and Ileen Boogs remain in the section, but Rebecca Hilton has sought 'greener pastures' with a move to the Department of Finance. The Section is now located within the PHD's Environmental Health and Safety Unit, which has Dr Brian Priestly as its Scientific Director.

Despite the disruptions, the Section continues to be involved in a variety of activities related to the strategies for injury prevention and control identified in the *Better Health Outcomes for Australians* document.

In June, a successful seminar was organised in Canberra as part of a consultancy looking at risk behaviours, among young people, with a particular emphasis on road accidents. The final report of the consultancy is expected in August.

The Department has been working with the Federal Office of Road Safety in relation to support for a new committee to replace the National Road Trauma Advisory Council, and with the Australian Sports Commission to ensure that the Sports Injury Prevention Task Force can operate effectively.

Continuation of support for NISU has been negotiated, and there is ongoing work with NISU with regard to the Third International Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, for which the Department is the major sponsor.

Pedestrian safety report

In 1994 the National Road Trauma Advisory Council (NRTAC) decided to embark on an examination of issues associated with pedestrian safety. The aim was not to undertake any original research, but to review existing material dealing with current programs, countermeasures and strategies, and determine whether they may be more widely applicable. The outcomes of this review are described in a report published in June 1995, *Pedestrian Safety Report*. The report contains a number of recommendations on such things as the timing of pedestrian phases at crossings; the use of road safety audits; and reductions in urban speed limits on non-arterial roads.

For further information contact Wendy Key at the Federal Office of Road Safety, Tel: (06) 274 7132; Fax: (06) 274 7922.

NRTAC

The term of the National Road Trauma Advisory Council (NRTAC) ended on 30 June 1995. Following a review, the Federal Government has decided to create the Australian Advisory Committee on Road Trauma to build on the foundations and linkages established by NRTAC. This new group will report to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and the Standing Committee on Road Safety. It will comprise members from trauma treatment and road safety areas. Further details on the Committee are unavailable at this time. Its development and operations will be reported in a future edition of the *Monitor*.

Inquiry into effect of drugs on road safety

The all-party Parliamentary Road Safety Committee in Victoria recently announced an extensive inquiry into the effects of drugs (other than alcohol) on road safety in that State. The Inquiry reflects a growing concern within government, police and road safety agencies about the incidence of drugs in a significant number of casualty crashes. The Committee's Chairman cited statistics indicating 22% of drivers killed on Victorian roads having shown drugs other than alcohol in their system, predominantly marijuana and amphetamines; and 49% have at least one drug and alcohol in their system.

A major focus of the inquiry will be the levels of driver impairment caused by both legal and illegal drugs. The Inquiry will examine the roles of enforcement and education, as well practices in overseas countries.

Announcement of the Inquiry was accompanied by the release of a report incorporating papers expressing a range of views by contributors with knowledge of the effects of drugs on road safety. The authors include a forensic pathologist, public hospital physician, pharmacologist, police personnel from Victoria, New South Wales and Los Angeles, a long distance truck driver, economists and others expert in this area. The purpose of publishing this report was to raise interest in the inquiry, and to stimulate and encourage submissions.

Submissions are now being sought and a series of public hearings in most capital cities is scheduled to commence late in 1995. For further information, contact Geoff Westcott, Executive Officer of the Road Safety Committee, Tel: (03) 9655 6644; Fax: (03) 9655 6858; email: parlrc@vicnet.net.au.

NISU Goes 'On-Line'

We are embarking on a project that will enable our clients to access NISU publications, data, discussion groups, etc. via that global computer network, the Internet. Whilst we intend publishing solely on the World WideWeb, most, if not all, the information will also be available for retrieval by electronic mail.

To help us develop as useful a resource as possible, we need your help in determining the look, feel and content of our World Wide Web site. If you have any suggestions or comments please contact Steve Trickey at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; email: steve.trickey@nisu.flinders.edu.au

The target date for going 'on-line' is 1 November 1995. Stay tuned for further announcements.

More Injury on the Internet

Monitor 6 reported on several injury-related services available to users of the Internet. Continuing this theme, we're listing a few more that may be of interest:

SafetyLine

Prevention advice related to workplace fatalities will be available on the Internet within days of an accident, through a new service known as SafetyLine. Established by the Western Australian Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (DOHSA), SafetyLine provides information on recent workplace deaths as they are being investigated by inspectors from the Department. It will also provide on-line access to a range of DOHSA information (eg prevention of manual handling injuries, chemical safety, workplace injury statistics, safety and health laws, codes of practice and publications that can be downloaded by users). It also provides links to other occupational health and safety information services around the world.

