## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAIR'S FOREWORD</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRMRC ORGANISATIONAL CHART</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRMRC STAFF</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD OF MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUARTERLY REVIEW COMMITTEE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRE ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH STREAMS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALLS</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROAD SAFETY</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL INJURY</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORK-RELATED INJURY</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHING AND SEMINARS</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT AND POLICY FORUMS ATTENDED</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT POLICY FORUMS</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAFF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND WORKING PARTIES</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF MAJOR COLLABORATORS</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATIONS</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEER-REVIEW JOURNAL PAPERS</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH REPORTS</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTERS/EDITORIALS/OFFICE ARTICLES</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOK REVIEWS</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCES</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECTURES</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWARDS</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On behalf of the Board of Management of the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC), I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of work done by the Centre in 2006.

This was my first year as Chair of the Board of Management. I was very pleased to join the Board of such an active research centre and to be presented with the opportunity to continue the work of this highly esteemed organisation. Many of the IRMRC’s current Board members have been members since the Centre was formed in 1999/2000 and they continue to make important contributions that build on its strong foundations. We are particularly thankful to Professor of Injury Risk Management and the Centre Director, Caroline Finch who has had a significant involvement with the Centre and its continuing success. We were saddened by her resignation but thank her for an outstanding contribution to the Centre’s progress and wish her well for the future.

For a young research centre, the output from the IRMRC is impressive. The Centre has clearly established a reputation for research on a range of issues relevant to NSW including road, child, sports and workplace safety and for injury data analysis and surveillance. This year has been particularly good for peer-reviewed publications and reports. The Centre was also represented at all of the major injury research conferences including a large number of invited presentations.

As a research centre, the IRMRC is clearly highly regarded for its work. While we are dependent on external funding the Centre has had considerable success in obtaining funding for its research. This year the Centre has managed to attract more than 1.5 million dollars in funding, in addition to the core funding grant.

The Centre also underwent a combined Board of Management and University review in the second half of the year. The review was part of the process for funding renewal by the funding partners, NSW Health, RTA and MAA, as well as part of the University’s regular reviews of research centres. It is to the credit of the IRMRC staff and management that the review was resoundingly positive. The review concluded that “the Centre has been a success story, with capable staff working effectively with committed sponsors over the last six years to develop a Centre which is well run and delivering value to the community, and also growing steadily.”

Management of injury risk is important to our community. Injury is the primary reason for deaths for people in the one to 45 years age group. These deaths are clearly premature but most importantly they are almost always preventable. They cost our community both financially and in terms of pain and suffering.

On behalf of the Board I would like to recognise the hard work, talent and dedication of the Centre’s staff and students who make the Centre’s achievements possible.

We look forward to continuing with this important work for the community.

GILLIAN CALVERT
Chair, IRMRC
It is with both pleasure and pride that I am contributing to my last Director’s summary for an annual IRMRC research report. As with previous years, this report clearly demonstrates the Centre’s commitment to academic excellence and applied research that makes a difference to the broad policy and implementations contexts it is relevant for.

In 2006, increased efforts were given towards the mentoring and training of young researchers and health sector policy workers. The centre hosted trainees from both NSW Health Public Health Officer programme and the NSW Health Biostatistics Trainees programme. In addition, a senior NSW Health Epidemiologist chose to spend her NSW HERON Fellow at the IRMRC to obtain more skills in injury data analysis. Highlights of our researcher training program are evidenced by the large number of research students who had their Masters or PhD degrees awarded or who submitted their work for examination. The IRMRC has certainly now established itself as a recognised centre for research and injury prevention training.

The IRMRC has also been committed to promoting its leading edge research and its applications to the broader injury community. Involvement in policy forums, such as those related to drug use by truck drivers and the NSW Health EpiSIG meeting, have been important avenues for disseminating research findings. In 2006, a number of staff presented their research at the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, South Africa as a means of disseminating the research findings to an international audience. The relevance of the applications of our research is shown by the formal invitations for staff to present their research at international and national forums.

“...there is no doubt that the IRMRC is well positioned to maintain its research leadership, training and mentoring role well into the future.”

Overall, the 2006 year has been highly productive for the IRMRC and I am pleased to have contributed to this. Although I will only be having a much more minor role in the centre, through my ongoing Visiting Professor appointment, there is no doubt that the IRMRC is well positioned to maintain its research leadership, training and mentoring role well into the future.

PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH
Director, IRMRC  (until June 06)
Firstly, on behalf of the staff of the IRMRC, I would like to express our appreciation to Caroline for her support and hard work during the period she was Director of the Centre. Caroline’s intelligence, enthusiasm and energy were a real asset to the Centre and under her leadership the Centre has continued to thrive.

This year also brought a change in the Chair of the Board of Management. We were delighted to welcome Gillian Calvert, Commissioner for Children and Young People to the position. She brings a fresh perspective and approach to the role.

Since Caroline’s departure in June, staff of the Centre continued to pursue successfully our goal of excellence and innovation in injury risk management research. We are continuing our work on the development of better data resources on injury in NSW. The next update on the profile of hospitalisation for injury in NSW was published this year. We commenced an evaluation of the National Coronial Information System for its use in injury surveillance, and are continuing our work on linkage of population datasets of injury data. We are also developing further our research focus on road safety, sports injury, falls reduction and workplace safety.

This has been a most productive and successful year for the Centre, but a few achievements are particularly noteworthy.

Postgraduate Scholarship for Helena Hong. These grants and awards are testament to the quality of the research and hard work of our staff.

In 2006, the Centre also played a leading role in organizing the AIPN 8th National Injury Prevention Network AIPN conference. This was a wonderful opportunity for many staff to share research findings and ideas with other injury researchers and practitioners from around Australia and overseas. We were also delighted to host two international visitors to the Centre during the year.

This year has been without its challenges, including losing our Director, changing the Chair of our Board and being reviewed by both the Board and the University. Nevertheless, the Centre staff have maintained their commitment, drive and enthusiasm throughout all of these changes. A research centre is nothing without its staff. I would like to thank all for their contributions and look forward to an equally productive and successful year in 2007.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON
Director, IRMRC (from June 06)
OBJECTIVES AND MISSION OF THE CENTRE

The Centre's mission is to contribute to a "whole of government" approach to examining injury risk in the community and to provide research services to the core funding and other agencies concerned with injury risk management. The Centre's core research projects reflect the focus of the core funding agencies, NSW Health, MAA and RTA, whilst its broader research program supplements these areas.

The IRMRC plays a leading role in research on injury risk, prevention and intervention through the:

- Provision of innovative research leadership.
- Data mining and analysis of data sets. Centre researchers have access to a range of datasets including: the Inpatient Statistical Collection of NSW Health, the NSW Traffic Accident Database System, the MAA Claims Register and Statistical Database.
- Co-ordination of relevant expertise, nationally and internationally, to develop solutions to injury risk management problems identified by the Centre's own research, its funding partners or other external agencies.
- Nurturing and development of partnerships with government agencies and other stakeholders.
- Building of risk management research capacity and the mentoring of early career researchers and other trainees.
- Dissemination of the results of sound research in peer reviewed publications as well as other avenues of communication, ranging from conference presentations and workshops to editorial pieces for the mainstream media.
- Translation of research findings into policy and practice through involvement in policy forums and working parties, as well as the communication of this activity through various media.
BACKGROUND

The New South Wales (NSW) Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC, The Centre) is an independent research centre of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and has strong collaborative and administrative links with the Faculties of Science, Medicine and Engineering. It was established in 1999/2000 in a partnership between UNSW, NSW Health, the NSW Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA).

The IRMRC receives core funding from NSW Health, MAA and RTA. Other research activities are supported by Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants and other industry sources, as identified in ‘Research Streams’. Some staff support is also provided by fellowships and scholarships from the NHMRC and UNSW. In 2006, the IRMRC continued to be the lead agency in a partnership that was awarded a $2.5 million NHMRC Capacity Building Grant for the period 2005-2009.

“In 2006, the IRMRC continued to be the lead agency in a partnership that was awarded a $2.5 million NHMRC Capacity Building Grant for the period 2005-2009”

The core funding partners have significant investments in injury prevention in NSW:

> The Injury Prevention and Policy Branch of NSW Health is responsible for developing policy and program initiatives which reduce the burden of death and serious injury in NSW.

> The MAA is a statutory corporation that regulates the NSW Motor Accidents Scheme, the Compulsory Third Party Personal Injury scheme for motor vehicles registered in New South Wales.

> The RTA is the NSW State Government agency responsible for providing road planning, construction and maintenance solutions for the NSW community, with an emphasis on meeting community, environmental, regulatory and economic needs and in so doing, for improving road safety through better road user behaviour, vehicles and roads.
IRMRC STAFF

Director and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow
Prof Caroline Finch PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons) (Jan-June 2006)

Deputy Director and NHMRC Senior Research Fellow
Associate Prof Ann Williamson PhD, BSc (Hons) (Acting Director, June 2006 onwards)

Research Manager and Research Fellow
Ms Mary Potter Forbes MCom, BHA, RN

NHMRC RESEARCH FELLOWS

NHMRC Capacity Building Grant Research Fellow
Dr Julie Hatfield PhD, BA (Hons)

NHMRC Public Health (Australia) Fellow
Dr Shauna Sherker PhD, MSc, BSc

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Andrew Hayen PhD, MBiostat, BA (Hons)

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICERS

Soufiane Boufous MPH (Hons), BH (Hons)
Rena Friswell BA (Hons)

ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr John Orchard FASCP, FACSM, FASMF, PhD, MD, MBBS, BA

VISITING PROFESSORS

Prof Peter Abelson PhD, MBA, BA (Hons)
Prof Caroline Finch PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons) (June 2006 onwards)

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Rebecca Dennis PhD, MSc, BHlthSci (Hons) (July 2006 onwards)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Shanley Chong MAppStat, BA
Rebecca Dennis PhD, MSci, BHlthSci (Hons) (Jan-July 2006)
Wei Du MBBS, MSc & Tech, MPH
Raiisong Fernandes BSc (Hons)
Lara Harvey MPH, BAppSci
Maria Romiti MSci, BSpSc
Marcia Schmettman MPH, BSc
Naomi Dunn BSc (Hons)
Rebecca Mitchell MA(Psych), MOHS, BA (Psych)

NSW HEALTH HERON FELLOW (2005-2006)
Helen Moore MPH, BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Applied Epidemiology

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
Melissa Irwin MPH, BAppSci

BIOSTATISTICAL TRAINEES
Diane Hindmarsh MScAgr
Dr Robin Turner PhD, BSc (Hons)

CASUAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
Gemma Houston
Melissa Hulme
Amaroil Minbashian
Amanda Sharpley
Laura Small

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Finance Officer
Jia Wu MCom, BBus

Executive Assistant to the Director
Henny Oentojo MBA, B.Bus
Administrative Assistant
Susie Li
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management oversees the Centre’s strategic directions and financial management. During 2006, the Board of Management comprised the following members:

INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE BOARD

MS GILLIAN CALVERT
Commissioner, NSW Commission for Children and Young People

Gillian Calvert was appointed to the Board in 2006. Gillian is the NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, an independent body reporting directly to NSW Parliament, which aims to make NSW a better place for children and young people. Gillian is also Convenor of the NSW Child Death Review Team.

