



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health and Ageing**

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2010 regarding your request for additional information about injury prevention programs. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

As you would be aware, the *National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan 2004-2014* provides a high level strategic framework to guide collective and individual action by jurisdictions. Given the currency of the plan, there have been no discussions as yet about the future of this plan beyond 2014.

Recent activities under the plan have focused on completing an update to a suite of resources entitled *Preventing Falls and Harm from Falls in Older People: Best Practice Guidelines for Australian hospitals, residential aged care facilities and community care 2009*. These guidelines were approved by the Australian Health Minister's Council in November 2009 and are expected to be printed and distributed in residential, community and hospital aged care settings over the coming months.

In addition to these activities the Australian Government will fund \$94.9 million from 2010-11 to 2013-14 for suicide prevention initiatives, \$25.2 million from 2010-11 to 2013-14 to support National Water and Snow Safety Organisations and for the 'Saving lives in water' initiative, road safety prevention initiatives, a range of quality use of medicines programs under the 4th Community Pharmacy Agreement, \$350,000 from 2009-10 to 2010-11 for injury surveillance and \$110,000 per annum for the National Poisons Register.

Burns are acknowledged as a significant cause of injury in Australia. In recognition of this, a number of states and territories regularly run their own fire safety and burns awareness campaigns.

At a national level, under the auspices of the Australian Health Protection Committee, the Health All Hazards Working Group is developing the Domestic Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents of National Consequence (AUSTRUMAPLAN) which sits under the National Health Emergency Response Arrangements. The AUSTRUMAPLAN is a comprehensive response plan including annexes for incidents requiring specialised responses such as terrorism incidents, paediatric issues and severe burns.

The severe burn annex will be adapted from, and replace the National Response Plan for Mass Burn Casualty Incidents (AUSBURNPLAN). It will enable a collaborative and coordinated national response to an incident that causes a significant number of burn patients. However, there is no additional Australian Government funding for burn injury prevention under the *National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan 2004-14*.

I hope you find this information of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Nathan Smyth  
First Assistant Secretary  
Population Health Division  
9 July 2010