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For immediate release

50 children a day visit PMH with an injury

Childhood injuries are a significant issue across Western Australia. Every year in WA 27 children die from preventable injuries and a further 7,000 are hospitalised.

On top of this, during the last financial year 50 children a day visited the Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department (PMH ED) due to an injury.

“PMH is the only hospital in Western Australia dedicated solely to children and is the referral centre for all paediatric illness and injury for the state,” said Kidsafe WA Chief Executive Officer, Scott Phillips.

New data released by Kidsafe WA, with the support of the Western Australian Department of Health shows over 18,000 injury presentations were made to the PMH ED between July 2015 and June 2016. Although PMH has the potential to provide medical assistance to the whole of Western Australia, often children are treated at local medical facilities. This report therefore provides only a snapshot of injuries across the state. Key findings from the Kidsafe WA Childhood Injury Bulletin: Annual Report, 2015 – 2016 show:

- Males are at greater risk of sustaining an injury, accounting for 57% of injuries.
- Young children aged between 0-5 years accounted for over one third of injuries.
- Just under 20% of injuries occurred at home.
- Almost a quarter of injuries were sports-related.
- Just under 15% of children required admission to hospital for further treatment.

“Children under five years of age rely on adults to help keep them safe, as they haven’t yet developed the skill to determine what could be a potential hazard” said Mr Phillips.

There are a number of ways to prevent injuries in children, including active supervision and the use of safety and protective equipment. If an injury does occur, learning basic first aid can significantly reduce the severity of that injury.

“Kidsafe WA is committed to ensuring West Australian children become healthy adults and are working hard to promote safety and prevent childhood injuries via education, research and advocacy,” said Mr Phillips.

For more information on how to keep your children safe visit: www.kidsafewa.com.au

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