VOTING MEMBERS

MS PAM ALBANY
Manager, Injury Prevention and Policy Branch, NSW Health

Pam is the Manager of the Injury Prevention and Policy Branch in NSW Health. She has previously managed the Injury Prevention Branch in WA Health and worked for a short time for the National Injury Surveillance Unit (AIHW). Pam was a WHO Travelling Fellow in 1988 and has worked as an injury consultant for WHO in Mongolia, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

MR DAVID BOWEN
General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority

David is the General Manager of the Motor Accidents Authority and CEO of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority. He is a member of the Board and Advisory Council to the MAA and the Lifetime Care and Support Authority. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee to the Rehabilitation Studies Unit at the University of Sydney, and a member of the HIH Creditor’s Committee.

DR SOAMES JOB
General Manager, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority

Dr Soames Job (PhD in Psychology) took up his current position of General Manager, Road Safety Strategy in the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW in 2003. In 1982 he was a key player in the introduction and refinement of Random Breath Testing (NSW). He continued to conduct research and provide policy advice in road safety while Director of the Health and Safety Psychology Research Unit at the University of Sydney until 2003. He has published two books, over 260 research papers and delivered over 250 conference addresses. He is listed in the Who’s Who in the World for his contribution to research.

PROFESSOR MIKE ARCHER
Dean, Faculty of Science, UNSW

Prof Mike Archer is the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Deputy Chair of the IRMRC. He is a renowned researcher in the biological sciences and became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2002. He has held senior executive appointments in research institutions and was Director of the Australian Museum in Sydney from 1999-2004.

PROFESSOR BRENDON PARKER
Dean, Faculty of Engineering, UNSW

Brendon is a Material Engineer and has published extensively on the Deformation and Solidification Processing of Metals. He is very keen on interdisciplinary design and looks forward to seeing more engineers engaged in mitigating injury risk.

PROFESSOR TERENCE CAMPBELL
Representative of the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

Professor Campbell is the Faculty of Medicine representative to the Board. He is Professor of Medicine at St Vincent’s Hospital and Senior Associate Dean in the Faculty of Medicine. Professor Campbell holds doctorates in medicine and philosophy and he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his contribution to medicine.
NON VOTING MEMBERS

**A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON**
Acting Director, IRMRC (June-December)

A/Prof Ann Williamson is an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow and Acting Director of the Centre. Ann has an established reputation and a substantial body of research in the area of human factors and safety, especially focusing on fatigue and performance. In particular, she is known for her work analysing the role of human factors in workplace incidents. Ann was instrumental in the establishment of the Centre and was its inaugural Director stepping down in 2003 to concentrate more fully on her program of research.

**PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH**
Director, IRMRC (March and June)

Prof Caroline Finch was the Director of NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre from 2003 until June 2006. She is one of Australia’s leading sports injury prevention and falls epidemiology researchers. Her research has been widely published and funded by grants from bodies such as National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council. During her directorship at the IRMRC, she encouraged the development of training and research opportunities for public health and biostatistical officers from NSW Health.

**MS MARY POTTER FORBES**
Research Manager, Research Fellow, IRMRC

Mary Potter Forbes provides support to the Director and has responsibility for routine operation, research administration and strategic planning and development. Mary is responsible for ensuring that financial performance is tied with strategic objectives. She is also involved in the health service delivery research projects at the Centre.

**MR PETER WHITECROSS**
Assistant Director Health Promotion, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Services

Peter Whitecross is currently the Assistant Director for Health Promotion at Northern Sydney Central Coast Health. He has been involved with Safe Communities since 1992, in Northern Sydney. He was the chairperson of the intersectoral committee which conducted the first NSW Youth Sports Injury Survey. Other projects have addressed suicide prevention and domestic violence. Current projects include falls prevention and the influence of alcohol in causing injury.

SECRETARIAT

**MS HENNY O ENTOJO**
Executive Assistant to the Director

**PROFESSOR JEAN CROSS**
Head, School of Safety Science, UNSW

Jean Cross is Professor of Risk Management at the School of Safety Science, UNSW. She is one of the co-founders of the IRMRC. Her research interests are risk assessment methods applied across a wide range of different applications including OHS and transport.
OTHER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The activities of the IRMRC are guided by two other management committees: the Quarterly Review Committee and the Research Advisory Committee.

QUARTERLY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Quarterly Review Committee sets policy and guidelines for the management of, and access to, the Centre’s data resources. During 2006, the Committee comprised the following members:

DR ANDREW HAYEN, Chair, Biostatistician, IRMRC
PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH, Director, IRMRC (until June 2006)
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON, Acting Director, IRMRC (from June 2006 onwards)
MR SOUFIANE BOFOUS, Data Manager, IRMRC
MR ANDREW GRAHAM, Manager Trend Analysis, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
MS PAM ALBANY, Manager, Injury Prevention and Policy Branch, NSW Health
MS SUSAN SUHOOD, Manager, Scheme Monitoring, Motor Accidents Authority

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board about the research directions of the Centre. In 2006, the Committee comprised the following members:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN LORD Chair, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW
PROFESSOR RICHARD BRYANT School of Psychology, UNSW
PROFESSOR JEAN CROSS School of Safety Science, UNSW
PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR School of Mathematics, UNSW
PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH Director, IRMRC
DR SOAMES JOB General Manager, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
DR BERMANN KAYIS School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW
PROFESSOR JOHN LANGLEY Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, New Zealand
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON Acting Director, IRMRC (from June 2006)
DR KAREN ZWI School of Women's and Children's Health, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW
BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

IRMRC is committed to furthering capacity in injury risk management research. The Centre supervised and mentored 16 postgraduate research students in 2006. All UNSW-based IRMRC students are formally enrolled in other UNSW schools for administrative purposes but are supervised or co-supervised by full-time academics of the IRMRC. In 2006, IRMRC students were enrolled in the UNSW Faculties of Science (School of Psychology and Safety Science), Medicine (School of Public Health and Community Medicine), and the Australian School of Business (School of Economics).

IRMRC students
From left to right: Ms Helena Hong, Ms Rebecca Mitchell, Ms Naomi Dunn, Ms Lara Harvey, Ms Rena Friswell, Ms Maria Romiti, Dr Wei Du, Mr Tao Yang
Absent: Dr Soufiane Boufous, Dr Rebecca Dennis
# BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

The IRMRC students listed below are classified by their School of Enrolment:

## PhD STUDENTS

### School of Economics

Tao Yang  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Economics  
**Main supervisor:** Prof Denzil Fiebig (School of Economics)  
**Co-supervisor:** Prof Peter Abelson  
**Project/thesis title:** Value of safety using the discrete choice modelling methodology

Troy Baker  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Psychology  
**Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson  
**Co-supervisor:** Dr Julie Hatfield  
**Project/thesis title:** Error in skilled behaviour

### School of Psychology

Ralston Fernandes  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Psychology  
**Main supervisor:** Dr Julie Hatfield  
**Co-supervisor:** Dr Soames Job (RTA)  
**Project/thesis title:** Risk taking attitudes of young NSW drivers

Helena Hong  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Psychology  
**Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson  
**Co-supervisor:** Prof Jim Kehoe (School of Psychology)  
**Project/thesis title:** Attention and skilled performance: The effects of distraction on errors during skilled tracking

### School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Soufiane Boufous  
(conferred in November 2006)  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
**Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch  
**Co-supervisor:** A/Prof Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)  
**Project/thesis title:** Reporting injury on older people: Epidemiological profile and knowledge gains from data linkage

Wei Du  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
**Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch  
**Co-supervisor:** Dr Julie Hatfield  
**Project/Thesis title:** Population based evaluation of the role of child restraints in preventing child road trauma

Soufiane Boufous  
(conferred in November 2006)  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
**Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch  
**Co-supervisor:** A/Prof Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)  
**Project/thesis title:** Reporting injury on older people: Epidemiological profile and knowledge gains from data linkage

Rena Friswell  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
**Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson  
**Co-supervisor:** A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine)  
**Project/Thesis title:** Driver Fatigue in light transport drivers

Lara Harvey  
**Degree enrolled:** PhD  
**School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine  
**Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch  
**Co-supervisor:** Dr Ros Poulos  
**Project/Thesis title:** The epidemiology and prevention of burns and scalds in NSW
PhD STUDENTS

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

**Rebecca Mitchell**
- **Degree enrolled:** PhD
- **School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- **Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch
- **Co-supervisor:** Dr Andrew Hayen, Prof Rod McClure (Griffith University), Dr Tim Driscoll (University of Sydney)
- **Project/Thesis title:** Injury surveillance in NSW: systematic review and future opportunities

