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It is becoming increasingly apparent that conducting high quality research, alone, is not sufficient to ensure large scale injury prevention gains. Whilst leading-edge research, such as that conducted by the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre in 2005, is critical to inform prevention efforts, it is also necessary that such research is actively translated into safety policy and implementation efforts by practitioners.

In 2005, the IRMRC maintained its major efforts in data mining and injury surveillance of the State’s injury data sources. Through its strong relationships with its funding partners, it is uniquely placed to provide an evidence provision service to the NSW government and the broader injury prevention community. We have largely focussed on two major areas of concern - understanding road crashes better and also identifying factors associated with falls in older people. We have developed data linkage approaches that now mean that NSW has a valuable source of linked police crash records and hospitalisations for road crashes that occur throughout the State. We have also developed key indicators against which the NSW Falls Policy can be evaluated. A further example is our work on the cost of work related injuries and illness for the NSW WorkCover Authority.

The Centre’s data informing activities, such as these, directly feed into policy development processes because they are critical as the basis of informed policy decision making. The Centre’s relationship with government agencies is a two way process and we have also engaged the relevant bodies in our work by including them in our project advisory committees, alongside other stakeholders and research experts.

Other research conducted by the Centre staff has been aimed at understanding determinants of safety or, in some cases, risk taking behaviours. Most notable have been our studies into fatigue issues in the trucking industry, young driver attitudes and behaviours, risk factors for injury in cricketers and safety performance measures in the mining industry. This knowledge is necessary to inform the development of effective implementation strategies for safety.

A major initiative in 2005, was the bringing together of researchers and policy makers to contribute to futures planning for injury prevention, as part of a larger planning process undertaken by NSW Health. The IRMRC hosted a discussion forum at the University of New South Wales and subsequently wrote a background paper for inclusion in the NSW Health Futures Planning Documentation.

Our policy-informing efforts extended even further to an IRMRC submission to the Productivity Commission’s forum on the Review of the Australian Consumer Product Safety System and two invited presentations at the N S W Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention Symposium held at the N S W Parliament House in November. Led by the IRMRC, this symposium culminated in a consensus resolution that “Trauma is the most significant health issue affecting the life expectancy, physical wellbeing and quality of life of all children/adolescents. Our children/adolescents have a fundamental right not to be exposed to risks that could kill or seriously maim them. Furthermore, all Australians have a duty of care to protect our children from fatal harm, irrespective of its intent. It’s about time the Government spared no expense to prevent trauma as a matter of priority.”

Partnerships with other agencies are also important for injury prevention research translation. The Centre was pleased to sign a joint Memorandum of Understanding with Youthsafe, an advocacy and injury prevention body focussing on adolescent and youth injury, to ensure that our two groups would work closely together. As with any research endeavour, our partnerships with research collaborators from both within the University of New South Wales and other universities, has also ensured high quality research outputs in 2005.

We have invested significant amounts of our time and effort in disseminating the results of our research throughout the year. A large number of IRMRC staff were keynote or invited speakers at international scientific meetings such as the First World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention (in Oslo, Norway), the Transportation Research Board (in Washington, USA), the International Conference on Fatigue Management in Transportation Operations (in Seattle, USA), a meeting of noise experts in Utrecht (Netherlands) and the 6th Annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Clinical Pathways (Nigata, Japan). We have found that giving presentations is a powerful means of promoting our research and its real-world implications and an increasing number of our staff have presented in a range of forums during 2005.

The IRMRC is moving its research activities, and dissemination of findings, towards more of an outcome focus. Our research publication approach, participation and presentation in appropriate forums, partnerships with government agencies and other key injury groups, and mentoring and training of young researchers will ensure that our research continues to have maximal impact and injury prevention benefit for all in years to come.
In 2005, there were three senior researchers at the Centre, six other full time research staff and six part-time researchers, fifteen postgraduate research scholars and approximately ten casual research assistants. NHMRC Research Fellowships were held by all senior researchers and two of the other research staff. In addition, the IRMRC also hosted placements for biostatistical trainees and public health officers from NSW Health. There were three full time equivalent administrative staff. A Research Manager was appointed in 2005 to provide policy and planning support to the Director as well as to streamline administrative process and implement a comprehensive project management approach to support the research effort.
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 Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and the Roads and Traffic Authority (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 the section in the Report entitled ‘Centre Activities’, beginning on page 15. Some staff support is also provided by fellowships and scholarships from the NHMRC or UNSW. In 2005, 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 to save lives and reduce injuries.

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 project reflect the focus of the core funding agencies, NSW Health, MAA and RTA, whilst 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
> 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 mediums of communication, ranging from conference presentations and workshops to editorial pieces for the mainstream media.
> 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
> Data mining and analysis of the data sets held securely at the Centre which include: the Inpatient Statistical Collection of NSW Health, the NSW Traffic Accident Database System, the MAA Claims Register and Statistical Database.
> Translation of research findings into policy and practice though involvement in policy forums and working parties, as well as the communication of this activity through various media.
> Nurturing and development of partnerships with government agencies and other stakeholders.
Director and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow
Prof Caroline Finch - PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

Deputy Director and NHMRC Senior Research Fellow
Associate Prof Ann Williamson - PhD, BSc (Hons)

Research Manager and Research Officer
Mary Potter Forbes - MCom, BHA, RN

NHMRC RESEARCH FELLOWS

NHMRC Capacity Building Grant Research Fellow
Dr Julie Hatfield - PhD, BA (Hons)
Dr Shauna Sherker - PhD, MSc, BSc (Jan-Aug)

NHMRC Public Health (Australia) Fellowship
Dr Shauna Sherker - PhD, MSc, BSc (Aug 2005 onwards)

RESEARCH FELLOWS
Dr Andrew Hayen - PhD, MBiostat, BA (Hons)
Annaliese Dowling - MSc(Hons), BSc(Hons)
Dr Susanne Murphy - PhD, BSc (Hons)
Dr Elizabeth Roediger - PhD, BSc (Hons)

ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
Dr John Orchard - FASCP, FACSM, FASMF, PhD, MD, MBBS, BA

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW
Helen Moore - Grad Dip App Epi, MPH, BSc (Hons)

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICERS
Soufiane Boufous - MPH (Hons), BH (Hons)
Rena Friswell - BA (Hons)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS/OFFICERS
Rebecca Dennis - B HlthSci (Hons)
Wei Du - MBBS, MSc & Tech, MPH
Ralston Fernandes - BSc (Hons)
Maria Romiti - BSpSc
Marcia Schmertmann - MPH, BSc
Naomi Dunn - BSc (Hons)
Rebecca Mitchell - BA (Psych), MA (Psych), MOHS

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
Dr Andrew Marich - MBBS, BSc (Hons)
Melissa Irwin - MPH, B.App.Sc (Physiotherapy)

BIOSTATISTICAL TRAINEE
Sanja Lujic - MStat, BSc (Hons)
Dr Robin Turner - PhD, BSc (Hons)

CASUAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
Timothy Chamberlain
Marcus Haines
Linda Hayes
Eugene Queh
Danny Redrup
Irina Roman
Daniel Scherly
Patrick Shun
Justin Shute
Alex Whiteside
Adam Zinman

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Administration and Finance Manager - Gina Lam - MBA, BA (Hons)
Executive Assistant to the Director - Henny Oentojo - MBA, B.Bus
Administrative Officer - Patricia Villaroel - B.Music, TAFE Music Cert II
Finance Officer - Teresa Wong - B.Acc

IRMRC is committed to furthering capacity in injury risk management research. To this end, we supervised and mentored 15 postgraduate research students in 2005. All UNSW-based IRMRC students are formally enrolled in other UNSW schools for administrative purposes.

