

INJURY PREVENTION IN ACTION

GUEST EDITORIAL

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This is the second of two issues of the *Bulletin* that focus on injury in NSW. The first, the July issue (Volume 10, Number 7) examined injury surveillance and research. This issue looks at examples of injury prevention in action.

A number of themes emerge through the articles and reports in this issue, including:

- the importance of 'sustainability' or facilitating change that 'lasts'
- the need to be 'multi-strategic' in our injury prevention planning.

The article by Elkington on scalds prevention demonstrates the power of combining policy, education and environmental change to address the problem of serious scalds in young children. In 'A new health risk for children?' James and Williams illustrate that, while child-resistant closures and warning labels may be a start to addressing poisoning prevention in young children, education of retailers is clearly still needed. The report 'A smoke alarm campaign in Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese communities' highlights the need to identify barriers to purchasing and installing alarms smoke alarms in communities of people from non-English speaking backgrounds, and for multiple strategies to overcome these barriers. The *Make a Noise* suicide prevention project in the Greater Murray Area, and the *Safe Communities* Project in Ryde, both approach sustainability through building partnerships by engaging and working with communities to identify and address community concerns.

Efforts to prevent injuries have moved on from concentrating on educating those at risk, to laying the foundation for safer environments, and safer behaviour, in the long term. This is achieved through policy, engineering and educational strategies undertaken in partnership with other sectors, and with the community. ☒

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