



Safety in Schools Week 11th - 15th June 2007

Kidsafe WA,
GPO Box D 184
Perth WA 6840
Ph: (08) 9340 8509 Fax: (08) 9340 8041

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO BE INJURY FREE

Injury presentations to the Emergency Department at Princess Margaret Hospital from schools increased by 37% from 923 presentations in 2003 to 1266 presentations in 2006 reports the latest WA Childhood Injury Surveillance Bulletin. During this time period there were a total 4,671 injury presentations from school locations to PMH Emergency Department, 60% of these were primary school aged children.

The school is the second most common location for childhood injuries after the home. "While this data shows a significant increase in the number of injury presentations from schools, it doesn't necessarily mean that schools are not safe environments for children," said Sue Wicks, CEO of Kidsafe WA, "What it most likely reflects is that these are places where children spend a lot of time at play and in sporting activity."

The good news is that school injuries can be prevented but it requires the commitment of the whole school community.

Safety in Schools Week is an annual awareness week aimed at encouraging schools to focus on safety promotion to reduce childhood injuries. The theme for the 2007 Safety in Schools Week, 11 – 15 June is "Safety for you, Safety for me, Let's work together to be injury free".

Safety in Schools Week 2007 was launched today at West Leeming Primary School by the Hon Michelle Roberts, Minister for Employment Protection, with a special guest appearance by Justin Brown from the Perth Wild Cats.

Safety in Schools Week is coordinated by Kidsafe WA with the support of the Department of Education and Training, Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation. "It's success however, is built on the participation of the many agencies from health, education, government and corporate sectors who are committed to child injury prevention and increasing safety in the community," said Ms Wicks.

The Safety in Schools Week 2007, *Get Creative About Safety* Competition encourages school children to actively consider injury prevention. Prizes are donated by St. John Ambulance, the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, and the Safety in Schools Week co-ordinating agencies.



Department of **Education and Training**
Department of **Consumer and Employment Protection**



The winning class in each division will win tickets to the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's latest show and a \$300 gift voucher from Wooldridges Educational Superstore. Other prizes include \$250 book prizes and a St. John Ambulance First Aid Kit.

ENDS

Media Contact: Sue Wicks 0412 242 142



Department of **Education and Training**
Department of **Consumer and Employment Protection**



Launch of Safety in Schools Week 2007
Thursday 7th June 2007
West Leeming Primary School
Westall Terrace, LEEMING

~ ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS ~

8.00 am Participating Health agencies assemble displays.



Order of Proceedings



8.45-8.55am	Invited guests arrive & seated
9.00am	Welcome by student MC – Cameron Grundy
9.02am	National Anthem
9.05am	Safety Item – Year 7 Students (S3)
9.15am	Address and official launch of Safety in Schools Week 2007 by The Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, Minister for Employment Protection
9.20am	Performance by the School Band
9.25am	Address by Dr. Ian Everitt, Paediatrician and Kidsafe WA Board Member
9.30am	Presentation of First Aid Kit to the school, on behalf of the Safety in Schools Week 2007 coordinating agencies, by Justin Brown, Perth Wildcats
9.35am	School Song, led by the School Choir
9.40am	Close
9.45-10.10am	Morning Tea
10.15-12.15pm	Group Activities