



INTRODUCTION

The Community Action Kit for Home Safety has been adapted by Kidsafe Tasmania from the kit that was designed by Kidsafe WA. Their kit was produced through consultation with regional public health representatives to provide health professionals, schools, playgroups, child care workers and members of community groups with the information, strategies and resources to reduce the incidence and severity of home-based injuries for children within their community.

The Community Action Kit is intended to be a reference resource to provide information about child safety in the home, for use within each individual community.

Injuries are a major contributor to premature mortality, morbidity and disability in all age groups within Australia.¹ Opportunities to reduce this burden are extensive and have incorporated community awareness campaigns, legislative changes that target a range of environmental factors, and activities associated with injury causation. Injury prevention and control is one of the National Health Priority Areas, which highlights the commitment to preventing childhood injury.²

Infant mortality due to injury increases with the degree of remoteness, with marginally higher rates in rural areas compared to metropolitan areas, and a twofold increase in remote areas of Australia.²

In 2003, accidents and injuries were responsible for the greatest number of deaths nationally among children aged 1-14 years, (214 deaths, 40.1% of all deaths in this age group). For children aged 1-14 years living in Tasmania, accidents and injuries were also the leading cause of death.³ The home is where children, especially young children spend much of their time and is where the majority of injuries to children aged 0 to 5 occur.⁴

In the period of 1999 to 2003 accidents and injuries were the leading cause of death for children in Tasmania. The injury deaths rate was 28.9 per 100,000 persons, compared to 5.5 and 2.4 for cancer and birth defects respectively.³ This demonstrates the extensive impact injury has on the young and the importance of injury as one of the six national health priority areas.⁵

Unintentional injuries account for almost 91% of all injury deaths in Australia for children aged 0-14 years of age⁶ and 97.5% of all hospitalised injuries.⁷ These injuries can be classified by either the medical description that identifies the nature and site of the injury or by an external cause that describes the circumstances of and intent behind an injury.¹⁵



BACKGROUND ON KIDSAFE TASMANIA

Kidsafe Tasmania (Kidsafe Tasmania Inc.) is the leading non-government, not-for-profit, charitable organisation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries in Tasmania. Kidsafe Tasmania is the Tasmanian member and affiliate of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, a national organisation first established in 1979.

Our focus is on preventing deaths and reducing the incidence and severity of injuries to children aged less than 15 years. Our underpinning principle is "Children First" - the safety and protection of children is the primary consideration.

Our Vision

A Safer World for Kids

Our Mission

To lead the action to minimise unacceptable risk and consequence of unintentional injury to children in our adult focused world.

Our Values

- Concern for the well-being of children
- Evidence Based Best Practice
- Prevention is better than cure
- Recognising and valuing our people

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Home Safety

The Safety Demonstration House located within Kidsafe Tasmania highlights potential danger areas around the home and some of the prevention measures available to reduce the risk of injuries occurring. A range of safety products are available for purchase in the marketplace.

Playground Safety

The Playground Advisory Service offers technical, safety and design information to all groups in Tasmania. Services include: Training, On-site inspection services, and a range of reference resources.

Road Safety

Kidsafe Tasmania refers people to the RACT for child car restraint fitting, checking, hiring and information services in Tasmania. Their Child Car Restraint Fitting and Checking Service includes instruction on the correct use and adjustment of the restraint.

School Safety

Kidsafe Tasmania co-ordinates an annual event, Safety in Schools week which aims to raise awareness in whole of school communities about the importance of safety and injury prevention at home, school, on the road or in the playground.



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

The Community Action Kit is intended to be a reference resource to provide information about child safety in the home, for use within each individual community.

The Kit can simply be used as a reference for information on injury prevention in the home, but can also be used to assist with coordinating workshops and presentations, and running community activities.

The Kit is in two sections, Part One - Injury and Prevention provides background on eight major types of child injuries which occur around the home, followed by child injury prevention by location within the home.

Part Two - Community & Parent Workshops assists you with disseminating information about home safety prevention. Part Two includes a Powerpoint presentation which is accompanied with speaker notes and a workshop plan. The Frequently Asked Questions section will assist you to answer any queries you may receive at workshops or general queries.

The Injury Prevention in the Home DVD can either be used in conjunction with the presentation or as a stand alone promotional resource. Furthermore, additional resources which may be helpful have been inserted into the back of the Kit.

Additional background information can be found in the Appendices providing statistics on injuries to children in Tasmania, parents knowledge, attitudes and beliefs on child injuries and links to the Tasmanian school curriculum.

The Kidsafe Tasmania resources can be ordered from Kidsafe Tasmania through the enclosed order form or via the Kidsafe Tasmania website. If you would like to copy any quantity of the Kidsafe Tasmania Fact Sheets for distribution to parents and carers, a Permission to Copy Form is available from Kidsafe Tasmania. This form should be completed and returned to Kidsafe Tasmania.

It is Kidsafe Tasmania's intention to update information in this resource when required. Updates will be available on the Kidsafe website - www.kidsafetas.com.au.