**Rebecca Dennis**
- **Degree enrolled:** PhD (conferred in May 2006)
- **School of enrolment:** School of Safety Science
- **Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch
- **Co-supervisor:** Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW), Prof Bruce Elliott (UWA)
- **Project/thesis title:** Risk factors for repetitive microtrauma injury to adolescent and adult cricket fast bowlers

**Basema Saddik** (conferred in May 2006)
- **Degree enrolled:** PhD
- **School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- **Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson
- **Co-supervisor:** A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW)
- **Project/Thesis title:** Assessing neurotoxicity in working children in Lebanon

**Marcia Schmertmann**
- **Degree enrolled:** PhD
- **School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- **Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson
- **Co-supervisor:** A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW)
- **Project/thesis title:** Predictive value of identified environmental, socio-demographic and behavioural factors for unintentional poisonings in young children

School of Safety Science

**Naomi Dunn**
- **Degree enrolled:** PhD
- **School of enrolment:** School of Safety Science
- **Main supervisor:** A/Prof Ann Williamson
- **Co-supervisor:** Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW)
- **Project/thesis title:** Monotony, underload and vigilance: Implications for the rail industry

**John Quinn**
- **Degree enrolled:** Master of Occupational Health and Safety (conferred in March 2006)
- **School of enrolment:** School of Safety Science
- **Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch
- **Project/thesis title:** Hydration status and injuries in Australian football

Masters Student - Research

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

**Louise Shaw** (conferred in May 2006)
- **Degree enrolled:** Masters of Public Health
- **School of enrolment:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- **Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch
- **Project/thesis title:** Injuries in junior cricket

School of Safety Science

**Maria Romiti**
- **Degree enrolled:** Master of Safety Science (Research)
- **School of enrolment:** School of Safety Science
- **Main supervisor:** Prof Caroline Finch
- **Co-supervisor:** Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW)
- **Project/thesis title:** The Junior Australian Football Safety Study (JAFSS)
SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006

8th WORLD CONFERENCE ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 2-5th APRIL 2006

PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH’S FAREWELL MAY 2006

8TH AUSTRALIAN INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, 27-29 SEPTEMBER 2006

NSW SPORTING INJURY COMMITTEE AWARD, NOVEMBER 2006
**CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

**RESEARCH STREAMS**
Work at the Centre is organised naturally into research streams but much of research is multidisciplinary cutting across streams:

**DATA SYSTEMS AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**
The Centre has custodianship of and/or access to a number of NSW population databases, including the NSW Inpatient Statistical Collection, NSW Traffic Accident Database System, MAA Claims Register and Statistical Database and claims data from WorkCover NSW. The Centre undertakes data mining and statistical analysis of these secure data for the core funding partners, the Centre's own research program and as a service for approved agencies on approved matters.

**EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE**
The Centre undertakes injury epidemiological studies which are guided or informed by the data mining of the analytical research stream. We have developed capacity to link datasets to identify patterns of risk and risk behaviour and to gain insight into injury risk management strategies, and to undertake spatial analysis of patterns of injury risk.

**FALLS**
The Centre is very involved in falls prevention and the implementation and evaluation of the NSW Falls Policy. It has strong links with ageing and falls researchers at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (POWRI), the Clinical Excellence Commission and the NSW Falls Network.

**ROAD SAFETY**
Road safety is studied intensively at the Centre with experts in driver behaviour and human factors carrying out surveys, simulations and data analytical work to gain new insights and understandings into the causes and prevention of traffic crashes and occupant and pedestrian injury.

**SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATION INJURY**
Australia is a sport obsessed nation and researchers at the Centre work to identify the nature of the risk associated with these activities as well as participants’ perception and awareness of risks. With expertise in biomechanics, sports science, human behaviour and epidemiology, researchers seek to devise and evaluate solutions to minimise any potentially negative outcomes of sport and active recreation.

**WORK RELATED INJURY**
Work related injury remains a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in New South Wales. Researchers at the Centre study the human factors that place individuals at risk of injury - such as shift work, fatigue, payment systems - and value the cost of these injuries to employers, the individual and society.

**TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**
The Centre mentors and supervises post-graduate research students enrolled at UNSW and provides training placements for Public Health Officers and Biostatistical trainees from NSW Health. In 2006, there were three placements at the Centre as well as a six month secondment from NSW Health by the recipient of a HERO N fellowship, the Senior Epidemiologist and Manager of Epidemiology and Health branch.

**TEACHING AND SEMINARS**
The Centre's primary purpose is to conduct research but it also provides targeted courses, training programs and seminars on matters relevant to injury risk management. The IRMRC delivers an innovative course on injury prevention based upon a broad multi-disciplinary approach to risk management. The objective of the course was to explore concepts in injury risk management with particular emphasis on understanding how injury occurs and how injury differs from other public health problems.

In 2006, the Centre was represented on the organising committee for the 8th Australian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) Conference at UNSW. All Centre researchers presented papers at the Conference and they were very well received. The Centre also hosted presentations by international scholars, including Susan Gallagher and Professor Gordon Smith.

**TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE**
Researchers at the Centre are actively involved in the policy development process and the translation of research into policy. The Centre hosted a workshop during the AIPN Conference on ‘Revisions to external causes chapter for Sixth Edition ICD-10-AM’. In addition, the results of sound research lead to action by government bodies in a number of areas. For example, a NSW Government Task Force to combat the use of illicit drugs by long distance truck drivers was established as a direct result of the research of Associate Professor Ann Williamson.

The effort to move sound research findings into policy and practice was furthered by the publication of letters and editorials as well as active membership of committees, panels, and working parties within the injury prevention area.
During 2006, the IRMRC staff were involved in a range of projects across the following areas:

> Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance
> Falls
> Road Safety
> Sports and Recreational Injury
> Work-related Injury

In this section we provide a brief summary of each project, including the research collaborators and funding received during 2006.
RESEARCH STREAMS

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE

INVESTIGATION OF CORONIAL DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Melissa Irwin (NSW Public Health Officer Training Program), Andrew Hayen, Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2005-2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $69,500. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
Coronial data have the potential to provide a rich source of information about fatal injury. The aim of this project was to evaluate the National Coroners Information System (NCIS) as a tool for injury surveillance in NSW. More specifically, it examined how reliably the NCIS captured fatal injuries and the timeliness with which cases referred to a coroner are closed, and therefore available for injury prevention research. This project also examined some of the methodological issues in using routinely collected electronic mortality data. A draft report of the data analysis was produced in 2006. The findings were presented at the Public Health Association of Australia conference and the Australian Injury Prevention Network conference in September 2006. The NCIS is also currently being examined to describe the reasons why fatal injuries are coded as X59 'accidental exposure to unspecified factors' and to identify the types of injuries included in this code.
RESEARCH STREAMS

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE continued

NSW INJURY HOSPITALISATION PROFILE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Andrew Hayen, Rebecca Mitchell

FUNDING
2005-2006, Core funding

SUMMARY
Almost all serious non-fatal injuries lead to hospitalisation. The aim of this project was to examine injury-related hospitalisations of NSW residents during 1989-90 to 2003-04. This report provides an overview of the causes of hospitalisation for NSW residents. It describes the trend of hospitalised injury for selected injury mechanisms from 1989-90 to 2003-04, and presents a detailed analysis of select injury mechanisms during 1999-00 to 2003-04. The information this report provides assists in establishing the magnitude of hospitalised injury and in the identification of areas for injury prevention activities in NSW. The report was launched in 2006.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND VIOLENCE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Anthony Zwi (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), Alison Rutherford (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW). The project was directed by Prof Zwi and his team at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

FUNDING
2004-2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $50,000. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
This project explored possibilities for linking work in population health with other sectors involved in the prevention, management and monitoring of violence and crime. In doing so, it mapped agencies working in violence prevention in NSW, mapped the range of data sources available to provide information useful for violence prevention, described future initiatives aimed at improving quality of health data and recommended a future work program for the NSW Health Injury Policy Branch. The project commenced in 2005 and was completed in 2006.
THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDHOOD INJURY MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Andrew Hayen, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Ros Poulos (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), Alison Rutherford (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), Anthony Zwi (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW). This project is led by School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW.

FUNDING
2006, UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Grant (Total budget: $23,839. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
The project aimed to understand the distribution of injuries in children in NSW. Using modern statistical techniques, the project identified areas in NSW that have significantly higher or lower rates of hospitalisation for various injury mechanisms. A series of maps showing the spatial distribution of childhood injury morbidity in NSW was produced. The maps show the distribution of particular injury mechanisms by local government area for the period 1999-2000 to 2003-2004.
Images 2 & 3 Courtesy of Daina Sturnieks (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW)
RESEARCH STREAMS

FALLS

THE SPATIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PLAYGROUND FALLS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Andrew Hayen, Shauna Sherker

FUNDING
2006, UNSW Faculty of Science Early Career Research Grant (Total budget: $18,747. Funding received in 2006: $18,747)

SUMMARY
The project aims to understand the distribution of injury due to playground falls in NSW. Using modern statistical techniques, maps showing the spatial distribution of hospitalised injury due to playground falls were produced in 2006.