**The URL is : <http://yarrow.wt.com.au/~dohswa>
Further information about SafetyLine is available from Chris White in the WA Department of Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare, Tel: (09) 327 8700; Fax (09) 321 2148; email: dohswa@yarrow.wt.com.au**

MMWR

Those of you familiar with *MMWR* (Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report) published by the US Centers for Disease Control may like to know that it is also available on the Internet's World Wide Web. *MMWR*'s home page contains contents lists, provides direct access to the first paragraph of each article, and permits the downloading of files, each of which contains the formatted text of a complete issue. (These files are in .PDF format, which can be read with Adobe Acrobat reader software which is available free of charge on the Internet.)

Injury-related reports that have appeared in *MMWR* during past months have included items such as 'Eye Injuries to Agricultural Workers in Minnesota, 1992-93' and 'Fatal and Nonfatal Suicide Attempts Among Adolescents in Oregon, 1988-1993'.

**The URL is : http://www.crawford.com/cdc/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html
A 2-page document detailing instructions for accessing *MMWR* on the Internet, and obtaining the free reader software referred to above, is available from NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: rene.kreinfeld@nisu.flinders.edu.au**

British Medical Journal

The *BMJ* has taken to the Internet by releasing up-to-the-minute details of its contents. Presented is a selection of abstracts of published articles, as well as press releases prepared on subjects covered in the Journal.

The URL is : <http://www.bmj.com/bmj/>

Proposed reforms of gun ownership legislation

At a meeting of the Australasian Police Ministers Council in Hobart at the end of May, it was unanimously agreed that Australian Police Ministers will work towards greater uniformity in national gun laws. The Ministers established a working party to advise on achieving uniformity in important areas such as licensing, mail order sales, registration of handguns, gun storage and the sale of prohibited guns. The working party, which will be coordinated from Victoria, will report to the next Police Ministers meeting in November.

The Federal Justice Minister, Duncan Kerr, also announced at the meeting that the Federal Government would outlaw the importation of handguns that could be adapted to duplicate sub-machine guns, and would ban the importation of ammunition for which there is no reasonable private use. Such ammunition would include tracer, armour piercing, incendiary, explosive or frangible bullets.

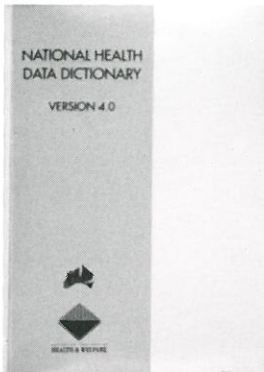
For further information about the Federal Government's plans in this regard, contact the Office of the Minister for Justice, Parliament House, Canberra, Fax: (06) 273 4136; Tel: (06) 277 7260.

Product liability

Those of our readers with an interest in legislative provisions for consumer protection in Australia shouldn't miss the July 1995 issue of *Choice*. The Australian Consumer's Association has, in its magazine, reviewed the impact of amendments made to the Trade Practices Act in July 1992 to include additional consumer protection measures.



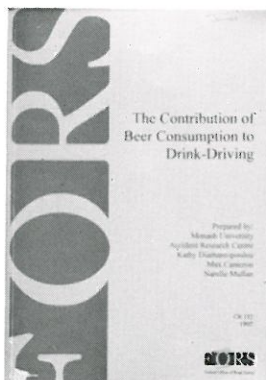
Something to read ...?



National Health Data Dictionary, Version 4.0

Published by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW), the *Dictionary* is a developing standard for national reporting of hospital admissions data. If you are considering developing any type of health data set, this publication is a good starting point. Version 4.0, released in June this year, has an extended coverage that goes beyond institutional health care to include definitions of the National Health Labour Force.

Copies are available from the AIHW at a cost of \$30.00. Contact: Alanah Smith, Publications Section, Tel: (06) 244 1031.



Contribution of Beer Consumption to Drink-Driving

Prepared by MUARC for the Federal Office of Road Safety. This is the report of a project which aimed to estimate the proportion of drink-drivers on the road in Victoria who had consumed beer re-

cently. The data collected were analysed in a way that allowed the role of beer to be estimated for crash-involved drink-drivers.

Copies of this publication are available from Margaret Smythe at FORS, Tel: (06) 274 7410.

The Effectiveness of Bicycle Helmets: a Review

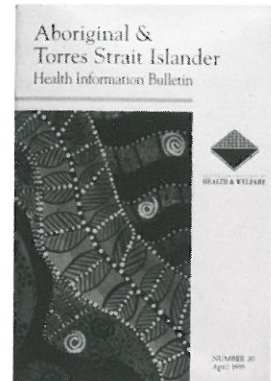
Prepared by Dr Michael Henderson, a well-known independent road injury researcher, for the Motor Accidents of Authority of NSW. This publication represents a review of biomechanical and epidemiological evidence in relation to the effectiveness of bicycle helmets in reducing injury.

Contact: Cheryl Northard at the Motor Accidents Authority, Tel: (02) 252 4677; Fax: (02) 252 4710.

An overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: present status and future trends

Prepared by Kuldeep Bhatia and Phil Anderson of the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, this information paper presents analysis of the ongoing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health collection of the AIHW to 1992. In addition, information was derived from a variety of different data sources to generate a comprehensive picture of the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The report, which costs \$5.00, is available from the AIHW. Contact: Alanah Smith, Publications Section, Tel: (06) 244 1031.



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Information Bulletin

Published twice yearly by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, the most recent issue of the *Bulletin* includes articles entitled 'Aboriginal health outcomes', 'Estimating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population 1986-1991 for States/Territories and Australia'; and 'Indicators for monitoring Aboriginal health'. It also includes excerpts from recent AIHW statistical updates that are relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

Contact: Alanah Smith, AIHW Publications Section, Tel: (06) 244 1031.

Product Related Injuries in Children: an Analysis of Childsafe NSW Data

The report presents a profile of injuries, including demographic characteristics, types of injuries sustained and mechanism by which the injury occurred. It also presents recommendations to improve the recognition of product related injuries and, more specifically, the prevention of injuries in each group.

Copies are available from Margaret Starr, NSW Health Department, Tel: (02) 391 9622; Fax (02) 391 9579.

Head and neck injuries in football: guidelines for prevention and management

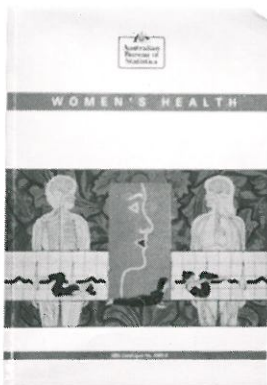
A pocket-sized guide, released by the NHMRC, contains easy to read information the management and prevention of



Something to read ...?

head and neck injuries in all the popular Australian codes of football; Australian Rules, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Soccer. The guide also contains an easy reference card for recognising concussion and spinal injury on the field for referees, umpires and coaches.

The publication is available through Commonwealth Government Bookshops at a cost of \$3.95.



Women's Health

In describing a range of issues relating to the health of Australian women, this comprehensive social report brings together a range of information from Australian Bureau of Statistics collections, as well as other sources such as the Department of Human Services and Health and the Australian Institute of Health and welfare.

Published by the ABS, this report of 264 pages costs \$30. Further information can be obtained by phoning ABS State Offices: ACT (06) 252 6627; NSW (02) 268 4611; NT (089) 43 2111; QLD (07) 222 6351; SA (08) 237 7100; TAS (002) 20 5800; VIC (03) 615 7756; WA (09) 359 5140. (Catalogue No. 4365.0)

Beyond the Maze: Proposals for More Effective Administration of Aboriginal Health Programs

Published jointly by the Central Aboriginal Congress in Alice Springs and the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the ANU, this document examines some of the complex issues associated with attempts to im-

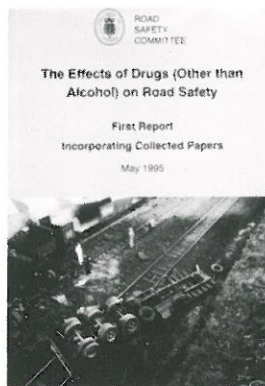
prove the health status of Aboriginal Australians. The paper proposes a program of initiatives directed at rationalising the administration of Aboriginal health funding and towards providing much-needed back-up support to the community-controlled sector of Aboriginal health care delivery.

For further information, contact Jenny Braid at NCEPH, Tel: (06) 249 2378. (Working Paper No. 34 in the NCEPH Series.)

Western Australian Child Health Survey

This publication presents the results of a large-scale epidemiological study of the health and well-being of Western Australian children aged 4 to 16 years conducted in 1993. The study was conducted by the Institute of Child Health in WA in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Copies of the report are available at a cost of \$35.00 including postage. Further information can be obtained by phoning ABS State Offices: ACT (06) 252 6627; NSW (02) 268 4611; NT (089) 43 2111; QLD (07) 222 6351; SA (08) 237 7100; TAS (002) 20 5800; VIC (03) 615 7756; WA (09) 359 5140. (Catalogue No. 4303.5)



Effects of Drugs (Other than Alcohol) on Road Safety

Produced as part of a Victorian Parliamentary inquiry, this 260 page report incorporates 13 papers contributed by a range of people with a knowledge of the

effects of drugs on road safety. (For additional details, see the article 'Inquiry into Effects of Drugs on Road Safety' on p 5.)

For further information, contact Geoff Westcott, Tel: (03) 9655 6644; Fax: (03) 9655 6858; email: parlrsc@vicnet.net.au



Stop, Look and Listen: Future Directions of Road Safety for Young People

Published by Queensland Transport, this is the report of an investigation into the road safety needs of 12-18 year olds in Queensland.

For further information, contact John Lee in the Land Transport and Safety Division of Queensland Transport, Tel: (07) 834 8162; Fax (07) 834 8111.