**PhD STUDENTS**

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

**Soufiane Boufous**
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

**Rebecca Dennis**
Degree enrolled: PhD  
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

**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

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

**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, UNSW)  
Project/thesis title: Driver Fatigue

**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, UNSW)  
Project/thesis title: Driver Fatigue

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

**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

**Basema Saddik**
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
but are supervised or co-supervised by full-time academics of the IRMRC. In 2005, IRMRC students were enrolled in the UNSW Faculties of Science and Medicine.

**Masters Students - Research Students**

**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)

**Kiwami Tori**
- Degree enrolled: Master of Organisational Psychology
- School of enrolment: School of Psychology
- Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
- Project/thesis title: Work satisfaction, organisational commitment and psychological contract of temporary employees

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

**Katherine Rae**
- Degree enrolled: Australian College of Sports Physicians Fellowship Training
- Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
- Project/thesis title: Classifying sports medicine diagnoses: A comparison of the International classification of diseases 10-Australian modification (ICD-10AM) and the Orchard sports injury classification system (O SICS-8)

**Louise Shaw**
- 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

**Master Students - Minor Research Project**

**Australian College of Sports Physicians Trainee (Research Project)**

**Katherine Rae**
- Degree enrolled: Australian College of Sports Physicians Fellowship Training
- Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
- Project/thesis title: Classifying sports medicine diagnoses: A comparison of the International classification of diseases 10-Australian modification (ICD-10AM) and the Orchard sports injury classification system (O SICS-8)
The activities of the IRMRC are guided by three management committees: the Board of Management, the Quarterly Review Committee and the Research Advisory Committee.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Board of Management oversees the Centre’s strategic directions and financial management. During 2005, the Board of Management comprised the following members:

- Prof Brendan Parker (Engineering)
- Prof Jean Cross (Safety Science)
- Prof Caroline Finch (IRMRC)
- Mr Graeme Couch (Chair)
- Ms Pam Albany (NSW Health)
- Dr Andrew Hayen, Chair, Biostatistician, IRMRC
- Prof Caroline Finch, Director, IRMRC
- Mr Kwame Atsu, Principal Officer, Statistics - Insurance Division, Motor Accidents Authority
- Mr Soufiane Boufous, Data Manager, IRMRC
- Mr Bill Pink, Manager Trend Analysis, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
- Mr Andrew Graham, Manager Trend Analysis, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
- Ms Pam Albany, Manager, Injury Prevention and Policy Branch, NSW Health

**QUARTERLY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Quarterly Review Committee sets policy and guidelines for the management of, and access to, the Centre’s data resources. During 2005, the Committee comprised the following members:
RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board about the research directions of the Centre. In 2005, the Committee comprised the following members:

**A/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
**MR DR SOAMES JOB** General Manager, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
**DR BERMAN KAYIS** School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW
**PROFESSOR JOHN LANGLEY** Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, New Zealand
**A/PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON** Deputy Director, IRMRC, UNSW
**DR KAREN ZWI** School of Women’s and Children’s Health, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

DATA LINKAGE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
In addition to the Management Committees, the IRMRC established a Project Advisory Committee for its major data project. This Project Advisory Committee provided expert advice on issues relating to data linkage of hospital admissions records and police crash records. In 2005, the Committee comprised the following members:

**PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH** Chair, Director, IRMRC
**MR KWAME ATSU** Principal Officer, Statistics - Insurance Division, Motor Accidents Authority (May)
**MS AARTHI AYYAR** Biostatistical Trainee, IRMRC (February and May)
**MR SOUFIANE BOUFOUS** Data Manager, IRMRC
**PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR** School of Mathematics, UNSW
**A/PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON** Deputy Director, IRMRC
**MS SANJA LUJIC** Biostatistical Trainee, IRMRC (May)
DATA SYSTEMS AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A major role of the IRMRC is to analyse and report on population-level data relating to injury occurrence and injury risk management in New South Wales. It does this through its own research activities, as well as through providing a data service for interested agencies.

The IRMRC provides a free "data analysis and advice" service to its funding partners and their approved agencies. This service is also available to other agencies on a fee for service basis. This service includes the analysis of various datasets, provision of research advice, provision of data quality advice, review of documents, and conduct of literature reviews.

Information can be provided on a wide range of issues including different mechanisms of injury (e.g. road traffic crashes, falls, violence, etc), various population groups (e.g. children, older people and those from non-English background, etc) and different locations of occurrence (e.g. on the road, at home and in the workplace, etc).

The Centre has a stringent policy on data confidentiality and privacy, a policy in line with the legislative requirements, UNSW policy and the demands of the owners of the datasets. In particular, where the information from the NSW Health Inpatient Statistical Collection is sought, access is coordinated through the Injury Prevention and Policy Branch of NSW Health.
**Data Systems and Statistical Analysis**

The Centre has custodianship of 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.

**Research Streams**

The other research activities of the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre are organised into four Project Streams and cover the areas of:

- Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance
- Road Safety
- Sport and Active Recreation Injury
- Work Related Injury.

**Training and Capacity Building**

Not only does the Centre mentor and supervise post-graduate research students, it also provides work placements for NSW Health public health and biostatistical trainees for periods of up to twelve months. These placements are quite sought after and the program is to be expanded. In 2005 there were four placements at the Centre.

**Teaching and Seminars**

Although the Centre’s primary purpose is to conduct research, the Centre also conducts a course in injury risk management that is offered through the School of Safety Science. As the courses are multidisciplinary in focus and involve lecturers from Engineering, Medicine and Science, students are attracted from a wide range of disciplines.

From time to time, the Centre also offers short and continuing education courses on a range of issues relevant to injury risk management. The Centre has hosted guest speakers and is represented in the organising committee of the 2006 Australian Injury Prevention Network conference, to be held at UNSW. It is anticipated that the Centre will increase its activities in this area over the next few years.

**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. Staff participated in a number of key policy forums in 2005, such as the Elderly Falls Forum and the Productivity Commission’s Forum on the Review of the Australian Consumer Product Safety System. The IRMRC was the lead agency in articulating the injury perspective for NSW Health’s Futures Planning process, commenced in 2005. In March, the Centre conducted a workshop on Injury Futures Planning which included representatives from a number of NSW government agencies (RTA, MAA, WorkCover, Fair Trading and Tourism, Sport and Recreation), as well as relevant interstate agencies. An issue paper based on the work of the forum was then prepared and submitted to NSW Health for use in the Department’s futures planning process.