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE INJURY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IIMS) ON THE INCIDENCE OF INPATIENT FALLS IN NSW HOSPITALS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Mary Potter Forbes, Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Johanna Westbrook (Health Informatics Research and Evaluation Unit, University of Sydney)

FUNDING
2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $122,500. Funding received in 2006: $122,500)

SUMMARY
Falls are the most frequently reported type of inpatient incident currently reported in IIMS but data collection has not been validated. The study aims to determine if falls data recorded in IIMS are valid, reliable and comprehensive; if IIMS data are used in the development of falls risk management strategies; and what barriers to the adoption of IIMS in the risk management of falls exist. IIMS data will be compared with medical record data so that the sensitivity and specificity of IIMS data can be evaluated and falls incidence estimated. Usage behaviour of nursing unit managers and ward staff will be explored by focus groups, interviews and survey. The study will produce valid baseline falls incidence data and identify usability issues and impediments to the adoption of IIMS technology and the use of IIMS data. The results of the study will inform recommendations for the reporting of inpatient falls; data needs in future versions of IIMS; and improvements in the usability of IIMS. Implementation of the study will involve negotiations with Area Health Services, the Clinical Excellence Commission, Safety & Quality Branch of NSW Health and Centre for Epidemiology and Research in NSW Health.
FALLS continued

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HOSPITALISED WRIST FRACTURED IN OLDER PEOPLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute), Jacqueline Close (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute), Todd Gothelf (Prince of Wales Hospital), Bill Walsh (Surgical Training and Orthopaedic Research Laboratory, Prince of Wales Hospital)

FUNDING
2005-2006, Core funding

SUMMARY
Wrist fractures are common injury in older people. The epidemiology and trends in wrist fracture admissions to public and private acute hospitals in New South Wales, Australia between July 1993 and June 2003, were examined using routinely collected hospital separations statistics. Over the study period, the number of hospital separations for wrist fractures increase in both men and women. A significant increase in age-specific and age-standardised hospitalisation rates for wrist fractures was also observed. This study was published in Bone in 2006.

EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE NSW FALLS POLICY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2006-2009, NSW Health (Total budget: $492,862. Funding received in 2006: $114,950)

SUMMARY
The objective of this study is to develop a framework and carry out the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the NSW Falls Policy, as required by the Policy. The Research Fellow will work closely with the NSW Falls Leader in the Clinical Excellence Commission and the Falls Coordinators in the Area Health Services, establishing a Falls Evaluation Advisory Committee with members drawn from key stakeholder groups, including Area Health Services. Annual reports against agreed indicators for NSW Health and each Area Health Service will document policy implementation.

DEVELOPMENT OF FALLS INJURY RISK PROJECTION, INDICATORS and AN EVALUATION PLAN

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Annaliese Dowling

FUNDING
2005-2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $87,000. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project was to provide falls injury risk projection estimates and other indicators against which NSW Health could monitor the impact of its Falls Policy. NSW Fall Injury Indicators were developed to track the trends in the incidence of fall injuries in people over 65 years of age. These indicators have been designed to be used at the Area Health Service and State levels.
**FALLS continued**

**HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS FOR A FRACTURE IN OLDER PEOPLE**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

**COLLABORATORS:**
Jacqueline Close and Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute), Lesley Day (Monash University Accident Research Centre)

**FUNDING**
2006, Core Funding

**SUMMARY**
This project estimated the proportion of older people who are hospitalised following a presentation to an emergency department for hip, pelvic and wrist fractures. Hospitalisation data were found to not accurately reflect the incidence of low-trauma fractures, particularly wrist and pelvic fractures, in older people. This research is to be published in Injury Prevention.

**RELATIVE SURVIVAL AFTER HOSPITALIZATION FOR HIP FRACTURE IN OLDER PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Diane Hindmarsh, Andrew Hayen, Caroline Finch

**COLLABORATORS:**
Jacqueline Close (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)

**FUNDING**
2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $69,500. No funding received in 2006) and Core funding

**SUMMARY**
This project determined the relative survival of hospitalised fall-related hip fracture patients aged 65+ years, irrespective of cause of death. Only 21% of deaths were found to have mentioned hip fracture as a contributing cause of death. Both three-month and one-year relative survival was higher in females and older people. Relative survival gives a more appropriate assessment of the risk of death after a fall-related hip fracture than use of cause-specific survival, due to the extensive under-reporting of the contribution of the hip fracture to mortality.

**SPATIAL TEMPORAL TRENDS IN HIP FRACTURE RATES**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Robin Turner, Andrew Hayen, Caroline Finch

**COLLABORATORS:**
William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

**FUNDING**
2006, NSW Health (Total budget: $223,500. Funding received in 2006: $74,500) and Core Funding

**SUMMARY**
From a public health perspective, the prevention of falls and their associated injuries requires proactive interventions for population sub-groups at greatest risk. Information is required at the population level both across time (temporally) and geographically (spatially) to answer key questions about changes in injury rate in relation to policy implementation and other initiatives and in different geographic regions (such as the Area Health Services). This project aims to develop appropriate statistical approaches for the analysis of the spatial and temporal characteristics of hip fractures in NSW, after adjustment for age, gender and population demographics. To our knowledge, there has not previously been a comprehensive or concurrent assessment of both the spatial and temporal characteristics as they relate to fall injuries or hip fractures.
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY

FATIGUE IN THE LIGHT TRUCKING SECTOR

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell

FUNDING

SUMMARY
Fatigue is a recognised threat to the occupational safety of professional drivers yet surprisingly little is known about the fatigue experiences of drivers outside the long distance heavy vehicle sector. This project aimed to gather exploratory data about fatigue and other occupational health and safety issues for light transport drivers. Analysis of driver and company survey data during 2006 suggested that driver fatigue, associated with long hours and high workload, is an issue for the light transport sector. A range of other workplace stressors associated with a heightened risk of occupational injury among drivers were also identified. Dissemination of the findings is ongoing and further, targeted investigations in the workplace are planned.

TIME OF DAY, TIME AWAKE AND ALCOHOL: THE EFFECTS ON FATIGUE AND PERFORMANCE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2005-2006, ARC Discovery Grant (Total budget: $117,415. Funding received in 2006: $117,415)

SUMMARY
Previous studies have shown that around 18 hours without sleep produces performance deficits equivalent to a blood alcohol at the legal limit for driving (0.05% blood alcohol content). All these studies, however, were confounded by time awake and time of day. Sleep deprivation effects occurring in the midnight to 6am period coincide with the lowest point in the body clock, when performance capacity is low anyway. This project attempts to disentangle the effects of time of day and time awake and validate these effects using doses of alcohol, up to twice the legal limit of driving. The data collection phase was completed in 2006 and data analysis was commenced.
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

DATA MATCHING PROJECT OF WORK RELATED DRIVER FATIGUE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Soufiane Boufous

FUNDING
2004-2006, Roads Traffic Authority (Total budget: $38,260. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project was to examine the characteristics of work-related traffic crashes involving drivers in New South Wales, and to investigate fatigue involvement in these types of crashes. Probabilistic data record linkage was used to merge police crash records and workers compensation data for the period 1998-2002. The findings indicated that fatigue involved crashes were more likely to result in fatality and incur higher costs than crashes not involving fatigue, especially if the crash occurred on country roads. The study shows no significant difference in the proportion of fatigue-related cases between on-duty and commuting crashes and highlighted the need to further investigate the factors associated with fatigue in commuters. This project demonstrated the value of record linkage techniques in addressing some of the limitations of work-related data systems and in providing a more complete picture of the circumstances of occupational traffic crashes. In 2006, work on this project involved the production and publication of a peer reviewed journal article.

NEW SOUTH WALES YOUNG DRIVERS’ COHORT STUDY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Rebecca Ivers (George Institute for International Health), Robyn Norton (The George Institute for International Health), Mark Stevenson (The George Institute for International Health), Mark Woodward (The George Institute for International Health), Maurice Eisenbruch (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), Don Carseldine (Roads and Traffic Authority). This project is led by the George Institute for International Health.

FUNDING
2000-2006, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
This collaborative study, being led by the George Institute, aims to determine the specific risk factors for serious injury and death outcomes in young drivers aged 17 to 24. It involves mail-outs of invitations to complete a study questionnaire on-line or via a mailed questionnaire. The aim of this study is to obtain a better understanding of the risk factors for young driver crashes and should lead to better and more targeted interventions to reduce young driver crash risk. The baseline data collection involved a questionnaire covering driver training, risk perception, driver behaviour, sensation seeking behaviour and mental health. Participants gave consent for prospective data linkage to their licensing, crash, and injury data held in routinely collected databases. Just over 20,000 individuals completed the baseline questionnaire. A one-year follow-up questionnaire was sent out to around one quarter of the baseline study sample. Currently the project is in the data analysis phase. A paper describing the study design and initial results has been published in Injury Prevention journal.

“Young drivers ... are over-represented in crashes....representing about 48 percent of drivers in fatal crashes, but only 31 per cent of license holders.”

Julie Hatfield SMH 8th January 2006
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

PSYCHESTIMULANT USE IN LONG DISTANCE ROAD TRANSPORT

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2004-2005, NSW Health (Total budget: $75,000. Funding received in 2006: $55,000)

SUMMARY
This project involved two parts. The first involved a reanalysis of two national surveys of long distance truck drivers in order to look at the predictors of stimulant drug use. The second involved a survey of long distance heavy vehicle drivers about their experiences of drug use and the characteristics of drivers’ work that are associated with drug use in order to update the findings of the earlier national surveys. The results of the surveys showed that stimulant use is a common feature of this industry. Between one in five and one in three drivers reported using stimulants at least sometimes and a significant proportion reported stimulant use as a most helpful fatigue management strategy. Multivariate analysis showed that stimulant drug use was twice as likely for drivers who had the greatest problem in managing fatigue and was two to three times more likely for drivers paid on a payment by results or contingency payment. Younger, less experienced drivers were also more likely to take drugs. These studies demonstrate the involvement of external factors, especially productivity-based payment systems in stimulant drug use by truck drivers. The results highlight the important role of economic and organisational factors in occupational health and safety problems. The project has resulted in a report that is available on the IRMRC website, conference presentations and submission of a paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

RISK TAKING ATTITUDES OF YOUNG NSW DRIVERS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

COLLABORATORS
Soames Job (Roads and Traffic Authority)

FUNDING
2003-2006, Motor Accidents Authority (Total budget: $39,931. Funding received in 2006: $9,927.10)

SUMMARY
Risky driving is a major contributor to road trauma, particularly for young drivers, who are over-represented in crash statistics. Different risky driving behaviours have been explained in terms of a range of factors that influence health-relevant behaviours, without any attempt to identify the profile of factors that are relevant to specific risky driving behaviours. The aims of this project were to identify factors which are relevant to speeding, drink driving, driving while fatigued and non-use of restraint amongst young drivers; and to validate self-reported attitudes against the Implicit Attitudes computer task. In 2006 we completed data analysis and wrote a report of the research. The final report was accepted by the funding body in July 2006.
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

EVALUATION OF PROFILE LINE MARKING AS A ROAD SAFETY COUNTERMEASURE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Susanne Murphy

COllaborators
Soames Job (Roads and Traffic Authority)

Funding
2004-2006, Australian Research Council Linkage Grant (funding partner: Roads and Traffic Authority) (Total budget: $107,078. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
Profile-Line-Marking (PLM) aims to reduce fatigue-related crashes by alerting drivers when they begin veering off the road. Substantial stretches are laid annually Australia-wide, but evaluation of PLM has been unsophisticated or flawed. The aims of this project are to improve understanding of PLM impacts by investigating beliefs/attitudes regarding PLM (e.g. “PLM damages car”); whether road-edge PLM increases head-on crashes; the efficacy of PLM with more widely spaced “ribs” with and without separate raised pavement markers; and underlying mechanisms (e.g. reducing fatigue, increasing visibility during night/wet) in order to improve the efficacy and efficiency of PLM use. Relevant data has been acquired from archival data sources, and a survey and behavioural observations have been conducted. In 2006 data collection was completed and analysis commenced. Three manuscripts are currently in preparation.

EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF CHILD RESTRAINTS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Wei Du, Julie Hatfield, Caroline Finch

COllaborators
Lynne Bilston, Julie Brown (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)

Funding
2005-2008, ARC, Motor Accidents Authority and Road and Traffic Authority (Total budget: $73,950. Funding received in 2006: $25,118)

SUMMARY
Significant numbers of children in Australia are killed and injured each year as occupants of motor vehicles. There is a need to define the effectiveness of different forms of Australian restraint for children considering the impact of non-use and misuse. The aims of this project are to develop a population-level profile of road trauma in child occupants in NSW; characterise the types of restraints currently used in NSW; characterise and quantify restraint misuse; determine the size/weight deficiencies of existing dedicated child restraint and adult belt systems for Australian children; assess the influence of deficiencies identified in crash protection; estimate the costs of injuries in children and the cost-benefit associated with correct restraint use. Development of the population-based profile of child trauma is well underway, with analysis of the hospital separations, coronial, and road crash database completed. Analysis of the US fatal road crash database (FARS) has commenced. A telephone survey of restraint usage for children aged under 16 is complete, and data analysis is continuing. A study to characterise the geometry of seatbelt and child restraints on the market in Australia is complete.

The third study, which involves an in-depth study of child restraint misuse, is in its final stage. Modelling of the efficacy of child restraints in a crash, and of the potential prevention of injury with 100% appropriate use, is underway. Two papers have been submitted, 4 conference presentations have been given, and a further 2 conference abstracts accepted (not including publications from our co-investigators at POWMRI). Three further papers are in preparation.
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

DESIGN FOR A STUDY OF REACTION TO ENGINE BRAKE NOISE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield

FUNDING

SUMMARY
The Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA) has been working with the National Transport Commission (NTC) in the development of a regulatory approach to manage engine brake (EB) noise. The RTA aims to use the NTC’s acoustical definition of annoyance, in conjunction with information about human annoyance responses to noise, in order to develop an EB noise standard. The aim of the current project is to design an acoustic survey using recorded EB events (held by the RTA), to provide information to be used in the development of an EB noise standard. In 2006, a report was provided to the RTA providing advice regarding 1) experimental design (e.g. stimuli selection, methods for obtaining ratings, and inclusion of important modifiers, and 2) sampling issues. Purpose-designed measures of annoyance, noise sensitivity and attitudes to the noise source, were developed and provided to the RTA. A seminar was also given to brief stakeholders on the background, study design, and materials, and a pilot survey was successfully conducted.

THE ROLE OF RISK PROSPENSITY IN THE RISKY DRIVING OF OLDER AND YOUNGER DRIVERS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

FUNDING
2005, Australian Transport Safety Bureau (Total budget: $22,095. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
Risky driving is a major contributor to road trauma, particularly for young drivers, who are over-represented in crash statistics. Investigation of limited experience and risk-perception skills as crash contributors has lacked appropriate consideration of risk-propensity (willingness/desire to take risk). The aims of this project are to investigate interrelationships between aspects of risk-propensity (measured using recently-developed questionnaires), age, experience, risk-perception, and risky driving, in order to inform improved road safety countermeasures. Data collection is well underway.

“Research suggests that increasing the licensing age may be effective in reducing young driver crash rates.”
Julie Hatfield SMH 8th January 2006
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

REVIEW OF PREDICTIVE FACTORS FOR SPEEDING BEHAVIOUR AND FORMULATION OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT FOR RECIDIVIST SPEEDING OFFENDERS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

FUNDING
2005-2006, Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (Total budget: $6,683. Funding received in 2006: $6,683)

SUMMARY
The Roads and Traffic Authority are designing a program for recidivist speeding offenders. The aims of this project are to provide information about factors that are related to speeding and that might be amenable to change, as well as to provide instruments for measuring these factors (based on earlier research). In 2006 the measurement instruments were designed and a report provided to the Roads and Traffic Authority.

IMPLICIT ATTITUDES AND SIMULATED DRIVING BEHAVIOUR

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

COLLABORATORS
Gavin Faunce (University of Sydney), Soames Job (Roads and Traffic Authority)

FUNDING

SUMMARY
Speeding is a substantial contributor toward road trauma, and yet research regarding attitudes which influence speeding relies on self-report measures that may be subject to social desirability bias. The aims of Study 1 were to assess implicit attitudes towards speeding (employing the computer-based Implicit Association Test; IAT), and their relationship to self-reported attitudes, self-reported behaviour and simulated driving behaviour. The aims of Study 2 were to develop an intervention to improve speeding-related attitudes (both implicit and explicit), and simulated behaviour. In 2005, we developed the IAT, intervention materials, and collected all data. In 2006 data collection was completed and a report of the research written.

“The results suggested that the behaviour of pedestrians on mobile phones was as absent-minded as that already shown to exist among drivers, especially women, said Dr Julie Hatfield.”

Julie Hatfield December 5, 2006, The New York Times
www.nytimes.com/2006/12/05/health/05beba.html
RESEARCH STREAMS

ROAD SAFETY continued

RISK MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN FACTORS IN VEHICLE CONTROL: DRIVING SIMULATOR DEVELOPMENT

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Julie Hatfield, Rena Friswell

COLLABORATORS
Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW)

FUNDING
2006-2007, UNSW Research Infrastructure Block Grant (Total budget: $19,585. Funding received in 2006: $19,585)

SUMMARY
The objective of this project is to establish a driving simulator at the IRMRC. Funding was obtained to purchase a desktop driving simulator. Driving simulation is widely regarded as a valid and valuable research methodology that provides objective lab-based measurement of driver behaviour and performance. It supplements or replaces self-report measures of driving (which are subject to errors of recall or report) and field observations (which are expensive, time-consuming, and often poorly controlled). The validity of driving simulation has been established for a wide range of driver behaviour and performance issues. The driving simulator will be used to examine a variety of road safety issues including young driver performance and the effects of driver fatigue.

BUILDING ECONOMIC CAPACITY IN THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF INJURY PREVENTION

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Peter Abelson, Tao Yang, Mary Potter Forbes, Ann Williamson, Ros Poulos

COLLABORATORS
Denzil Fiebig (School of Economics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2006, Roads and Traffic Authority (Total budget: $133,161. Funding received in 2006: $133,161)

SUMMARY
The aim of this research program is to estimate what individuals are willing to pay for various forms of safety, specifically reductions in the risk of major and minor injuries attributable to road traffic accidents. This project extends previous work done at the Centre on the cost of injury, in which a value of life figure, derived from other studies, was applied to mortality and morbidity losses. We will be undertaking original research into what people are willing to pay for reduced risk of injury. Issues that must be addressed to obtain the value of safety include: valuations may not be comprehensive; valuations will vary depending upon levels of risk aversion; and most importantly, the valuation of small changes in risk is not readily understood. To address these difficulties, the study will adopt a discrete choice modelling methodology in which respondents will be asked about a number of discrete attributes derived from scales of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL). The literature review and study design are almost complete. The survey instrument will be finalised and focus groups run in 2007.
sports and recreational injury
Managing Return-to-Play Decisions Following Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI): A Cohort Study

Centre Investigators
Caroline Finch

Collaborators
Mark Stevenson, Stephani Hollis and Colman Taylor (The George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney), Michael Collins (University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre), Andy Lee (School of Population Health, University of Western Australia), Andrew McIntosh, Maria Romiti (School of Safety Science, UNSW), Arthur Shores (Macquarie University). This project is led by the George Institute for International Health.

Funding
2004-2008, USA Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Grant (No funding received in 2006)

Summary
Contact sports, such as the football codes, carry a high risk of mild traumatic head injury (mTBI) and such injuries have the potential for adverse long-term sequelae. Despite the potential to significantly reduce the adverse outcome of mTBI there are conflicting guidelines about when a player should return to play. The aims of this project are to estimate the incidence of rugby-related mTBI (also known as concussion), assess the role of protective factors (such as head gear and mouthguards) and to develop guidelines for managing return-to-play decision following mTBI. During the 2006 season, the study recruited over 1300 males aged 16 and over who played high school or community level (non-elite) rugby within the Sydney metropolitan area. Demographic information, potential risk factors and recent concussion history were collected on all players at baseline. Selected school and club players undertook baseline neuropsychological testing and post-injury cognitive functioning was also assessed at four time intervals. The study is now in its final year of data collection with the football season commencing in March 2007.
RESEARCH STREAMS

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL INJURY
continued

EVALUATION OF THE SAFECLUB TRAINING INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SPORTS SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Shauna Sherker

COLLABORATORS
Paul Klarenaar (Northern Sydney Centra Coast Health), Kristy Abbott (Youthsafe), Alex Donaldson (Port Phillip Community Health). This project is being coordinated by Youthsafe.