Scalds Prevention Manual

The NSW Department of Public Health has recently published a manual detailing all the principal methods of preventing accidental hot water tap scalds in the home. It also covers the safety policy of the NSW Health Department, the requirements of relevant authorities and draws on the expertise of Public Works and Industry. The manual is aimed at all sections of the building industry (including plumbers, engineers, architects, planners and building managers), as well as the users of buildings.

The manual costs \$40.00 (including postage and handling). Contact Michael Otes, C/- State Projects, GPO Box 5280, Sydney NSW 2001.

Report from Rural Road Safety Conference

A Rural Road Safety Conference held in Albury/Wodonga on 21-22 April brought together experts from a wide range of disciplines involved in road safety and road trauma treatment. Road trauma specialists, law enforcers, health professionals, ambulance officers, regional local government and Aboriginal community representatives were amongst those who participated.

The Conference, which was organised by the National Road Trauma Advisory Council (NRTAC), was held in response to the obvious size and seriousness of the rural road injury problem. For example, it was reported that up to 62% of road fatalities occur outside metropolitan areas and that the risks of fatal crashes are higher in country than in city

areas. The chance of dying instantaneously or before receiving medical attention is also higher in rural areas. The Conference addressed the issue by calling for a national approach to reduce road trauma in rural Australia. [It was noted that some States and Territories had already introduced strategies which appear to have had a marked effect on rural road trauma (eg rural fatalities in Victoria have fallen by 50% since 1990)].

Specifically, NRTAC is asking Governments to consider implementing a package of 21 measures to reduce trauma on country roads. These measures encompass strategies such as the following:

- that rest facilities be provided at critical areas on country roads which carry long distance traffic;
- that field triage, communication and response to road trauma be examined on a national level to deliver better patient outcomes
- that the unique problems of remote Australian should be acknowledged by developing programs with Aboriginal communities to address specific problems for their communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be closely involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of road safety programs.

Further details are obtainable from Alison Cooper at the NRTAC Secretariat, Tel: (06) 274 7422; Fax: (06) 274 7922.

Preventing Scalds

Pam Albany
NISU

Way back in August 1993, *Monitor 2* reported on a three-year NSW Health Department program aimed at reducing the incidence and severity of scald injury. Since then, other States have also become active in initiating activities to combat this type of injury. The table below reports on the status of scalds prevention programs in the various States and Territories. This information was gleaned from a recent teleconference of injury prevention workers involved with this issue. The teleconference, initiated by Kidsafe Australia, provided the opportunity for an exchange of information about State programs, including the specific issues focussed on, the types of interventions used, and the evaluation indicators chosen.

Many of the programs have focussed on encouraging members of the plumbing industry to recognise that hot water, when delivered to residential ablution areas at temperatures exceeding 50°C has the potential to cause significant scalding. Other groups targeted have been the parents of young children and the community health personnel who have a high level of contact with these parents. Of course, while the education programs go on, other agendas are being enacted. Foremost are the moves being made within the water authorities in each State to divest themselves of regulation arrangements. Currently, negotiations are being entered into to move the responsibility for the Plumbing Code of Australia from State water authorities to local government, by making it a component of the Building Code of Australia. This development has implications for possible future building requirements to have temperature limiting devices incorporated into hot water services in residential buildings.

There was agreement among those participating in the teleconference that the focus of future prevention programs should be the water temperature at the point of delivery. (A requirement to limit the storage temperature of hot water creates problems for householders and industry alike.)

Some uncertainties were expressed in relation to the future development of effective injury prevention policy in this area. These included the uncertain effectiveness of current technology for temperature limiting devices, both at the outlet point and between the storage tank and delivery point; regional differences in arrangements for the delivery of electricity for hot water; competition between suppliers of energy for hot water heating; the issue of hot water system replacement and costs associated with upgrading existing systems; concerns about common misconceptions concerning legionella activity in water at certain temperatures; and the perennial problems caused by the widespread belief that the only route to scalds prevention is through careful parental supervision.

A paper entitled 'Support for specified hot water temperatures' was recently drafted for the Australian Standards Committee (AS3500.4) by Stan Wesley, Senior Engineer in the State Projects Division of the NSW Department of Public Works. The paper discusses a number of the issues surrounding the hot water storage debate and draws attention to the problems associated with establishing Australian standards in conjunction with New Zealand. (There are important differences between the two countries' policies with respect to this issue.)