The Centre was also represented on the Social Determinants of Health Futures Planning Forum. There were also a number of other opportunities in 2005 for Centre researchers to promote the inclusion of their research findings in a variety of policy development contexts. Staff were invited to speak at forums as diverse as the NSW Injury Prevention Network, the NSW Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention Symposium held at the NSW Parliament House, and the launch of a road safety advertising campaign for young drivers by Bankstown Team Phoenix.

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 committee, panels, working parties within the injury prevention area.
During 2005, the IRMRC staff were involved in a range of other research projects across the following broad areas:

- Epidemiology and Injury Surveillance
- 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 2005.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE

UNDERSTANDING ROAD CRASH DATA BETTER - FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF HOSPITALISATION RECORDS MATCHING POLICE CRASH REPORTS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Sanja Lujic (NSW Health Biostatistical Trainee), Caroline Finch, Andrew Hayen

COLLABORATORS
William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
It has become increasingly common to link complementary data sources to enhance the value of motor transport injury databases. The aims of the project were to examine the extent to which a linkage of hospital discharge data with police crash records is useful for describing road crashes; to determine how well "true" matched cases are correctly linked; and to identify factors associated with an increased likelihood of being matched. Hospital separation records for the period 1 July 2000-30 June 2001, inclusive, were linked to police crash records for the same period using probabilistic record linkage techniques. Multivariate logistic regression techniques were used to identify factors independently associated with linkage rates. The most significant factors contributing to the likelihood of linkage were found to be occupant type (e.g. motor vehicle controllers), payment status (e.g. cases entitled to financial compensation) and principal diagnosis of injury variables. Interpretation of resultant road crash analyses of linked data need to take into account potential biases associated with differential matching rates across variables of interest.

ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN HOSPITALISED PELVIC FRACTURES IN OLDER PERSONS IN NSW OVER THE PAST DECADE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute), Jacqueline Close (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
Despite their significant health burden, epidemiological information regarding pelvic fractures is scarce. This study examined trends in admission for pelvic fractures to acute hospitals in New South Wales, Australia, between July 1998 and June 2000. Over this period, both the number of admissions and age-specific rates of admissions, for pelvic fracture among those aged 50+ aged years were found to have increased in both men and women. Whilst the number and proportion of transport related pelvic fractures declined, those associated with falls increased significantly over the 12-year-period. Falls are increasingly becoming the single most important cause of pelvic injuries in older people, suggesting that preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk of falls need to be pursued.

EPI93.010
ESTIMATING THE INCIDENCE OF HOSPITALISED INJURIOUS FALLS: IMPACT OF VARYING CASE DEFINITIONS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
In the absence of unique personal identifiers in hospital admissions datasets, previous studies have used different approaches to identifying incident cases (first admissions) of hospitalised injurious falls. These approaches have included the exclusion of “readmission within 28 days” cases, “transfers” admissions to “non-acute hospitals” and “day only” admissions. The aim of this study was to examine the validity, as well as the impact, of different approaches on incidence estimates of hospitalised falls. When comparing the performance of different approaches to identifying first admissions, to that of the data linkage “gold standard”, the “transfer from” variable performed best in identifying first admissions in terms of sensitivity and specificity. However, all the approaches have relatively low specificity raising questions about their use. The introduction of a Unique Patient Identifier and the data of injury in hospital discharge datasets would provide a more accurate picture of incident cases of fall-related hospitalisations.

RECORD LINKAGE: A TOOL FOR INJURY PREVENTION RESEARCH

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
Traditionally, much record linkage has focused on cancer research before being gradually applied to various areas of public health. Application of record linkage techniques to injury prevention research has only been a fairly recent development. The study assessed the importance of record linkage for injury research and reviewed previous applications in this area. It also examined some of the specific practical and privacy issues that present challenges to the linkage of data for injury prevention and control. Suggestions regarding steps that need to be taken to improve the quality and ease of undertaking data linkage for injury research were developed.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HOSPITALISED WRIST FRACTURES 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, Core funding

SUMMARY
Wrist fractures are a 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. While the majority of wrist fractures were due to falls, the proportion of falls-related wrist fractures decreased significantly over time. This decrease was more pronounced in males and was accompanied by a rise in proportion of wrist fractures resulting from high energy mechanisms such as transport, violence and machinery-related incidents. The difference in hospitalised wrist fracture rates between men and women could not be explained solely on the basis of the role played by osteoporosis, indicating the need for more research to improve our understanding of the underlying factors of this type of fracture in older people.

“The introduction of a Unique Patient Identifier and the date of injury in hospital discharge datasets would provide a more accurate picture of incident cases of fall-related hospitalisations.”
**EPIDEMIOLOGY AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE continued**

**THE TRIAGE INJURY SURVEILLANCE PROJECT**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Andrew Marich (NSW Public Health Officer Training Program), Caroline Finch

**FUNDING**
2004-2005, NSW Health (Total budget: $ 78,000. Funding received in 2005: $16,513)

**SUMMARY**
This project developed and trialled an injury surveillance system for use in hospital emergency departments. A particular focus was on the assessment of the utility of the routine collection of narrative by triage nurses in Emergency Departments. Feedback from the triage injury surveillance system was also fed back to the developers of NSW Health’s Public Health Real-Time Emergency Department Surveillance System, to assist in its ongoing application in the injury setting.

**INVESTIGATION OF CORONIAL DATA**

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

**FUNDING**
2005-2006, NSW Health (same budget as the Triage project above)

**SUMMARY**
Coronial data have the potential to provide a rich source of information about fatal injury. The aims of this project were to assess the usefulness of the National Coroners Information System, for contributing information to the epidemiological profile on injuries in the state, as well as more detailed information about mechanism of injury.

**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. A review of injury hospitalisations of NSW residents in the period of 1989-1990 to 2003-04 was undertaken. The aims of this project were to examine the leading cause of injury hospitalisation and to describe trends in hospitalised injury in NSW. Data analysis and writing of the report was conducted in 2005. The report would be 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). The project was directed by Prof Zwi and his team at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

**FUNDING**
2004-2005, NSW Health (Total budget: $50,000. No funding received in 2005)

**SUMMARY**
This project explored possibilities for linking work of population health with other sectors involved in the prevention, management and monitoring of violence and crime. In doing so, it described future initiatives aimed at improving quality of health data and recommended a future work program for the NSW Health Injury Policy Branch. This involved mapping current actors, activities and gaps in violence prevention; identifying data sources, trends and gaps; and identifying the role of the health sector in violence prevention. Twenty-two interviews were conducted with thirty-one key stakeholders in government and non-government organisations in the health, community, criminology, police and other sectors; nine custodians of routine data collections managed within NSW Health were also surveyed.