FUNDING
2005-2006, NSW Sporting Injuries Committee, and Northern Sydney Central Coast Health for a 12 months follow-up of soccer clubs (No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
The aim of the SafeClub training intervention is to assist local sports clubs to make their sport safer. Despite evidence that risk management safety plans can improve safety for community sports, an audit of community sports clubs showed that very few clubs have these plans or even the capacity to develop them. SafeClub is a user-friendly and flexible training programme developed especially for community sport administrators. It focuses on the fundamentals of risk management using a practical and interactive approach. SafeClub is a joint initiative of YouthSafe and Northern Sydney Central Coast Health, in partnership with the IRMRC and with funding support from the NSW Sporting Injuries Committee. The project involved a 2-year controlled trial evaluation of SafeClub involving 76 soccer clubs. The evaluation was recently completed and will be published soon in 2007. SafeClub was recognised at the 2006 Australian Risk Management Awards as 'Best Risk or Compliance Education and Training Program' and also won a gold award at the NSW Sports Safety Awards in 2006.

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO COMPLIANCE WITH PLAYGROUND SAFETY STANDARDS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Shauna Sherker, Rebecca Dennis

COLLABORATORS
Jan Ritchie (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW), David Eager (Dept of Engineering, UTS)

FUNDING
2004-2005, UNSW Faculty Research Grant-Early Career Research (Total budget: $23,450. Funding received in 2006: $19,680)

SUMMARY
Playground related injury is a serious and common childhood event, resulting in substantial trauma and treatment costs. Playground injury occurs predominantly in public parks. Local government has a duty of care to ensure the safety of playgrounds in their jurisdiction, however non-compliance with safety standards is common and a lack of coordinated approach is apparent. This study aims to survey local government to: identify who is responsible for playground safety; determine compliance with playground safety standards; establish how often playground inspections and maintenance are conducted; and identify motivators and barriers to compliance with safety standards. A survey of key informants for playground safety in all 152 local government councils in New South Wales Australia was undertaken. Parks, recreation and garden staff were primarily responsible for playground safety and maintenance in local government. Self-reported compliance with key aspects of the Standard was high except with surface impact attenuation < 200G and <1000 HIC. Few councils reported impact testing the playground surface during inspections. The main motivators to compliance included: reducing risk of litigation or liability; community and child safety; and minimising the risk of injury. The main barriers included a lack of: time; personnel; and adequate funding. Confusing safety standards and playground vandalism were also noted.

“But females who did need treatment were most likely to have had an accident playing equestrian sports, netball or ice and snow sports.”

Soufiane Boufous 28/9/2006 SMH
I    R    M    R    C

RESEARCH STREAMS

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL INJURY continued

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF SEVERE AND CATASTROPHIC SPORTS INJURIES IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Soufiane Boufous, Rebecca Dennis

FUNDING
2005-2007. NSW Sporting Injuries Committee (Total budget: $59,125. Funding received in 2006: $19,935)

SUMMARY
Participation in sport and physical activity provides a range of health-related benefits. However, increased participation increases exposure to the risk factors associated with injury, with sport/leisure injury being recognised as a significant public health issue in Australia. In September 2006, a report from this project provided an overview of hospitalisations and deaths due to sport/leisure injury in NSW to help guide policy development and priority setting in this state. Injury data were obtained from existing routine databases that contain information on ABS recorded sport/leisure related deaths for 2000-2002 and hospitalisations in NSW for 2003-2004. During 2000-2002, there was a total of 167 sport/leisure-related deaths in NSW, corresponding to a rate of 0.85 deaths per 100,000 population during the three year period. During 2003-2004, there were a total of 25,346 sport/leisure-related hospitalisations, corresponding to a rate of 190.3 hospitalised injuries per 100,000 population during the two-year period. The football codes, combined, accounted for the highest proportion of sport/leisure injury hospitalisations, representing 32% of all cases. Other common reasons for hospitalisation were cycling and motorcycle activities for males, and equestrian sports, netball and ice and snow sports for females. The study identified priority target groups for injury prevention in NSW.

SCIENCE OF THE SURF (SOS): THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COASTAL DROWNING

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Julie Hatfield, Andrew Hayen, Shauna Sherker

FUNDING
2006-2009, ARC Linkage project grant with funding partners: Surf Life Saving Australia, NSW Health, NSW Department of Sports, Recreation and Tourism (Total budget: $203,593. No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
On average, 58 people drown at Australian beaches each year, and for each drowning death an estimated 4-10 people are hospitalised due to near drowning. A major factor in this preventable incident is a lack of knowledge about common beach hazards, with rip currents in particular implicated in about 80% of surf lifesaving rescues. The 3-stage project aims to examine situational, psychological and demographic factors associated with failing to swim between flags and other beach risk-behaviour (Stage 1 survey and observations), in order to inform the content, target audience, and format of a beach safety intervention to be designed, implemented in Stage 2 of the project. The intervention will be evaluated in terms of process, and improvement in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour (relative to the Stage 1 baseline) at the time of its implementation (Stage 2) and 1 year later (Stage 3). The project steering committee met several times in 2006 to finalise the evaluation design and to select appropriate beach locations.
ANALYSIS OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINING INDUSTRY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Naomi Dunn

FUNDING
2001-2007, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources (Total budget: $34,878. Funding received in 2006:$10,038)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to provide an annual report on the reportable incidents collected by the Department of Primary Industry-Mineral Division. This report is based on all Notifiable Incidents required to be reported to the regulatory agency under a range of mine safety acts and regulations. The current report describes the nature of incidents and circumstances in which they occur. This year was the fifth yearly report and covered the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2005. A presentation on the results of the report was made to the Mine Safety Advisory Committee.

THE EFFECTS OF PRECARIOUS WORK ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Phillip Bohle and Michael Quinlan (School of Organisation and Management, UNSW). This project is led by the School of Organisation and Management, UNSW.

FUNDING
2001-2005, Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (No funding received in 2006)

SUMMARY
The aim of this study is to examine the effects of precarious work on health and safety of workers in the hospitality, call centre and road transport industry. Temporary, part-time or casual work, often known as precarious or contingent work, is increasing in the Australian workforce. The aim of this study was to determine whether there are adverse effects on the health and safety of workers employed under precarious working conditions. This year the work on this project focused primarily on data analysis and the production of a paper on the short haul trucking industry; an occupational group that has had little research in the past. This survey of 217 Australian short-haul drivers compared the working hours, OHS and work-life conflict of permanent employees, temporary (casual) employees and owner-drivers. The results showed that precarious or contingent work is characteristic of short-haul trucking in Australia especially for contractor or owner drivers. The study demonstrates that contingent employment can take different forms and have different effects on those who work it, including adverse outcomes on safety and quality of working life.
RESEARCH STREAMS

WORK-RELATED INJURY continued

RAIL SAFETY AND RELIABILITY: A HUMAN FACTORS AND ERGONOMICS APPROACH

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW). This project is led by School of Safety Science

FUNDING
2006-2008, Australian Research Council Grant (Funding received in 2006: $12,375)

SUMMARY
The overall objective of this project is to determine the main human factors issues relevant to the Australian rail system and develop countermeasures for these issues. This project is funded by an ARC Linkage grant with external partners RailCorp, the NSW Independent Safety Transport and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) and the Victorian Department of Infrastructure (DOI). The first stage of the project is to identify the main human factors that will be investigated in this project. This will include discussions with the funding partners, a review of Australian incident/accident reports and Signals Passed At Danger data and a review of literature on rail human factors research.

COST OF WORK RELATED INJURIES AND ILLNESS IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Mary Potter Forbes

COLLABORATORS
Peter Abelson (Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Sydney), Tim Driscoll (School of Public Health, University of Sydney)

FUNDING
2004-2006, WorkCover (Total budget: $93,120. Funding received in 2006: $9,312)

SUMMARY
The aims of this project were to estimate the cost of compensable work-related injury and illness occurring in NSW in 2000-2001 and to develop a resource for use in ongoing economic evaluation of regulatory interventions. The cost was estimated at $16.9 billion; an average cost per incident of $118,540. The estimate included the costs of hospitalisation, consumption of medical services and administration of the claim as well as the cost of mortality and morbidity (net of productivity losses). A complex mapping between coding systems was necessary to derive the hospitalisation cost estimate. Excel spreadsheets were constructed for sensitivity analysis and supplied to WorkCover NSW for web-site implementation. The work was based on the methodology previously developed at the Centre but certain algorithms have been refined and parameter values updated. The approach is consistent with that adopted by Access Economics in its work for the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission in 2003. The report was accepted by WorkCover in 2005 and published by the IRMRC in 2006.

PROJECT APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN 2006 BUT FOR WHICH RESEARCH WORK WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL 2007

IRMRC staff are listed in bold in the following list:

Hatfield J, van Kamp I. Environmental quality and health in the elderly: The Australian situation and international comparison. 2007 ($90,911)
training and capacity building
TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP ON CORONIAL AND EMERGENCY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Andrew Hayen

FUNDING
2005-2006, NSW Health

SUMMARY
Melissa Irwin commenced a six month placement as a Public Health Officer at the IRMRC in December 2005. She evaluated the usefulness of the National Coroners Information System for injury surveillance after negotiating access to NCIS on behalf of the Centre.

BIOSTATISTICAL APPROACHES FOR INJURY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Andrew Hayen

COLLABORATORS
William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2004-2007, NSW Health

SUMMARY
Dr Robin Turner commenced as Biostatistical Officer for a 12 month placement in September 2005. Her work focused on developing methodologies to analyse spatio-temporal count data, with examples drawn from hip fractures in older people.