Copies of the paper by Stan Wesley are available from Renate Kreisfeld at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: renete.kreisfeld@nisu.flinders.edu.au

Overview of Australian State and Territory initiatives to reduce the incidence and severity of scalds (as at July 1995)

State	Program description	Contact
New South Wales	<p>A three phase program: Phase 1 commenced in September 1992 targeting all scalds; Phase 2 commenced July 1994 targeting hot tap water scalds; Phase 3 commencing 1995 targeting hot tap water scalds. The third phase of the program is planned to encompass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminars for tradespeople through TAFE and in other environments; • distribution, through hospital maternity units and early childhood health centres, of temperature cards*; • continued work with industry and regulatory authorities • survey of temperature card* recipients; • follow-up survey of hot water temperatures in 'target group' homes. 	<p>Jane Elkington Injury Prevention Coordinator NSW Health Department Locked Mail Bag 961 North Sydney NSW 2059 Tel: (02) 391 9538 Fax: (02) 391 9579</p>
Western Australia	<p>Program targeting hot tap water scalds encompassed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distribution to parents, through community nurses, of printed educational materials; • distribution of printed educational materials to relevant industries; • pre and post intervention telephone surveys of parents to gauge increased knowledge and awareness of scald hazards and to measure level of [self-reported] behavioural change; • Survey of community nurses (results indicated a high level of support); • Survey of industry (results indicated a mixed response); • A report on the program is now available from Kidsafe Australia. 	<p>Mary Davies Executive Officer Kidsafe Australia [WA] Princess Margaret Hospital P O Box D184 Perth WA 6001 Tel: (09) 340 8509 Fax: (09) 340 8600</p>
Queensland	<p>Program targeting all hot liquids in the home commenced on 3 May 1995. It had two objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to raise awareness about risks, especially to young children, from burns and scalds from hot liquids the home; • to provide information about prevention statistics and sources of safety equipment. <p>The program encompassed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 60 second public service announcement on television; • distribution of educational booklets through child health networks and pharmacies; • telephone survey to gauge increased knowledge and awareness of scalds hazards, and changes in attitudes, during July 1995. • logged additional requests received for (free) booklets as indication of interest. 	<p>Maureen Boyce Project Officer Queensland Health GPO Box 48 Brisbane QLD 4001 Tel: (07) 234 1049 Fax: (07) 220 0708</p>
Tasmania	<p>Program targeting hot tap water scalds commenced 30 May 1995. It encompassed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distribution of educational brochures to ratepayers in all local government areas; • making scalds prevention a priority issue for regional health promotion activities; • distribution to new parents, with health record book, of temperature cards*; • public endorsement of the campaign by the Master Plumbers' Association. 	<p>Michele Flint Research Officer Department of Community & Health Services GPO Box 125B Hobart TAS 7001 Tel: (002) 33 4806 Fax: (002) 23 1163</p>
South Australia	<p>A preliminary program targeting hot tap water and beverage scalds is planned for 1995/96 with the possibility of a major campaign later. It will target industry, trade and retail groups and the general public in promotion of anti-scald devices and will target parent and caregiver awareness with promotional print, display and video material in collaboration with the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, Kidsafe Australia, the ECIPP project, Flinders Medical Centre, Flinders Media and selected community health centres. An emphasis upon evaluation will enable a subsequent major campaign to be based upon proven communication concepts and strategies.</p>	<p>Trevor Harden Project Coordinator National Safety Council of Australia (SA) PO Box 733 Marleston SA 5033 Tel: (08) 234 3034 Fax: (08) 234 3035</p>
Victoria	<p>Program targeting hot tap water scalds. It encompasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distribution of temperature cards* to all licensed plumbers; • training seminars for plumbers (availability and fitting of temperature limiting devices, etc); • involvement of the Office of Fair Trading (enclosing information in a kit for landlords; conducting seminars for landlords; staffing a telephone advisory service); • distribution of temperature cards* to maternal and child health nurses; • distribution of a printed newsletter; • radio commercial; • monitoring sales of temperature limiting devices and new hot water services that comply with relevant Australian standards; • post intervention telephone surveys gauge increased knowledge and awareness of scalds hazards; • measure level of participation by plumbers in training seminars. 	<p>Arlie McQueen Executive Officer Kidsafe Australia [VIC] 10th Floor 123 Queen Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 9670 1319 Fax: (03) 9670 7616</p>

* 'Temperature cards' are similar in format to a plastic credit card. They have a liquid crystal display at one end which, when the card is held under hot tap water, measures the temperature by registering one of three graduations: 50°C, 55°C or over 60°C.
(Note: the information in this table was collected by Pam Albany, in the course of the teleconference referred to above. To the best of our knowledge, it accurately summarises each State's scalds prevention program. Readers seeking clarification or further information should direct their enquiry to appropriate contact person indicated.)

National Men's Health Conference

10-11 August 1995
Melbourne

To be staged by the Department of Human Services and Health, this meeting will aim to bring together interested groups and individuals from across the national to focus on men's health issues; raise awareness of issues affecting men's health, particular those of a behavioural or environmental nature; identify areas of particular disadvantage (eg geographic location, NESB); and identify ways to strengthen the implementation of existing strategies to address these problems.

Contact: Australian Convention and Travel Services, Tel: (06) 257 3299; Fax: (06) 257 3256.

