

# Media Release

28/03/2017

## **Organisations head to the Wheatbelt to tackle child injury**

Kidsafe WA and the Royal Life Saving Society WA (RLSSWA) are visiting the Wheatbelt to deliver joint child injury prevention workshops between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Staff will visit Moora, Wongan Hills, Goomalling, Wyalkatchem and Cunderdin to educate parents and health and community workers about child injury prevention. The free information sessions address keeping children safe at home, at play, around water and on the road and also provide basic CPR and first aid advice. Interactive safety presentations will also be delivered at three primary schools with students from kindergarten to Year 3.

Injury is the leading cause of preventable death in children aged under five years in Australia and in Western Australia, a child will die as the result of an injury almost once a week. Behind the numbers are hundreds of family members and friends affected by the untimely loss of young lives. The good news is that there are many simple things that can be done to prevent serious childhood injuries.

Anita Stepan, Program Officer at Kidsafe WA said "reaching regional WA is a high priority for us and for RLSSWA. Regional areas are overrepresented in many child injury statistics and it's important to speak directly to parents in these areas about how to keep their children safe." The two organisations are supported by the Department of Health WA to conduct regular workshops in regional areas across the state.

Drowning is the biggest cause of injury death in the under-five age group. Stephanie Green Keep Watch Coordinator at RLSSWA said "On average, four toddlers drown each year in WA. In addition, a review of drowning in the Wheatbelt region revealed that toddlers aged 0-4 years are at the greatest risk of drowning recording the highest rate of drowning of any age group in the region. We are urging all parents to keep close watch of children around all types of water to prevent toddler drowning. Our presentations also educate parents about other strategies to keep their children safe around water, including the use of appropriate barriers and learning CPR."

Other major injury concerns in young children include poisoning, falls and transport related injuries. Anita Stepan, Kidsafe WA, says "the best way to keep children free of serious injury is a combination of constant supervision, changing the environment to separate children from hazards and learning first aid and CPR so you can respond in the event of an emergency."

### **Media Contacts**

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### **Parent presentations**

The following parent presentations are being conducted through the week. Please contact Anita Stepan for more information to arrange photographs or interviews at any of the sessions below.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Day</b>
Moora	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April, Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Wongan Hills	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Goomalling	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April
Wyalkatchem	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Dowerin	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Cunderdin	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April