Diane Hindmarsh commenced her work at the Centre in March 2006. Her work focused on relative survival after fall related hip fracture using linked hospital separation and deaths data.
TEACHING AND SEMINARS

In 2006, the IRMRC delivered an innovative course on injury prevention focusing on a broad multidisciplinary approach to risk management. The objective of the course was to explore concepts in injury risk management with particular emphasis on understanding how injury occurs and how injury differs from other public health problems. The course covered:

- What is injury? The size of the problems and different ways of counting injury.
- Introduction to the concepts of risk, risk assessment and risk management, quality and safety, hazards and risks and the role of risk perception.
- Theories and approaches to injury causation: Public health, road safety and risk management theories of injury causation.
- Injury surveillance including sources of injury data, injury coding and classification and ICD coding of injury mechanism, nature and agency as well as the limitations of population databases.
- Approaches to injury prevention policy and intervention and the role of regulation.
- Introduction to human factors and injury.
- Injury risk management in the real world.

The course was conducted over five consecutive days in July and attracted 17 students. The course is university accredited, counting as six units of credit towards postgraduate qualifications. It was also offered as a non-award programme for non-UNSW students.
GOVERNMENT AND POLICY FORUMS ATTENDED

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
> Attended EpiSig meeting at NSW Health on 3rd March 2006
> Attended the "Translating research into policy and practice-the ITR approach" meeting of national and state-wide falls policy coordinators, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, Sydney, 9th March 2006
> Attended and chaired Child Death Review Team "10 year study" Committee meeting on 29th March 2006
> Attended ITR training session with Susan Gallagher relating to translating research into policy and practice, UNSW on 10th May 2006

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Invited member of the Rail Fatigue Expert Group for the National Transport Commission, Melbourne on 2nd March 2006
> Attended meeting of the Australasian Parliamentary Road Safety Committee’s "Road Safety: From Local to Global Perspectives" at Parliament House, Sydney on 3-4th April 2006
> Attended ITR training session with Susan Gallagher relating to translating research into policy and practice, UNSW on 10th May 2006

SOUFANE BOUFOUS
> Attended EpiSig meeting at NSW Health on 3rd March 2006
> Attended the "45 and up" study collaborators meeting on 21st September 2006

REBECCA DENNIS
> Attended EpiSig meeting at NSW Health on 3rd March 2006
> Attended the "45 and up" study collaborators meeting on 21st September 2006
> Attended Roundtable on Adolescent Risk-taking, NSW Commission for Children and Young People on 29th May 2006

DR JULIE HATFIELD
> Attended ITR training session with Susan Gallagher relating to translating research into policy and practice, UNSW on 10th May 2006
> Attended "Engaging with the Policy Process" workshop, School of Public Health and Community Medicine on 24th May 2006
> Attended Roundtable on Child Road Safety, Ministry for Roads on 21st June 2006
> Attended Road Safety Taskforce meeting, Road and Traffic Authority on 5th July 2006
> Attended Child Road Safety Working Group, Road and Traffic Authority on 23rd November 2006

DR ANDREW HAYEN
> Attended EpiSig meeting at NSW Health on 3rd March 2006

REBECCA MITCHELL
> Attended EpiSig meeting at NSW Health on 3rd March 2006
> Attended NCIS Advisory Group meeting on 14th March 2006
> Attended National Playground Safety Conference meeting on 11th April and 16th May 2006
> Attended Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia Board meeting on 12th April and 27-28th May 2006
> Attended National Coronial Information System workshop on 1st September 2006
> Attended Human Factors and Ergonomics Society NSW Committee meeting on 4th October 2006
INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT POLICY FORUMS


Finch C. Introduction to the particular challenges of injury epidemiology. NSW Health Epidemiology Special Interest Group (EPISIG) meeting, Sydney, 3rd March 2006.

Finch C. The development of indicators for the evaluation of the NSW policy to reduce falls injury in older people. NSW Health Epidemiology Special Interest Group (EPISIG) meeting, Sydney, 3rd March 2006.


Williamson A. Driver distraction. Driver distraction symposium conducted by Australian College of Road Safety, Sydney, 29th March 2006. (panel member)

Williamson A. Injury monitoring and prevention: Road safety research at the IRMRC. Presentation to Parliamentary Secretary for Road Safety Conference, Parliament House, 3rd April 2006.


Williamson A. Science of the Surf: The development and evaluation of a national campaign to reduce the risk of coastal drowning. ARC Launch of Research Grant for 2007, Canberra, 11th October 2006
TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE

STAFF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND WORKING PARTIES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
> Deputy Convenor, NSW Child Death Review Team
> Chair, 2006 AIPN Conference Organising Committee

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Elected, President of AIPN
> Member, National Rail Industry Reference Group on Fatigue
> Member, Fatigue Expert Group for National Rail Industry
> Member, Performance Measures Taskgroup for NSW Mine Safety Advisory Committee
> Member, Farm Machinery Safety Reference group
> Member, Editorial Committee for Journal of Safety Research

DR REBECCA DENNIS
> 2006 AIPN Conference Scientific Committee

DR JULIE HATFIELD
> Member, NSW Road Safety Tasks Force
> 2006 AIPN Conference Organising Committee

DR ANDREW HAYEN
> 2006 AIPN Conference Scientific Committee

REBECCA MITCHELL
> Board Member and General Secretary, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (2004-2006)
> Member, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia NSW Branch Committee
> Member, National Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Conference Committee 2006
> Member, National Coronial Information System Advisory Committee
> Member, Public Health and Violence Project Advisory Group

MARIA ROMITI
> Student representative of the Australian Injury Prevention Network Executive Committee

MARY POTTER FORBES
> 2006 AIPN Conference Organising Committee

DR SHAUNA SHERKER
> Sports Medicine Association (NSW) Board of Directors
> KidSafe National Playground Advisory Unit Scientific Review Committee
> 2006 AIPN Conference Scientific Committee
During 2006, the Centre had major research collaborations with a number of people across UNSW and external to it:

**LIST OF MAJOR COLLABORATORS**

MS KRISTY ABBOTT  Youthsafe  
DR PETER ABELOSON  Applied Economics  
MS JESSICA BERRY  National Research Centre for Injury Studies  
DR LYNN BILSTON  Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute  
PROF PHIL BOHLE  School of Organisation and Management, UNSW  
MS CLARE BRADLEY  National Research Centre for Injury Studies  
MS GILLIAN BROWNE  Motor Accidents Authority  
A/PROF IAN CAMERON  Rehabilitation Studies Unit, University of Sydney  
MS TRACY CHAN  Bluefield Consulting  
MR DAMIAN CHEE  Roads and Traffic Authority  
DR TANYA CHIKRITZHS  National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University  
DR KATHLEEN CLAPHAM  The George Institute for International Health  
DR JACQUELINE CLOSE  Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute  
MR JOHN COLLINS  Australian Transport Safety Bureau  
MR BOB CUMMING  45 and up study Data Linkage Group  
DR LESLEY DAY  Monash University Accidents Research Centre  
MS ANNE DEANS  Youthsafe  
DR TRACEY DICKSON  University of Canberra  
MR BRUCE DOWDALL  Roads and Traffic Authority  
MS JULIE EDWARDS  Motor Accidents Authority  
PROF BRUCE ELLIOTT  University of Western Australia  
PROF DENISE ELSE  Victorian Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
PROF DENZIL FIEBIG  School of Economics, UNSW  
MS CHRIS GILLAM  National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University  
PROF RAFAEL GRZEBIETA  Monash University Accidents Research Centre  
MR JOHN GUSELLI  Sydney Buses  
MS KATHY HAYES  Motor Accidents Research Centre  
MR MAX HELY  Safety Science Associates  
MR GEOFF HENLEY  National Research Centre for Injury Studies  
MR RUSSELL HUMBLE  Roads and Traffic Authority  
DR ROBERT HUTCHINSON  Bluefield Consulting  
MS JOSEPHINE ISTVANDITY  Commission for Children and Young people and Child Guardian  
DR REBECCA IVERS  The George Institute for International Health  
MR KYPROS KYPRI  Injury Prevention Research Unit, Dunedin, NZ  
MR JOHN LEE  State Transit Authority  
A/PROF STEPHEN LORD  Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute  
DR DAVID LLOYD  University of Western Australia  
MS LORRAINE LOVITT  Clinical Excellence Committee  
MS SUSAN LULHAM  Motor Accidents Authority  
MS TRISH MALINS  NSW Commission for Children and Young People  
DR ANDREW MCINTOSH  School of Safety Science, UNSW  
MS HELEN MOORE  NSW Health  
PROF ROBYN NORTON  The George Institute for International Health  
MS EMMA PARKER  RailCorp/Caravel  
DR SOPHIE POINTER  National Research Centre for Injury Studies  
DR ROSLYN POULOS  School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW  
MR TERRY POYNTON  Sydney Buses  
PROF MICHAEL QUINLAN  School of Organisation and Management, UNSW
LIST OF MAJOR COLLABORATORS

**DR MICHAEL REGAN** Monash University
Accidents Research Centre

**MS ROSEMARY ROUSE** Roads and Traffic Authority

**MR DAVID RUSHON** RailCorp/Caravel

**MR GREG STEAD** Kidsafe

**PROF MARK STEVENSON** The George Institute for International Health

**DR DAINA STURNIEKS** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute

**MS SUSAN SUH OOD** Motor Accidents Authority

**MS TANIA SWEENEY** Roads and Traffic Authority

**MR COLMAN TAYLOR** The George Institute for International Health

**DR LEE TAYLOR** 45 and up study Data Linkage Group

**MR SHARNE THOMAS** Urban Research Centre, University of Sydney

**MR EDWARD THURSTON** RailCorp/Caravel

**DR ANNE TIEDEMANN** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute

**DR IRENE VAN KAMP** RIVM, Netherlands

**MS ANNIE WARN** Northern Sydney Central Coast Health

**MS MARGARET WILLIAMSON** Clinical Excellence Committee

**PROF JOHN WILSON** School of Safety Science, UNSW

**MR ERIC YEUNG** Sydney Buses

**PROF ANTHONY ZWI** School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

**MS SUSAN GALLAGHER** Education Development Centre, Massachusetts, USA

**DR GORDON SMITH** Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, USA
All IRMRC authors are listed in bold in the following lists

**PEER-REVIEW JOURNAL PAPERS**


**Mitchell R, Hayen A.** Sport- or leisure-related injury hospital admissions: Do we need to get more out of being struck? Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport. 2006; 9(6): 498-505.