13th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety

13-18 August 1995
Adelaide, South Australia

Contact: ICADTS Secretariat, Tel: (08) 239 1515; Fax: (08) 239 1566.

14th World Congress of the International Association of Accident and Traffic Medicine

20-23 August 1995
Singapore

Contact: Congress Secretariat, 14th World Congress of the IAATM Academy of Medicine, Singapore College of Medicine Building, 16 College Road #01-01, Singapore 0316

Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and the International Society for Exposure Analysis

30 August to 1 September 1995
The Netherlands

Contact: Susan Peelen, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Wageningen, Fax: +31 8370 82782.

Planning and implementing effective injury prevention programs

11-12 September 1995
University of Sydney

A two-day training course (see page 12 for further details).

Contact: Ruth Thompson, National Centre for Health Promotion, University of Sydney, Tel: (02) 351 5129; Fax: (02) 552 4230.

The Biomechanics of Impacts

13-15 September 1995
Brunnen, Switzerland

The annual conference of the International Research Council on Biokinetics of Impacts (IRCOBI).

Contact: Antoinette Charpenne, IRCOBI Secretariat, INRETS, 109 Avenue Salvador

Allende, 69500 Bron, France, Fax: +33 72 36 24 37.

Managed Care: Impact on Injury Control

14-16 September 1995
Charleston, West Virginia, USA

The Conference will examine current issues in injury control/prevention and managed care. (Injury researchers in the US are including managed care concepts in their efforts to highlight the high cost of injury and managed care organisations are implementing prevention efforts on a broader basis. Both groups are working to improve data collection and interpretation.)

Contact: West Virginia University Center for Rural Medicine (Attention: Injury Control Conference), Fax: +1 304 293 6702

Australasian Epidemiological Association Annual Conference

24 September 1995
Cairns, Queensland

To be held immediately prior to the Public Health Association Conference, this one-day meeting will provide an opportunity for all epidemiologists of the Asia-Pacific region to gather in a smaller scientific meeting and provide a form for 'beginner-epidemiologists'.

Contact: Dr Rick Streatfield, Tropical Health Unit, PO Box 1103, Cairns QLD 4870, Tel: (070) 503 650; Fax: (070) 311 440; email: rstreatfield@peg.apc.org

Public Health Association Annual Conference

24-27 September 1995
Cairns, Queensland.

Contact: PHA Secretariat, GPO Box 2204, Canberra ACT 2601, Tel: (06) 285 2373; Fax: (06) 282 5438.

Australasian Evaluation Society International Conference

27-29 September 1995
Hilton Hotel, Sydney

Under the broad theme 'Evaluation: Are you being served?' the meeting will focus on new and innovative uses of evaluation as well as issues such as the contribution of new evaluation methodologies and techniques, and social justice issues in using evaluation.

Contact: Conference Secretariat, Tel: (02) 241 1478; Fax: (02) 251 3552.

Aboriginal Health: Social and Cultural Transitions

28-30 September 1995
Darwin, Northern Territory

To be held at the Northern Territory University, the conference will cover a wide range of themes pertinent to current research, policy and practice applied to indigenous health.

Contact: Dr G Robinson, Centre for Social Research, NTU, Tel: (089) 466 893; Fax: (089) 467 175; email: g_robinson@banks.ntu.edu.au

Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine's 39th Annual Conference

16-18 October 1995
Chicago, USA

Contact: AAAM, 2340 Des Plaines Avenue, Suite 106, Des Plaines, ILL 60018, USA, Fax: +1 708 390 9962.

Farmsafe NSW Conference

20-21 October 1995

Hosted by the Tamworth Farmsafe Action Group, this conference will focus on practical issues which can be addressed to reduce the rate of farm injuries.

Contact: Patsy Bourke, Health Promotion Officer, North West Health Service, Tel: (067) 683 386; Fax: (067) 669 975.

First National Conference on Violence against Gays and Lesbians

27-28 October 1995
University of Sydney

Organised by the Australian Institute of Criminology, this meeting will focus on incidence, education, prevention and control in relation to this issue.

Contact: Conference Administration, Australian Institute of Criminology, Tel: (06) 274 0224; Fax: (06) 274 0225.

European Conference on Safety Labelling

9-10 November 1995
Paris, France

The objective of this meeting is to increase the effectiveness of production information accompanying all kinds of consumer products.

Contact: Marion Bonneveld, ECOSA Secretariat, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 20 5114510 (Note: only a limited number of registrations is available.)

Fourth National Conference of the Association for Australian Rural Nurses Inc

10-12 November 1995
Toowoomba, Southern Queensland

Contact: Mrs Trudy Podmore, Faculty of Sciences, University of Southern Queensland, Tel: (076) 312 669; Fax: (076) 311 653. (Note: the deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 July 1995.)

Media advocacy and public health

13-14 November 1995
University of Sydney

A two-day training course (see page 12 for further details). Contact: Ruth Thompson, National Centre for Health Promotion, University of Sydney, Tel: (02) 351 5129; Fax: (02) 552 4230.

