



2024

Annual Reflection



Table of Contents

01

Presidents Report

02

Sub-Committee &
Representative
Reports

03

Life Member

04

AIPN Awards

05

2024 Conference

06

Acknowledgements

President's Report

A/ PROF DEBBIE SCOTT

I thought 2023 was a big year, 2024 seems to have put that to shame. Our executive committee has not stopped and we all owe them all a huge debt of gratitude for the work, dedication, and commitment they put into this organisation every day. There is no funding for the executive committee and every member of the committee has busy, full-time roles in their 'real' jobs, and they are all esteemed and hugely productive in those roles, but still, they find time to dedicate so much energy and passion for what they do with the AIPN.

A number of the members hold ex officio roles – and we couldn't function without them. Last year, particularly, was extremely busy and, often hugely stressful but everyone chipped in, did what they could, and did it graciously and with a smile. There is truly a special dynamic about this group and the people who work in this space, and I am extremely grateful for the time I've held in this role. This meeting sees Kez, Mareta, Janneke, Rebecca at the end of their terms. Thank you for everything you've done for the committee and the AIPN over the past few years, especially to Kez and Rebecca who will not be seeking re-election. I'd also like to thank Rachel Meade who has always gone above and beyond to make sure that everything we do is a success – I don't know where you both get your energy, but the AIPN is so lucky to have all of you, your expertise and your passion on board.

Last year in my report I mentioned the National Strategy for Injury Prevention, currently in development in collaboration with Kate Hunter and our colleagues at the George Institute. I noted frustration with the slow progress and government reluctance to progress and release the strategy. Sadly, I can't offer any good news on this front. Despite our best efforts, regular advocacy and input – we don't appear any closer to a release date. It really isn't good enough. As we know, injury is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and to see this kind of stagnation and lack of urgency by our government on such an important health issue, is quite frankly, baffling.

As well as our work on advocating for the release of NSIP, our year has been busy with a number of collaborative projects and submissions. We continue to be involved in the National Injury Surveillance Advisory Committee for the AIHW – focusing on the use and quality of data for injury prevention and safety promotion and to work with the ACCC and Standards Australia in product safety.

We've made formal submissions on behalf of the AIPN in relation to:

- Position statement on corporal punishment for children (Debbie Scott)
- AIPN approached by NZ Gun Control: AIPN involvement in (re)introducing Gun Control NZ and Auckland public meeting (Patricia Cullen on behalf of the Intentional Injury Sub-Committee)
- Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education: Shared statement calling for harmful product marketing reform (Rachel Meade)
- National enquiry into alcohol and other drugs (ongoing – Georgina Lau)
- Public Consultation on the draft Australian 24-Hour Movement Behaviour Guidelines for Adults and Older Adults (Rachel Meade).

Our biggest focus, however, was the Injury Prevention Conference in Rotorua in March. We loved collaborating with our sponsor the New Zealand Accident Compensation Commission, who was pivotal in the conference success. Mareta Hunt, Keziah Bennet-Brooke, Julieann Coombs and Kate Hunter did the most amazing job with Rebbeca Lilley and Courtney Ryder in the role of co-chairs of the Scientific Committee. The conference was unique in taking an Indigenous lens of shared knowledge as a theme – and I can confidently say it was a HUGE success.

From a personal perspective – I came away feeling like I learned so much and those learnings have informed just about every piece of work I've been involved in since. The feedback (both personally and to the AIPN as an organisation) was that the conference was amazing, and everyone loved and benefited from being there.

Again – huge congratulations and thank you to the organising committee who worked night and day for many months, against some huge odds to pull this together! As Rachel said in her closing remarks ‘we can’t go back to business as usual’ after that experience.

Debbie Scott

AIPN President

There is much to look forward to. Our membership is strong and committed and I am certain that the executive committee will steer the AIPN forward to success. We are excited about our 2025 conference in Sydney 19 to 22 November, so put a save the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you all there.