**DEVELOPMENT OF FALLS INJURY RISK PROJECTION, INDICATORS AND AN EVALUATION PLAN**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Caroline Finch, Annaliese Dowling

**FUNDING**
2005, NSW Health (Total budget: $87,000. Funding received in 2005: $87,000)

**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. An update of falls research occurring in Australia and a five year Australian literature review was prepared and disseminated. A three-year research strategy highlighting research priorities was also developed for NSW Health. 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.
"Early results of the surveys suggest that driver fatigue is indeed a safety issue in the light and short haul transport sector and that workplace follow-up studies are warranted."
ROAD SAFETY

FATIGUE IN THE LIGHT TRUCKING SECTOR

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell

COLLABORATORS
Anne-Marie Feyer (Pricewaterhouse Coopers)

FUNDING

SUMMARY
Although there is a substantial body of research investigating driver fatigue as an occupational safety issue for long distance heavy vehicle drivers, virtually no information is available about fatigue experiences of light truck and short haul drivers. Because light commercial vehicles comprise about 15% of the motorised fleet in NSW and because driver fatigue is thought to be involved in a similar proportion of light truck and heavy vehicle crashes, empirical data on the extent and causes of fatigue among light truck drivers is sorely needed. The aims of this project were to gather exploratory self-report data on work practices, fatigue and other occupational health and safety hazards confronting light truck and van drivers in NSW and to validate these exploratory findings in the workplace. In Phase One of the project which was carried out in 2005, light truck and van drivers and representatives of companies engaged in light transport across NSW were surveyed. Results of the surveys suggest that driver fatigue is indeed a safety issue in the light and short haul transport sector and that workplace follow-up studies are warranted.

RISK PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOIRS REGARDING DRIVER FATIGUE IN NSW YOUTH: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED DRIVER FATIGUE EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION STRATEGY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Susanne Murphy

COLLABORATORS
Nadine Kasparian (Prince of Wales Hospital and Westmead Institute for Cancer Research), RF Soames Job (Roads and Traffic Authority)

FUNDING
2004-2006, Motor Accidents Authority (Total budget: $33,516. Funding received in 2005: $14,093)

SUMMARY
Driver fatigue is a major contributor to road trauma, and young drivers are over-represented in fatigue-related crashes. Nonetheless the evidence-base for targeted interventions is lacking. The aims of this project were to collect information from young drivers regarding their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours in relation to driving whilst fatigued; design anti-fatigue messages specifically targeting young drivers; and evaluate these anti-fatigue messages in terms of beliefs, attitudes, and intended behaviour. In 2005, we completed the field survey data collection, and submitted draft and final reports. The pamphlet that was developed during this research program is an important outcome of this work.
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 2005: $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 time awake and time of day so that the sleep deprivation effects occurred in the midnight to 6am period which coincides with the lowest point in the body clock when performance capacity is low anyway. This project will attempt 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 for driving.

DATA MATCHING PROJECT OF WORK RELATED DRIVER FATIGUE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Soufiene Boufous

FUNDING

SUMMARY
The aim of this project was to examine the characteristics of work-related traffic crashes involving drivers in New South Wales (NSW), Australia 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.

“...around 18 hours without sleep produces performance deficits equivalent to a blood alcohol at the legal limit for driving (0.05% blood alcohol content).”
NEW SOUTH WALES YOUNG DRIVERS’ COHORT STUDY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
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 2005)

SUMMARY
Road safety statistics show that young drivers are over-represented in serious crashes. 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. This is a prospective cohort study of young drivers aged 17 to 24, involving mail-outs of invitations to complete a study questionnaire on-line or via a mailed questionnaire. 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 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. The study should assist in obtaining 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.

PSYCHOSTIMULANT USE IN LONG DISTANCE ROAD TRANSPORT

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

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

SUMMARY
Divergent claims about the extent of psychostimulant use among long distance heavy vehicle drivers have appeared in the scientific literature and popular press. The aims of this project were to survey long distance heavy vehicle drivers directly about their experiences of drug use and to identify characteristics of drivers’ work that are associated with drug use. Anonymous surveys were distributed to drivers at truck stops on major highways in NSW in 2005. The results indicate that work practices known to engender fatigue, including pay systems, predict drug taking among drivers. The results have clear implications for policy and practice which aim to reduce occupational drug use and the health and safety risks it poses for drivers and other road users.

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. No funding received in 2005)

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 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.
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MESSAGES AND EXPERIENCES TO REDUCE ROAD-RELATED ILLUSORY INVULNERABILITY AND RISKY DRIVING, FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG DRIVERS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield

COLLABORATORS
Soames Job (Roads and Traffic Authority), Beryl Hesketh (University of Sydney), Wendy Joung (University of Sydney)

FUNDING
2001-2005, Motor Accidents Authority (Total budget: $51,094. Funding received in 2005: $30,844)

SUMMARY
The over representation of young people in road crash statistics is likely to owe partly to misperception of risk and risky driving. This project aimed to develop and evaluate materials to improve risk perception, risky driving, and road-trauma involvement amongst young people. In 2005, we completed data collection in a learner driver sample. The pamphlet that was developed during this research program is an important outcome of this work.

IMPLICIT ATTITUDES AND SIMULATED DRIVING BEHAVIOUR

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

COLLABORATORS
Gavin Faunce (University of Sydney)

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 this study were to assess implicit attitudes towards speeding (employing the computer-based Implicit Association Test) and their relationship to self-reported attitudes, self-reported behaviour, and simulated driving behaviour. In addition, the aim is to develop an intervention to improve speeding-related attitudes (both implicit and explicit) and simulated behaviour.

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. Funding received in 2005: $51,731)

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, although 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 cars”); 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.

"...night driving may not have any clear differential effects on performance when compared to day driving in either permanent or rotating shift drivers." National Transport Commission Media Release, 17th February 2005.
THE EFFECTS OF IN-VEHICLE AUDIOVISUAL DISPLAY UNITS ON SIMULATED DRIVING

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Timothy Chamberlain

FUNDING
2004-2005, Roads and Traffic Authority (Total budget: $22,539. No funding received in 2005)

SUMMARY
Installation of in-car audiovisual displays is increasing, yet there is no evidence-base for appropriate regulation. We investigated whether drivers attend to audiovisual displays in other cars, and the associated driving impairments. 28 participants completed 3 drives on a simulator while visual materials were presented on a display positioned as though in a neighbouring vehicle. A different instruction condition operated for each drive: ignore visual materials, attend, and no instruction. Participants also completed one drive without visual material (control). Drivers evidenced impairment in the attend condition relative to the control condition. For example, they decelerated more slowly when confronted by pedestrian, and kept a lane position on a curvy road that was more variable and further to the left of centre. In a survey, 96% of participants reported that their simulator driving was at least “a little” impaired by the visual materials. 31% of participants reported having seen an entertainment display in another vehicle on the road, with 80% of these reporting that they had paid at least “a little” attention to the last sighted display. These findings suggest that audiovisual displays that are visible from another vehicle are likely to distract drivers and impair their driving performance.

EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF CHILD RESTRAINTS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Wei Du, Julie Hatfield, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Lynne Bilston (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)

FUNDING
2005-2008, ARC, Motor Accidents Authority and Roads and Traffic Authority (Total budget: $73,950. Funding received in 2005: $24,650)

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 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 road trauma has commenced, via analysis of the hospital separations database. Data collection has been completed for a telephone survey of restraint usage for children aged under 16, and data analysis is ongoing. A study to characterise the geometry of seatbelt and child restraints on the market in Australia has commenced. Planning for the third study, which involves an in-depth study of child restraint misuse, is in its final stage.
THE ROLE OF RISK PROPENSITY 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. Funding received in 2005: $13,256)

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 risks). 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.

A REVIEW REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF ADVERTISING INSTALMENTS ON ROAD SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
Advertising instalments (e.g. advertising on stands, billboards, bus stands, buses, taxis, and other vehicles) may negatively impact road safety in several ways, primarily through obstruction of the driver’s view of driving-relevant stimuli; visual clutter and reduced conspicuity of driving-relevant signs; and driver distraction. The aims of this project are to review the literature relevant to this issue and to provide the Roads and Traffic Authority with a report and recommendations.

DEVELOPMENT OF A TESTING PROGRAM TO CONDUCT ACOUSTIC SURVEY OF ENGINE BRAKE NOISE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield

FUNDING
2005-2006, Roads and Traffic Authority (Total budget: $8,836. Funding received in 2005: $4,418)

SUMMARY
The RTA has been working with the National Transport Commission (NTC) in the development of a regulatory approach to managing engine brake noise (EB) noise. There is a need to conduct a community-based survey to examine the association between human reaction (including annoyance) to record EB noise events and various acoustical indices calculated from these events (employing NTC-developed algorithms). The aim of this project was to develop a research design and research materials for this purpose. The RTA was provided with a report that detailed the experimental design—e.g. sample size and stratification, sampling techniques, stimuli selection (i.e. noise levels, noise impulsivity characteristics), methods for obtaining ratings, inclusion of important modifiers (i.e. noise sensitivity, attitudes to the noise source); detailed data analysis and interpretation issues—e.g. selection of an appropriate standard based on "% highly annoyed"; and included survey materials—e.g. researcher instructions, questionnaires.
Cricket is one of Australia’s most popular sports, both in terms of spectator interest and participation rates. However, participation in cricket can be associated with a risk of injury. Fast bowlers have consistently been identified as being at the greatest risk of injury, which clearly establishes them as the priority group for continued risk factor research. The aim of this project was to describe the epidemiology of repetitive microtrauma injuries and identify the risk factors for these injuries to male adolescent and adult fast bowlers. The project consisted of three prospective cohort studies investigating bowling workload, technique and physical characteristics as risk factors for injury, with data being collected over the period 2000-04. Results of the project were presented to cricket administrators, policymakers, coaches and medical staff in a variety of forums throughout the year.
MANAGING RETURN-TO-PLAY DECISIONS FOLLOWING MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (MTBI): A COHORT STUDY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Mark Stevenson (The George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney), Michael Collins and Mark Lovell (University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre), Andy Lee (School of Population Health, University of Western Australia), Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW). 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 2005)

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 outcomes 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 develop guidelines for managing return-to-play decision following mTBI. During the 2005 season, the study recruited 1276 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.

SUBSTANCE USE AND SNOW SPORT ACTIVITY: AN INVESTIGATION OF RISK PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Shauna Sherker

COLLABORATORS
Prof Jim Kehoe (School of Psychology, UNSW), Dr Mark Doverty (NSW Southern Area Health Services)

FUNDING
2004-2005, NSW Southern Area Health Services (Total budget: $30,909. No funding received in 2005)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project was to investigate perceptions of snowfield resort visitors about injury risk regarding alcohol, fatigue and recreational drug use. Visitors to a resort village in a large Australian snowfield region completed a brief survey about fatigue, alcohol and recreational drug use and injury risk perception. Participants stated their ability to ski or snowboard and drive safely following a lack of sleep, alcohol and recreational drugs use. Intoxicated snowfield report visitors were compared with non-intoxicated visitors. Safety beliefs across snowsport and transport were compared. Most participants reported that they generally slept less than usual and 30% reported both drinking alcohol and using drugs more than usual while visiting the snowfields. Participants perceived driving as a greater injury risk than skiing/snowboarding (p<0.001). Fatigue was perceived as a relatively weak injury risk factor, particularly while skiing and snowboarding.
You have to introduce yourself to sport, very gently. People who did not get injured all sought professional advice, had a lot of coaching for their activity, and had experience in the game. They participated in things like pre-season training, to get their bodies up to a base level of physical fitness before they took up competitive sport.

Prof Caroline Finch, *You’re never too old*, The Sydney Morning Herald, 24th February 2005

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**THE JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SAFETY STUDY (JAFSS)**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Caroline Finch, Maria Romiti

**COLLABORATOR**
Belinda Gabbe (Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University)

**FUNDING**

**SUMMARY**
Continued growth of junior sports depends heavily upon the level of safety associated with participation in any given activity. The Junior Australian Football Safety Study (JAFSS) was designed to investigate the rates and patterns of injury among Australian football participants spanning from the U9 level of play through to the U18 level of play.

Additionally, comparisons were made to the only other comprehensive study of injuries in junior Australian football players, conducted over a decade ago. The project has identified priority areas for injury prevention and recommended specific game development strategies, related to level of play.

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**REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF VICTORIAN SPORT RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATORS**
Caroline Finch

**COLLABORATORS**
Leonie Otago (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Peter Swan (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Jennifer Blitvich (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Sue Brown (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat). This project is led by the University of Ballarat researchers.

**FUNDING**
2004-2005, Department for Victorian Communities (No funding received in 2005)

**SUMMARY**
This project has examined the extent to which Victorian State Sporting Bodies have developed and implemented risk management plans. The aims were to investigate how, and to what extent, sport clubs and associations adopted their State Sporting Association (SSA) SIRM plan into their everyday operations. To adequately explore this, the project was conducted in five phases: a review of SSA SIRM policies for clubs, an interview with a key SSA person; the development and implementation of a survey for clubs and associations, and development and implementation of a survey for clubs and associations. Overall, the findings of the five phases support the need for a practical SIRM process at club level. Generic risk management protocols have their place but clubs need to know what is expected of them, and how they should implement SIRM and what the benefits of undertaking the practices are.
PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF SPORTS INJURY RISK

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Leonie Otago (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Michael Reynolds (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Michael Spittle (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Warren Payne (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Jack Harvey (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat). This project is led by the University of Ballarat researchers.

FUNDING
2004-2005, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (No funding received in 2005)

SUMMARY
The project investigated parental perceptions of the risk of sports injury to their children in Victoria. The project aimed to investigate the influence and extent of parental perceptions of sports injury risk as a barrier to young people’s participation in sport. To explore the influence of these perceptions, the project was conducted in 2 phases: a quantitative survey of parents and a follow-up quantitative phase where selected parents were interviewed concerning their perceptions of sports injury risk. Overall, the findings of both phases of the project supported that parents acknowledged and were aware of the injury risk of participation in sport and between different sports. However, parental perceptions of sport injury risk did not appear to be strong influences of parental actions regarding sports participation.