Third National Women's Health Conference

17-19 November 1995

Australian National University, Canberra

Contact: National Women's Health Conference, PO Box 191, Civic Square ACT 2608, Tel: (06) 247 6679; Fax: (06) 247 4669.

First National Conference on Children and Domestic Violence

30 November to 1 December 1995

Magill Campus, University of SA, Adelaide

Contact: The Conference Organising Committee, Tel: (08) 255 3622.

Eighth National Health Promotion Conference

4-7 February 1996

Darling Harbour, Sydney

The conference will focus on five themes: balancing outcomes and equity; the role of evidence in decision-making; resources and infrastructure for health promotion; building coalitions for health; and effective advocacy.

Contact: Conference Organiser, Tel: (02) 968 2500; Mobile: (018) 970 146; Fax: (02) 968 2555. (Note: abstracts must be submitted by 30 October 1995).

Second International Fatigue and Transportation Conference

11-16 February 1996

Fremantle, Western Australia

Contact: Dr Laurence Hartley, Psychology Department, Murdoch University, Western Australia, Tel: (09) 360 2398; Fax: (09) 310 9611; email: Hartley@socs.murdoch.edu.au

Short Course on Injury Epidemiology and Prevention

12-16 February 1996

Melbourne

Contact: Sarah Jowett, Monash University Accident Research Centre, Tel: (03) 9905 1807; Fax: (03) 9905 1809, email: sarahj@its-menz.cc.monash.edu.au

Site Visit to Noarlunga: Toward a Safe Community Program

15-16 February 1996

Noarlunga, South Australia

Contact: Richard Hicks, Noarlunga Health Service, Tel: (08) 384 9361; Fax: (08) 326 3696.

Measuring the Burden of Injury

15-16 February 1996

Fremantle, Western Australia

Contact: Tony Ryan, Road Accident Prevention Research Unit, University of WA, Tel: (09) 380 1301; Fax: (09) 380 1199; email: tryan@quokka.epidem.uniwa.edu.au

4th International Conference on Product Safety Research

15-16 February 1996

Canberra

Contact: Jerry Moller at NISU, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; jerry.moller@flinders.edu.au

Injury Prevention Programs Among Indigenous Peoples

16-17 February 1996

Melbourne

Contact: Mary Sexton, Commonwealth Department of Human Services & Health, Tel: (06) 289 8074; Fax: (06) 289 7104.

An International Conference on Bicycle Helmet Initiatives

17 February 1996

University of Melbourne

Contact: Les Becker, Fax: +1 410 333 7279; beck103@wonder.em.cdc.gov

Third International Conference on Injury Prevention & Control

18-22 February 1996

Melbourne

Contact: Marg Scarlett, Convention Network, Tel: (03) 646 4122; Fax: (03) 646 7737; mscarlett@peg.apc.org

Proposed meeting for those interested and involved in child injury

22 February 1996

Melbourne

Organised by Kidsafe Australia and the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury (ISCAIP).

Contact: Ian Scott, Kidsafe Australia, Tel: (03) 9670 1319; Fax: (03) 9670 7616; email: iscott@peg.apc.org

SafeComm 5: Fifth World Health Organization 'Safe Communities' Conference

22-25 February 1996

City of Hume and LaTrobe Valley, Victoria

Contact: Convention Network, Tel: (03) 9646 4122; Fax: (03) 9646 7737; email: mscarlett@peg.apc.org

International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics

23 February 1996

Melbourne

Contact: Lois Fingerhut, Fax: +1 301 436 8459; email: laf4@nch07a.em.cdc.gov

Falls Prevention Strategies for Older People

23 February 1996

Melbourne

Contact: Judith Sullivan, Tel: (03) 9616 7773; Fax: (03) 9629 5471.

Occupational Injury Symposium

24-27 February 1996

Sydney

Contact: Occupational Injury Secretariat, Professional Education Program, National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, GPO Box 58, Sydney 2001, Tel: (02) 565 9319; Fax: (02) 565 9300. (Note: Abstracts are due by 31 July 1995.)

Site Visit to Community Injury prevention Programs in NSW

26-29 February 1996

Illawarra, North Sydney and Parkes, NSW

Immediately following SafeComm5.

Contact: Illawarra: K Van Weerdenburg, Fax: (042) 265 339; Parkes: B Bourne, Fax: (068) 622 825; North Sydney: W Batchelor, Fax: (02) 997 7079.

7th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

3-7 March 1996

Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart

A registration package, including abstract submission details, is available.

Contact: Conference Administrator, Tel: (03) 9690 6000; Fax: (03) 9690 3271.

15th International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV)

13-17 May 1996

Melbourne

Crash investigation and data analysis, crash avoidance improvements from advanced vehicle/highway technology, side impact occupation protection, light vehicle roll over, biomechanics and advanced dummy development, frontal crash protection and heavy vehicle safety.

