



# Breathing life into kid safety

## Dylan Caporn

Goldfields parents have welcomed a program designed to teach them about child safety, organisers say.

Kidsafe WA and the Royal Life Saving Society WA joined forces throughout the week to bring a series of sessions on preventing child injury to the region.

Wanslea and Sandalwood Family Centre hosted a session on Wednesday and Parenting Gold co-ordinator Bev Pack said the group had been interested in learning about child safety.

"The workshop was teaching parents around the home," she said.

"Parents themselves were interested about information on child restraints for cars and learning CPR.

"Thanks to the organisers for coming out here.

"It's such an important message."

Kidsafe program officer Anita Stepan and RLSSWA Keep Watch co-ordinator Rachel Murray ran the workshop highlighting home,

road and play safety and awareness around water sources.

Ms Murray said the group of 15 welcomed the information on safety.

"It was a great opportunity to share our messages," she said.

"Getting out to regional areas is really important."

The workshops came as the Australian Royal Life Saving Society released its annual National Drowning Report.

The report found an alarming 30 per cent increase in the number of drowning deaths of children under five.

Ms Murray said adult supervision was a key message for all parents.

"Adult supervision around water is important not just in summer, but all year round," she said.

"We encourage people to think about the other water sources in their home — not just pools, but

baths, paddle pools and buckets of water."

The report found between July 1 last year and June 30 this year, 271

Australians drowned in waterways, 14 per cent of them in WA.

The number was a 1.9 per cent increase on last year's drownings.

While 20 per cent of drowning deaths occurred at beaches in the past year, 37 per cent of deaths

occurred in inland waterways.

RLS WA health promotion and research senior manager Lauren Nimmo said the high numbers of deaths in lakes and dams was an ongoing concern.

For more information on child safety, visit Kidsafe WA's website at [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au) or Royal Life Saving WA's website at [www.lifesavingwa.com.au](http://www.lifesavingwa.com.au).



**Wanslea early years education facilitator Kate Bassett, Kidsafe WA program officer Anita Stepan, the Royal Life Saving Society WA's Rachel Murray and Wanslea's Bev Pack at Wednesday's workshop. Picture: Dylan Caporn**