



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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KEEPING KIDS SAFE AND WELL: A KEY PRIORITY FOR NSW

NSW is well-placed to address ways to better prevent and manage injuries in young people to keep them well and out of hospital, Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner said today.

Mrs Skinner today officially opened the inaugural Paediatric Injury Prevention and Management Research Forum, which has attracted clinicians, researchers and paediatric experts from across the state.

“The effect of injuries and accidents on young people cannot be underestimated. Injury is the leading cause of mortality in every year of life between the ages of one and 24,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Injury is also the major cause of hospitalisation in this age bracket and ranges from falls and drowning in the very young to risk-taking behaviours, self-harm and transport accidents among adolescents and young adults.”

“It is vital that we better understand the nature of injuries and how best to prevent and treat them to ensure children and young people can live life to the fullest in a safe environment.”

Mrs Skinner said the forum, convened by the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and NSW Kids and Families, is the first of its kind in NSW.

“This forum is an important opportunity to bring together experts, researchers from various academic organisations and a diverse range of government as well as non-government agencies to improve the safety and health of children in the community.

“NSW has progressed major prevention initiatives, most recently regarding pool fences and falls from windows. On the treatment side, progress both in trauma responses and rehabilitation services in NSW hospitals and health facilities has shown integration and teamwork across the sector to be essential,” Mrs Skinner said.

The Paediatric Injury Prevention and Management Research Forum will feature talks from the state’s leading researchers, clinicians and academics on childhood injuries, including:

- Professor Les White, AM, NSW Chief Paediatrician, NSW Kids and Families;
- Dr Jonathan Gillis, Deputy Convenor, NSW Child Death Review Team;

- Mr Gregor Macfie, Director Policy and Research, NSW Commission for Children and Young People;
- Professor Gary Browne, Emergency Medicine, The Children's Hospital at Westmead;
- Professor Rebecca Ivers, Director, Injury Division, The George Institute for Global Health;
- Professor Danny Cass, Head of Trauma Unit, The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Mrs Skinner said injury prevention closely links with reducing unnecessary hospitalisations.

"One of my key priorities as Health Minister is to ensure people stay healthy and do not find themselves in hospital unnecessarily," Mrs Skinner said.

"The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network is a leader in children's health and healthcare in terms of service, education and research.

"I established NSW Kids and Families to improve the health and enhance the care of children and young people in NSW.

"These are esteemed organisations and I'm pleased to see them join forces to pursue a research agenda driven by the need to address the health and safety of children and young people in our community," Mrs Skinner said.