Contact: Australian ESV Conference Secretariat, GPO Box 128, Sydney NSW 2001, Tel: (02) 262 2277; Fax: (02) 262 2323; email: ldaley@tourhosts.com.au

4th International Cochrane Colloquium

19-23 October 1996

Adelaide

Contact: 1996 Cochrane Colloquium Secretariat, PO Box 986, Kent Town, SA 5069; Tel: (08) 363 1307; Fax: +61 8 363 1604; email: cochrane@flinders.edu.au

XIX Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention

23-27 March 1997

Adelaide

With the theme 'Suicide Prevention - the global context', this international conference will cover topics such as social factors in suicide; biological and clinical aspects of suicide; indigenous groups; the family and suicide; etc.

Contact: SAPMEA Conventions, 80 Brougham Place, North Adelaide SA 5006, Australia, Tel: +61 8 239 1515; Fax: +61 8 239 1566.

Down the Gopher Hole

Our technological gopher has once again retrieved some interesting press releases from the Consumer Product Safety Commission in the United States. These press releases reflect the current state of play in US product safety.

Amongst the issues that the CPSC has dealt with during the past six months were these:

Bean bags

The problem of deaths and injuries associated with zippered bean bag chairs.

Movable soccer goals

The CPSC has issued new guidelines to address that design, use, storage, and set-up of movable soccer goals, which have been responsible for at least 21 deaths and hundreds of injuries in the US since 1979.

Gift giving

Safety suggestions from the CPSC for selecting toys and other gifts for children.

Window covering pull cords

Description of a program to protect children from strangling in window covering pull cords.

Child resistant packaging

Details of changes to the test protocols used for child-resistant packaging under the US Poison Prevention Packaging Act. The changes are aimed at making closures adult-friendly and easy to open while maintaining their child-resistance.

Gas water heaters

In the US, approximately 50 million homes have gas-fired water heaters which, through ignition of flammable vapours, are associated with nearly 2,000 fires a year and result in an estimated 316 injuries and 17 deaths. The CPSC recently debated the most appropriate approach to this issue.

Study on kids and bike helmets

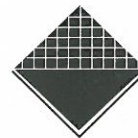
Report of a national survey of children aged 8-13, detailing their feelings about bike helmets and their suggestions for making these helmets more appealing to kids.

Copies of any of the above-mentioned press releases are available from Renate Kreisfeld, Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602; email: renate.kreisfeld@nisu.flinders.edu.au Anyone with an Internet connection can gain direct access through: gopher://cpsc.gov/

The *Injury Issues Monitor* is the journal of the National Injury Surveillance Unit (NISU), Mark Oliphant Building, Laffer Drive, Bedford Park SA 5042; Tel: (08) 374 0970; Fax: (08) 201 7602

Letters to the Editor are welcome.

Editor: Renate Kreisfeld.



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HEALTH & WELFARE

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And the lucky winner is ...

Karen Middleton who works at the Injury Control Unit in the Health Department of Western Australia is the winner of the competition run during the First National Conference on Injury Prevention and Control in February. By having her name drawn out of the hat, Karen has won a free registration for the Third International Conference. Congratulations Karen!

Professional development opportunities

Some of our readers may be interested in these training courses offered by the National Centre for Health Promotion at the University of Sydney:

Planning and implementing effective injury prevention programs

This two-day course has been designed for people who have begun working recently to develop injury prevention programs. It aims to provide people from the health and other sectors (eg consumer affairs, sport and recreation, education) with knowledge and skills in:

- using data and evidence to plan and implement effective programs;
- critical appraisal of current injury prevention programs;

- problem solving and evaluation to assist in developing and refining programs.

Course staff will include experts from the National Injury Surveillance Unit and the NSW Injury Goals and Targets Expert Group.

Venue: University of Sydney
Dates: 11-12 September 1995
Course number limited to: 20
Cost: \$250.00

Media advocacy and public health

This two-day course will help people to develop skills in public health advocacy, particularly through use of the news me-

dia. Participants will each receive a copy of *The fight for public health: principles and practice of media advocacy*, by S Chapman and D Lupton.

Course content will include:

- developing an understanding of the role of the media
- developing practical skills in campaigning.

Venue: University of Sydney
Dates: 13-14 November 1995
Course number limited to: 40
Cost: \$350.00

For further information about these courses, contact Ruth Thompson at the National Centre for Health Promotion, University of Sydney, Tel: (02) 351 5129; Fax: (02) 552 4230.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 *Hidden Killers: The Global Landmine Crisis*, US Department of State Publication 10225, December 1994.
- 2 Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health. *Better Health Outcomes for Australians: National Goals, Targets and Strategies for Better Health Outcomes in the Next Century*. AGPS 1994.
- 3 'Ouch, that's hot!' *Choice*, July 1995, pp6-7.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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