EVALUATION OF THE SAFECLUB TRAINING INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SPORTS SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Shauna Sherker

COLLABORATORS
Paul Klarenaar (Northern Sydney Central 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 2005)

SUMMARY
Risk management plans have been identified as the ‘best buy’ in sports injury prevention however local research indicates that few community sports clubs have such plans, nor the skills and infrastructure to develop them. The SafeClub training program was introduced to assist community sports clubs to develop and implement sports safety plans using a risk management approach and injury prevention concepts. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the SafeClub training program as a means of enabling community soccer clubs to improve their sports safety infrastructure, policies and practices. Baseline and post-intervention safety infrastructure and policies were measured using a modified version of the Sports Safety Audit Tool. Preliminary results indicate that there was no significant difference at baseline between intervention and control soccer clubs regarding risk management policy and infrastructure. Post season results will be analysed in 2006. The findings of this innovative project will provide much needed evidence to guide the process of supporting community sporting organisations to adopt best practice in sports injury prevention.
The central message was not to stop playing sport but to modify existing sport to minimise injury.

Soufiane Boufous, Battle of the Codes, The Sydney Morning Herald, 5th February 2005

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 Researcher (Total budget: $23,450. Funding received in 2005: $19,680)

SUMMARY
Playground related injury is a serious and common childhood event, resulting in substantial trauma and treatment costs. Playground injury hospitalisation rates have increased, despite stringent playground safety standards being introduced. This trend appears to be driven in part by a lack of compliance with playground safety standards. This study aims to identify how local government enforce regulations for playground safety. Further, it will identify the barriers and facilitators to playground safety standard compliance in local government, and to highlight examples of best practice. A telephone survey of key informants for playground safety in all 152 local government councils in New South Wales Australia was undertaken in 2005. The extent of playground safety compliance by metropolitan and non-metropolitan councils, council enforcement of regulations including inspection and maintenance processes and barriers and facilitators to compliance will be reported.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF SEVERE AND CATASTROPHIC SPORTS INJURIES IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Soufiane Boufous

FUNDING
2005-2007, NSW Sporting Injuries Committee (Total budget: $59,125. Funding received in 2005: $39,190)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to examine secular trends in severe and catastrophic sports injuries in New South Wales and to determine the nature and the circumstances of these cases. Results will be presented in the form of three annual reports. The objective of the first report is to present a baseline epidemiological profile of hospitalisations and deaths related to participation in sport and leisure activities in NSW. Data on sports-related injuries was extracted from the NSW Inpatient Statistical Collection and the ABS death data based on the International Classification Diseases (ICD-10) activity coding indicating injury while engaging in sports and leisure activities. Rates of catastrophic sports injuries will be provided based on ABS population data as well as participation data obtained from the Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Surveys run by the Australian Sports Commission and state and territory departments of sports and recreation.
SPORTS GROUND AND SURFACE STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT OF USER SAFETY GUIDELINES

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Leonie Otago (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Peter Swan (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Warren Payne (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat), Ian Chivers Harvey (Racing Solutions, Victoria) and John Orchard (Sports Medicine Centre, NSW). This project is led by the University of Ballarat researchers.

FUNDING
2005-2006, Department for Victorian Communities (No funding received in 2005)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to investigate the policies of Victorian Local Government Authorities along with the State Sporting Associations of Football, Cricket, Hockey and Soccer in relation to sports ground safety and ground suitability for play. The methodology is a six stage process investigating current policies are being adopted, including methods and practices at club and association level across metropolitan, regional and rural settings and to establish normative data for conditions of ground surfaces for Australian Rules Football grounds at a representative number of metropolitan, regional and rural environments.
The cost was estimated at $16.9 billion; an average cost per incident of $118,540.
WORK-RELATED INJURY

ANALYSIS OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINING INDUSTRY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Tim Chamberlain

FUNDING
2001-2005, The NSW Department of Mineral Resources (Total budget: $19,578. Funding received in 2005: $19,578)

SUMMARY
In addition to information on injury-related incidents, the NSW mining industry collects incident information that is relevant to occupational safety and health. Unlike other industry sectors where workplace health and safety information is based exclusively on fatality and severe injury data, this additional information is based on Notifiable Incidents that are required to be reported to the government regulatory agency under a range of mine safety acts and regulations. The aim of this study is to provide an annual report on the reportable incidents collected by the Department of Primary Industry-Minerals. The report describes the nature of incidents and circumstances in which they occur. This analysis provides a broader view of incidents that have both actual and potential impact on safety and are leading to the development of more informed strategies to address the major problems in mine safety in NSW.

THE EFFECTS OF PRECARIOUS WORK ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Prof Phillip Bohle and Prof 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 2005)

SUMMARY
Temporary, part time or casual work is increasing in Australian workplace. This type of work is often summarised as precarious work and much has been written about the potential impact of these types of work arrangements on occupational health and safety. 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 industries. A survey of road transport workers was conducted and the results analysed. Comparison of short haul truck drivers in permanent employee, casual employee and owner driver work arrangements showed that short haul drivers worked very long hours that were similar to long haul drivers, under arguably more continuously trying condition of congested urban roads. Work-related injuries (mainly related to lifting and loading and unloading) were quite common among employee drivers and over a third of permanent employee drivers reported a chronic illness (mainly back problems and deafness) or having made a workers’ compensation claim in the past five years. These findings with regard to the long hours and pressures on short haul drivers raise important policy issues. In the past, the working conditions of long haul truck drivers were seen as rather unique, requiring particular forms of regulatory intervention (to combat fatigue etc.). Our study found that gap between employment and working conditions of long haul and short haul drivers was less than previously imagined. This suggests that existing policy interventions for short haul drivers may need to be reconsidered.
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
2004-2005, WorkCover (Total budget: $93,120. Funding received in 2005: $93,120)

SUMMARY
The objectives 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, the consumption of medical services and the 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 Occupation Health & Safety Commission in 2003.

PILOT SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT TYPE, HOURS OF WORK AND SAFETY IN NSW MINING 2003-2004

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2005, NSW Department of Primary Industry (Total budget: $15,834. Funding received in 2005: $15,834)

SUMMARY
The main aims of this pilot study were to describe the ways people are employed in the NSW mining industry, and to set a precedent for future research. Of key interest were the types of employment and areas of work, hours worked and safety outcomes for contractors in the NSW mining industry. The analysis of the characteristics of contractors working in the mines that returned surveys suggests a number of important differences between contractors and employees that need to be validated in a larger survey. Further, the results identified aspects that could be improved to make a larger survey more successful. The IRMRC coordinated and hosted a Workshop on designing a study of employment type, hours of work and safety in NSW mining which was attended by mining industry representatives of employers, employees and government.
SELF REPORTED WORK-RELATED INJURY AND ILLNESS IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Rebecca Mitchell, Soufiane Boufous

FUNDING
2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
Work-related injury is an important public health issue in NSW. The study describes information on self-reported work-related injuries collected as part of the 2002 NSW Health Survey Program. A total of 15.6% of employed persons reported that they had suffered an injury or illness related to work in the last 12 months. Males and young workers were more likely to report experiencing a work-related injury/illness than females or older workers. The most common injury-reported was sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles. Only one-quarter of respondents reported receiving workers' compensation for their injury/illness. Data sources from the health system are an important source of information for work-related injury/illness. Health survey information can complement other work-related injury/illness data sources and contribute to the current knowledge regarding the magnitude, nature and severity of work-related injury/illness in NSW.

