

**3 December 2018**  
**For immediate release**

## Celebrate safely this Christmas

The holiday period is an exciting time for children, however unfortunately this is also a time when injuries to children can increase. This time of year involves countless gatherings and celebrations where supervision of children can lapse. During celebrations there are often a number of adults around which can cause confusion over who is supervising, giving children opportunities to find their way into hazardous situations.

Each year 27 Western Australian children will die from an accidental injury, while a further 7,000 are hospitalised. In December 2017 and January 2018 there were over 2,700 children who presented to the Perth Children's Hospital Emergency Department with an injury, which accounts for over 15% of the injury presentations for the year. During this time of year many people are travelling on the road from one celebration to another, participating in water activities and children are trying out new gifts.

"Make sure to take care on the roads when travelling to and from gatherings and ensure that children are using a correctly fitted child car restraint for their age and size. Whilst at gatherings, allocate an adult who is responsible for the supervision of children and ensure everyone knows who this is" said Kidsafe WA Chief Executive Officer, Scott Phillips.

Kidsafe WA recommends the following tips to help prevent child injuries while celebrating this holiday period.

### Celebrations and gatherings

- Take care when travelling on roads during this busy period and ensure children are always supervised near driveways, roads or on paths.
- Actively supervise children during gatherings and ensure everyone knows who is responsible for the supervision of children.
- Remember to clean up after a holiday party, and empty or dispose of any leftover alcohol straight away.
- Restrict access to the BBQ and turn the BBQ off immediately after use.

### Water Safety

- Always actively supervise children within arm's reach around any depth of water.
- Never leave young children in the care of older children around water. Children are distracted easily or they may not recognise an emergency situation.
- Check that your pool fence and gate are in good working order and never propped open.

### Toy Safety

- Remember to include the appropriate safety gear if gifting items such as bicycles or scooters.
- Choose toys that are suitable for the child's stage of development. Ensure toys for older children which may contain small parts are kept separately to toys for younger children – these can be choking hazards.
- Be aware of batteries in toys, novelty items or decorations. Batteries can be extremely dangerous if children swallow these.

"As novelty items are not recognised as toys, they do not need to meet the same standards for toys with batteries. Be aware of items that contain button batteries and restrict access to these" said Mr Phillips.

Together we can help reduce the number injuries to children over this Christmas holiday period.

-ENDS-

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