RESEARCH REPORTS


Fernandes R, Hatfield J. Examination of the different predictors of different risky driving behaviours in young NSW drivers. Report to the Motor Accidents Authority. 2006.


CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS


Boufous S, Finch C. Determining incident cases for hospitalised injurious falls in older people: A data linkage study. 8th World Conference on Injury and Safety Promotion, Durban, South Africa, April 2006.

Day L, Stathakis V, Finch C, Boufous S. Beyond the randomised controlled trial. Modelling the population level impact of proven falls prevention initiatives for older people. 8th World Conference on Injury and Safety Promotion, Durban, South Africa, April 2006.


PUBLICATIONS


Finch C. Ecological study designs - how can they be successfully applied to sports injury research? 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. Durban, South Africa, April 2006.


PUBLICATIONS


Letters/Editorials/Other Articles


Book Reviews

Finch C. Injury prevention and public health: practical knowledge, skills and strategies (2nd ed) by Christopher Gallghaer SS. Health Promotion Journal of Australia. 2006; 17(1): 76-77.
CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

IRMRC co-authors listed in bold

CONFERENCES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH


Finch C. Ecological study designs-how can they be successfully applied to sports injury research? 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)

Finch C. A new framework for research leading to sports injury prevention. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)


A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

Williamson A. The use of mine regulatory breach information for directing mine safety. Fifth National OHS Regulatory Research Colloquium, Canberra, 15-16th February 2006. (Invited talk)

Williamson A. Monitoring occupational health and safety in the NSW mining industry. NSW Mine Safety Conference, 18-20th June 2006. (Invited presentation)


Williamson A. Fatigue and drug use in the long distance road transport industry. 20th World Congress of the International Traffic Medicine Association, Melbourne, 16-18th October 2006. (Presentation)

Williamson A. The effects of day and night work on fatigue and performance in heavy truck drivers. 20th World Congress of the International Traffic Medicine Association, Melbourne, 16-18th October 2006. (Presentation)

Williamson A. Fatigue and stimulant use by long distance truck drivers. Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25-27th October 2006. (Presentation)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCES continued

SOULIANE BOUFOUS


Boufous S. Parental safety concerns—a barrier to sport and physical activity in children? 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)

Boufous S. Determining incident cases for hospitalised injurious falls in older people: a data linkage study. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)

REBECCA DENNIS

Dennis R. Is bowling workload a risk factor for injury to Australian junior cricket fast bowlers? 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)


Dennis R. Using field-based screening measures to determine the risk of injury to adolescent and adult cricket fast bowlers. 2006 ASICS Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport, Yanuca, Fiji Islands, 19-21st October 2006. (Presentation)

DR WEI DU


NAOMI DUNN


Naomi Dunn presenting her poster at the 8th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, September 2006.
CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCES continued

RENA FRISWELL


Friswell R. Contribution of work factors and apnea risk to fatigue among light truck and short haul drivers. 20th World Congress of the International Traffic Medicine Association, Melbourne, 16-18th October 2006. (Poster)

Friswell R. Work and fatigue among light and short haul drivers in NSW. Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25-27th October 2006. (Presentation)

RALSTON FERNANDES

Fernandes R. An application of the Health Belief Model to risky driving among young drivers: Different predictors for speeding, drink-driving, not wearing seatbelts, and driving while fatigued. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)

Fernandes R. Predictors of speeding, drink-driving, driving while fatigued and seat belt use among young NSW drivers. Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25-27th October 2006. (Presentation)

LARA HARVEY

Harvey L. Utilising the NSW Population Health Survey in epidemiological research. School of Public Health and Community Medicine Research Student Conference, 27th October 2006. (Presentation)

DR JULIE HATFIELD

Hatfield J. Development and evaluation of messages designed to reduce road-related illusory invulnerability in young drivers. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)

Hatfield J. Development and evaluation of an intervention against fatigued driving in young drivers. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)

Hatfield J. An examination of in-car entertainment systems on drivers in other vehicles. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)

Hatfield J. Development and evaluation of a pamphlet to reduce fatigued driving in young drivers. The 8th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, Sydney, 27-29th September 2006. (Presentation)


Hatfield J. Effect of in-car entertainment systems on drivers in other vehicles. Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 25-27th October 2006. (Presentation)
CONFERENCES continued

DR ANDREW HAYEN


Hayen A. Maps of hospitalised an fatal injury in New South Wales. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)


DIANNE HINDMARSH

Hindmarsh D. Relative survival after hospitalisation for hip fracture in older people in NSW. AEA Annual Conference, Melbourne, 18-19th October 2006. (Presentation)

MELISSA IRWIN


REBECCA MITCHELL


MARY POTTER FORBES


MARIA ROMITI


CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCES continued

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

Sherker S. The difference between equipment height and fall height in child playground falls. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Presentation)

Sherker S, Finch C, Kehoe J, Doverty M. Slippery Slopes: Skiers’ and snowboarders’ injury risk perceptions regarding alcohol, fatigue and drugs. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)

Sherker S. Soft landings: Encouraging compliance with playground safety standards in local government. 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, 2-5th April 2006. (Poster)

ROBIN TURNER

Turner R. Assessing the relationship between weather and the incidence of fall related hip fractures in the elderly. AEA Annual Conference, Melbourne, 18-19th September 2006. (Presentation)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
The Junior Australian Football Safety Study. Department of Human Movement Science, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, April 2006. (Invited talk)

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

DR SOUFIANE BOUFOUS
Data linkage in NSW, IRMRC data linkage project. Collaborative Exchange Workshop on Injury Surveillance, 11th July 2006. (Invited talk)

DR REBECCA DENNIS
What is overuse injury and why do I need to know? English for Academic Purposes Program, UNSW, 10th May 2006. (Invited talk)
A completed PhD: Risk factors for repetitive microtrauma injuries to adolescent and adult, cricket fast bowlers. School of Safety Science Research Student Seminar, 8th May 2006. (Invited student talk)
The reliability of field-based screening protocols for the musculoskeletal assessment of cricket fast bowlers. Cricket Australia Centre of Excellence, Brisbane, 29th June 2006. (Invited talk)

REBECCA MITCHELL
Macroergonomics-How do we learn from poor OHS practice? University of Wollongong, 23rd June 2006. (Invited talk)

DR SHAUNA SHERKER
A multidisciplinary method for determining risk factors for arm fracture in child playground falls. Quebec Institute for Public Health Research (Institut national de santé publique de Quebec), Montreal, Canada, 3rd May 2006. (Invited talk)
A multidisciplinary method for determining risk factors for arm fracture in child playground falls. Division of Population Health (Hospital for Sick Children), York University’s School of Kinesiology, Toronto, Canada, 12th May 2006. (Invited talk)

LECTURES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Documenting the burden of injury in NSW and Australia - Injury Surveillance. MPH Elective on Injury Prevention, University of Sydney, 19th May 2006.
> What is injury? The size of the problem and different ways of counting injury, cost of injury. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 10th July 2006.
> Human factors and injury-behavioural, organisational and social aspects, NSW IRMRC Short Course, 11th July 2006.
> Theories and approaches to injury causation: Public health, road safety, risk management theories of injury. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 12th July 2006.

DR REBECCA DENNIS
OTHER PRESENTATIONS

LECTURES continued

DR JULIE HATFIELD
> The role of perceived risk in health-relevant behaviour. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 11th July 2006.

DR ANDREW HAYEN
> Falls indicators for NSW. NSW Area Health Services Falls Co-ordinators, Clinical Excellence Commission, 27th June 2006.

REBECCA MITCHELL
> Introduction to Injury Surveillance. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 10th July 2006
> Injury coding practical. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 10th July 2006.
> Review of injury coding and practical in-class assessment. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 14th July 2006.

DR SHAUNA SHERKER
> Child injury. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 14th July 2006.

OTHER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Attended 42nd Annual HFESA Conference at University of Technology Sydney on 20-22nd November 2006

REBECCA MITCHELL
> Attended National Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Conference meeting on 27th April 2006

MARY POTTER FORBES
> Attended 4th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, Melbourne, 21-23rd August 2006
AWARDS

> NSW Sporting Injuries Committee Gold Medal Award for the outstanding achievement in applied research by research team (November 2006)
> NSW Sporting Injuries Committee Bronze Medal for Outstanding Education and Promotion Project - State Level (November 2006)
> NSW Sporting Injuries Committee Gold Medal for Outstanding Program in the field of sports injury prevention and reduction - Regional Level (November 2006)
> Soufiane Boufous awarded an NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowship

MEDIA

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Interviewed with Sydney 2GB Radio on 24th April 2006 re: workplace injuries and deaths
> Research regarding workplace injuries and deaths reported in The Sydney Morning Herald on 24th April 2006
> Research regarding elderly drivers reported on The Sydney Morning Herald on 13-14th May 2006

SOUFIANE BOUFOUS
> Radio interview with ABC NSW Statewide on 28th September 2006 re: Sports Injury report
> Radio interview with ABC Sydney on 29th September 2006 re: Sports Injury report
> Radio interview with 2CC Canberra on 2nd October 2006 re: Sports Injury report
> Radio interview with ABC Newcastle on 3rd October 2006 re: Sports Injury report

DR REBECCA DENNIS
> Research regarding cricket fast bowlers reported in The Sun Herald on 5th February 2006

DR JULIE HATFIELD
> Gave comment regarding driver education for young drivers to 702 ABC Sydney Radio. (November 2006)
> Invited to write opinion piece for The Sydney Morning Herald. (January 2006)