RESEARCH ON FATIGUE MANAGEMENT IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2005-2006, National Transport Commission (Total budget: $14,500. Funding received in 2005: $9,500)

SUMMARY
This project involved providing expert review and advice to the National Transport Commission on the development of a national approach to managing the risks associated with fatigue in Rail Safety Workers. This included attended meetings with stakeholders leading and membership of a Fatigue Expert Group which led to preparation of a number of draft proposals for fatigue management that form the basis for a national regulatory framework to govern this area in rail safety.

PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN 2005 BUT FOR WHICH RESEARCH WORK WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL 2006

IRMRC staff are listed in bold in the following list

Finch C, Lloyd D, Elliott B. Can exercise training programs prevent knee injuries? NHMRC Project Grant. 2006-2009 (1,065,650)

Hayen A, Sherker S. The spatial epidemiology of playground falls in New South Wales. UNSW Faculty of Science Early Career Research Grant. 2006 ($18,747)


Poulos R, Rutherford A, Zwi A, Finch C, Hayen A, Moore H, Zwi K, Comino E. The spatial distribution of childhood injury morbidity and mortality in NSW. UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Grant. 2006 ($26,518) (to be administered through School of Public Health and Community Medicine)
PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP ON CORONIAL AND EMERGENCY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2005-2006, NSW Health

SUMMARY
Melissa Irwin began a six month placement as a Public Health Officer at the IRMRC in December 2005. She is examining at the usefulness of the National Coroners Information System for injury surveillance. She will also negotiate access to NCIS on behalf of the Centre.

BIOSTATISTICAL APPROACHES FOR INJURY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2004-2007, NSW Health

SUMMARY
Our second Biostatistical Officer (Sanja Lujic) commenced her placement with the Centre in February. Sanja assessed the quality of the linkage hospitalisation separations with police crash records in terms of the matching rate and identifying groups that did/did not match well.

Robin Turner has commenced as Biostatistical officer for a 12 month placement in September. Her work is focussing on developing methodologies to analyse spatio-temporal count data, with examples drawn from hip fractures in older people.

“Sanja assessed the quality of the linkage hospitalisation separations with police crash records in terms of the matching rate and identifying groups that did/did not match well.”
SHORT COURSE

In 2005, 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.
- Injury surveillance including sources of injury data, injury coding and classification and introduces 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 14 students were enrolled in it. 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 the Elderly Falls Forum meeting on 4th May 2005.

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Ran workshop for Performance Measure Task group of the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Committee meeting on 21st February, 6th May and 19th October 2005.
> Attended the Child Fatalities and Injuries in Driveways Project Steering Committee Meeting on 19th May 2005.
> Attended meeting at MAA on development of Child Safety Strategy on 13th October 2005.

ANNALIESE DOWLING
> Attended the Elderly Falls Forum meeting on 4th May 2005.

DR ANDREW HAYEN
> Attended the Injury Futures Planning Forum on 14th March 2005.

DR REBECCA MITCHELL
> Attended the National Coronial Information Advisory Group meeting on 9th June 2005.

MARY POTTER FORBES
> Attended the Injury Futures Planning Forum on 14th March 2005.
> Attended the Social Determinants of Health Futures Planning Forum on 14th March 2005.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT POLICY FORUMS

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

“It is time for the health sector to properly recognise child injury as a critical issue for the ongoing health of Australian children and to formally commit to appropriate preventive actions”
Prof Caroline Finch, Letter to Editor, Medical Journal of Australia, 15th August 2005
A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Injury monitoring and prevention: Road safety research at the IRMRC. NSW Injury Prevention Network Meeting, 17-18th March 2005. (Invited talk)
> Why are we worrying about young drivers? Launch of XRoads, a road safety advertisement for young drivers developed by Bankstown Team Phoenix, Youth Advisory Group, 14th November 2005. (Invited talk)

SOUFIANE BOUFOS
> Data linkage of road and Hospital data: what does it tell us? NSW Injury Prevention Network Meeting, 17-18th March 2005. (Invited talk)

DR JULIE HATFIELD

DR ANDREW HAYEN

DR ANDREW MARICH

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

STAFF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND WORKING PARTIES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
> Deputy Convenor, NSW Child Death Review Team.
> Chair, 2006 AIPN Conference Organising Committee.
> Member of International Scientific Conference Committee, 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Durban, South Africa, 2nd-5th April 2006.
A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
> Member, Associate Professor Promotion Committee for Australian Defence Forces Academy.
> Member, National Rail Industry Reference group on fatigue.
> Member, Performance Measures Taskgroup for NSW Mine Safety Advisory Committee.
> Member, Farm Machinery Safety Reference group.
> Chair, UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel-Social/Health Research.

DR JULIE HATFIELD
> Member, NSW Road Safety Task Force.
> Member, AIPN Conference Organising Committee.

DR ANDREW HAYEN
> Member, AIPN Conference Scientific Committee.

DR ANDREW MARICH
> NSW Public Health Officer Training program - Trainee representative.
> Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine - Public Health Officer Trainee representative.

REBECCA MITCHELL
> Chair, Scientific Committee, 2006 National Playground Safety Conference.
> Member, Scientific Committee, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia 2006 Conference.
> National General Secretary and Board Member, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia.
> Member, National Coronal Information Advisory Group.

MARY POTTER FORBES

> Member, Research Management Committee, Faculty of Science, UNSW.
> Member, Cross Faculty Marketing Group, Faculty of Science, UNSW.

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

DR SHAUNA SHERKER
> SMA (NSW) Board of Directors.
> Member, AIPN Conference Scientific Committee.
> NSW IRMRC representative for the UNSW Faculty Management Research Committee (Science) (until August 2005).

LETTERS/EDITORIALS/OTHER ARTICLES
LIST OF MAJOR COLLABORATORS

During 2005, the Centre had major research collaborations with a number of people across UNSW and external to it.

