

Media Release

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FORUM AIMS TO REDUCE THE STATE'S CHILDREN'S INJURIES

A forum and workshop in Launceston next week will discuss strategies to reduce childhood injuries in Tasmania.

Presenters at the forum to be held on Monday 8 February at the Launceston Tram Sheds include the Tasmanian Commissioner for Children Paul Mason. Garry Causon (Delta Dog Safe), Lyn Chapman (North-West Childcare Unit) and Vicki Russell (Drug Education Network).

The discussion will be facilitated by Michael Bishop who recently relocated to Tasmania from Queensland where he was instrumental in founding the renowned Child Injury Prevention Project (ChIPP) in Mackay.

A second forum will be held in Hobart on 15 March 2010.

The forums are being presented by the Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition (ChIPC), a group of diverse stakeholders who recently joined together to work to reduce the rate of and impact of preventable and unintentional injuries to children under 14 years of age.

Membership of the group includes Kidsafe Tasmania, Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, The Commissioner for Children's Office, Delta Dog Safe, Tasmanian Fire Service, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Infrastructure Energy and Resources, local government bodies, the Coroner's Office, the Royal Lifesaving Society, Nursing Board of Tasmania, General Practice South, Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania the Tasmanian Ambulance Service and the Royal Hobart Hospital.

ChIPC Chair Jenny Branch of Kidsafe Tasmania said injury was the greatest cause of death to children under 14 years of age.

"This forum will bring together ChIPC members and other interested stakeholders from across Tasmania to determine priorities for the next 12 months and set the future direction of our coalition in reducing the rate and impact of children's injuries," Mrs Branch said.

The forums are being funded by a grant from the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation (TEYF) and are a direct response to the 2009 'Outcomes in the Early Years' that showed that in some areas of Tasmania, hospitalisation due to injury or poisoning was significantly above the State average and could be impacted by socio-economic, family structure, education, housing, sex and age factors.

Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Smith said the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation has recommended the development of collaboration and joint planning across government and non-government agencies to improve outcomes for young children.

"The Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition is a perfect conduit for this task and the forums are a positive and valuable first step in this effort.



“TEYF is proud to support the coalition in holding the forums to raise awareness of this important issue and seek support from a range of stakeholders to improve the outcomes for Tasmanian children,” Ms Smith said.

The Launceston forum runs from 9.30 am to 4 pm on Monday February 8 at the Tram Shed, Inveresk Rail Yards and entry is free of charge.

Ends....

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