**MS KRISTY ABBOTT** Youthsafe  
**PROFESSOR PETER ABELSON** Macquarie University  
**A/PROFESSOR LYNNE BILSTON** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW  
**A/PROF DEBORAH BLACK** School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW  
**PROFESSOR PHILIP BOHLE** School of Organisation and Management, UNSW  
**DR ROB BRANDER** School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW  
**MS JULIE BROWN** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW  

**PROFESSOR IAN CAMERON** Rehabilitation Studies  
**MS MARGARET CAVANAGH** Kidsafe  
**DR JACQUELINE CLOSE** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute  
**A/PROFESSOR JEAN CROSS** School of Safety Science, UNSW  
**MR LESLEY DAY** Monash University Accidents Research Centre  
**MR ALEX DONALDSON** Northern Area Health Services  
**DR TIM DRISCOLL** School of Public Health, University of Sydney  
**PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR** School of Mathematics, UNSW  
**MR DAVID EAGER** Faculty of Engineering, University of Technology Sydney  
**DR ROCHELLE EIME** School of Human Movement and Sport Science, University of Ballarat  
**PROFESSOR BRUCE ELLIOTT** School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, University of Western Australia  
**DR ANNE-MARIE FEYER** PricewaterhouseCoopers/NEOH, University of Otago  
**PROFESSOR IAN FORBES,** Group for Health Architecture and Planning (GHAAP), Faculty of the Built Environment, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)  
**DR BELINDA GABBE** Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University  
**MR MAX HEALEY** Safety Science Associates  
**DR REBECCA IVERS** The George Institute for International Health  
**PROFESSOR JIM KEHOE** School of Psychology, UNSW  
**DR TIM LAMBERT** School of Computer Science and Engineering, UNSW  
**DR DAVID LLOYD** School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, University of Western Australia  
**A/PROFESSOR STEPHEN LORD** Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute  
**DR ANDREW MCINTOSH** School of Safety Science, UNSW  
**PROFESSOR ROBYN NORTON** George Institute of International Health, University of Sydney  
**A/PROFESSOR LEONIE OTAGO** School of Human Movement and Sport Science, University of Ballarat
DR ROSLYN POULOS School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

PROFESSOR MICHAEL QUINLAN School of Organisation and Management, UNSW

DR DANIEL RAMP School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science, UNSW

A/PROFESSOR JAN RITCHIE School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

DR ALISON RUTHERFORD School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

DR STEPHEN SHORROCK School of Aviation, UNSW

MS REBECCA STELLATO RIVM, Bilthoven, Netherlands

PROFESSOR MARK STEVENSON George Institute of International Health, University of Sydney

DR DAINA STURNIEKS Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute

DR IRENE VAN KAMP RIVM, Bilthoven, Netherlands

PROFESSOR BILL WALSH Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital

PROFESSOR ANTHONY ZWI School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

DR KAREN ZWI Sydney Children’s Hospital

VISITORS TO THE CENTRES

MRS MARIAN BURGESS Australia Defence Force Academy

DR TONY CARTER School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University

DR LESLEY DAY Monash University Accident Research Centre

MR ROBERT FITZGERALD Productivity Commission

DR RAFAEL GRZEBIETA Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University

MR MLADEN KOVAC WorkCover, NSW

PROF JOHN LANGLEY Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

A/PROF REINHOLD MULLER School of Public Health and Tropical Medical, James Cook University

DR WENDY WATSON Monash University Accident Research Centre

“the Centre had major research collaborations with a number of people across UNSW and external to it.”
PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEW JOURNAL PAPERS


RESEARCH REPORTS

Hatfield J. Literature review regarding the effects of advertising instalments on road safety. Report to the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW. 2005.


Hatfield J, Job RFS, Hesketh B, Joung W. The development of messages and experiences to reduce road-related illusory invulnerability and risky driving, for young drivers. Report to the Motor Accidents Authority. 2005.


CONFERENCES ABSTRACTS


PRESENTATIONS
IRMRC co-authors listed in bold

CONFERENCES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
Finch C. Research methods in sports injury prevention. 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited keynote address)
Finch C. Community sports injury prevention. 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited talk)
Finch C. Surveillance in different populations. 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited talk)
Finch C. Injury prevention at the community level. 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited Chair)
Finch C. Methodology of sport injury registration: What are the key pieces of the puzzle? 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited Co-Chair)
Finch C. What are the potential problems in introducing protective equipment? 1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention, Oslo, Norway, 22nd-26th June 2005. (Invited talk)
Finch C. The interface between sports injury prevention and public health. The 10th Annual Stampede Sport Medicine Conference, University of Calgary, Canada, 9th July 2005. (Invited talk)

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
Williamson A. Fatigue and quality of life in the long distance road transport industry. Maximising Safety, Efficiency and Quality of Life: Linking the work and off-work conditions for transportation workers through the application of behavioural science, Transportation Research Board 84th Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 9-13th January 2005. (Invited talk)
Williamson A. Analysis of the causes of reportable incidents in the mining industry. Fourth National OHS Regulatory Research Colloquium, Canberra, 9-10th February 2005. (Proferred paper)


SOUFIANE BOUFOUS

REBECCA DENNIS

RENA FRISWELL

DR JULIE HATFIELD

Hatfield J. Transparent communication of noise information. RIVM (National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands), Bilthoven, Netherlands, 21st April 2005. (Invited talk)


MARY POTTER FORBES

MARIA ROMITI

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

PROF CAROLINE FINCH


> Should we be concerned for the safety of our children in sport? Direction de la promotion de la securite, Ministere de l'Education, du Loisir et du Sport, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, 12th April 2005. (Invited talk)


> Protective equipment and sports - perceived injury risk and safety behaviours. Clinical Research Rounds, Montreal Children's Hospital, 22nd April 2005. (Invited talk)


> The Injury Risk Management Research Centre. Injury Prevention Research Unit, Otago University, Dunedin, 6th October 2005. (Invited talk)

> A new framework for research leading to sports injury prevention. Injury Prevention Research Unit, Otago University, Dunedin, 6th October 2005. (Invited talk)

REBECCA DENNIS

> Establishing a national tracking system for fast bowlers. Cricket Australia National Pace Bowling Program meeting, Brisbane, 6th April 2005. (Invited talk)


DR JULIE HATFIELD


DR ANDREW HAYEN


> Data linkage. Presentation at Motor Accidents Authority, 20th October 2005. (Invited talk)

LECTURES

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

> Introduction to human factors and injury behavioural aspects. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 14th July 2005.

SOUFIANE BOUFOUS

> Injury Surveillance. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 12th July 2005.

ANNA LISE DOWLING

> Falls in the older people. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 13th July 2005.

DR ANDREW HAYEN

> Injury surveillance and documenting the burden of injury in NSW. University of Sydney, Master of Public Health Lecture, 27th May 2005.

> Documenting the burden of injury in NSW. NSW IRMRC Short Course, 14th July 2005.

DR SHAUNA SHERKER


A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

> Human factors. Master of Occupational Psychology, Macquarie University, 8th May 2005. (Invited talk)


SOUFIANE BOUFOUS

> Epidemiology of Falls. Elderly Falls Forum meeting, 4th May 2005 (Invited talk)

> Data linkage. Presentation at Motor Accidents Authority, 20th October 2005. (Invited talk)
AWARDS

In 2005, IRMRC staff received the following awards:

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

> Visiting Lecturer Award from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, June 2005.

SOUFIANE BOUFOUS

> UNSW Bookshop Award for Excellence in Research - Research Student.

DR JULIE HATFIELD

> Visiting Scholar Bursary from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
> Visiting Scholar Bursary from the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands.

DR SHAUNA SHERKER


Shauna – 2004 Mollie Holman Doctorate medal award at Monash University.