I am thankful for your confidence in me as President and loved my 2 years at the helm. I’d like to thank the amazing executive committee. Their leadership and commitment to AIPN, each other and the membership is what makes this organisation so amazing. Although I’m not standing for re-election this year, I’m looking forward to continuing as a member and watching and learning where the new team will take us. Thank you.



Sub-Committee & Representative Reports

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS SUB-COMMITTEE

In the last year it has been exciting to see the Alcohol and Other Drugs Subcommittee become increasingly involved in collaborative advocacy efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug related harms in the community. This includes the AIPN's endorsement of a shared statement to support harmful product marketing reform in Australia. The AIPN also endorsed an open letter calling on the Northern Territory Government to maintain evidence-based measures that reduce alcohol-related harms, including reduced alcohol trading hours and minimum unit pricing. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Subcommittee is currently in the process of preparing a submission for the Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia which will be submitted at the end of the year. Additionally, we are currently drafting a position paper on opioid-related harms. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Subcommittee has maintained its membership since last year; however, we are keen to continue building the teams capacity and encourage others who are interested in contributing to these advocacy efforts to reach out to the subcommittee.



Alcohol & Other Drugs Sub-Committee Chair

INDIGENOUS SUB-COMMITTEE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori peoples have distinct and enduring cultures with a deep and sacred connection to place. Rates of injury disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples and are closely interrelated with experiences of colonisation and dispossession. To address these inequities, injury prevention within Indigenous peoples must acknowledge and prioritise the broad underlying social and cultural determinants impacting upon health and wellbeing. The Indigenous Subcommittee focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori peoples' injury prevention through ensuring that Indigenous knowledges are centred, reflected and valued within policy, practice and advocacy.

The AIPN Indigenous sub-committee comprises of 3 people on the AIPN executive committee and a further 2 people who have been involved as part of the sub-committee.

The AIPN Indigenous subcommittee met weekly during the first part of 2023 in the lead up to the 15th Australasian Injury Prevention Conference. We met together with representatives from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, including engaging with other potential members to expand our committee.

The main focus of the Indigenous subcommittee in 2024 was leading the organisation and delivery of the 15th AIPN conference in Rotorua in March. Under the theme of "Weaving Knowledges for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion; Creating a New Way Together," attendees were encouraged to engage in open dialogue and learn from diverse perspectives. Drawing from indigenous cultural practices, the metaphor of weaving symbolised the collective effort to integrate various disciplines and backgrounds, resulting in a resilient and interconnected community.

The conference provided an opportunity to immerse in First Nations cultures and centred the deep and sacred connection to place that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori, and Pacific Islander peoples have, as well as the holistic approach to injury prevention, health and wellbeing. Feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive with attendees reflecting on the Indigenous knowledges that were shared and the learnings that could be taken away from the conference to be integrated into their work.

A particular shout out to Indigenous sub committee member Mareta Hunt for her successful navigation with ACC in securing them as our major sponsor for the conference which enabled the conference to be a true success. Earlier this year, member of the Indigenous sub-committee Kathleen Clapham, was inducted as a Life Member to the AIPN and was also recognised with an Order of Australia for decades of hard work in First Nations health. Kathie has generously mentored and supported many Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, and her influence is deeply felt in every project she is involved with. Other activities of the Indigenous subcommittee included:

- Supporting ongoing appropriate AIPN communications from a First Nations perspective
- Providing input into AIPN submissions and position statements
- Representing AIPN on the Scientific Committee for World Safety 2024 to ensure inclusion of equity and Indigenous injury prevention and safety promotion within the conference program

*Keziah Bennett-Brook &
Mareta Hunt*

Indigenous Sub-Committee Co-Chairs



MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

The Membership Subcommittee of the Australasian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) was formed to oversee the recruitment, engagement, and retention of network members.

In the first half of 2024, a membership subcommittee was formed to improve processes and members experience with the AIPN. The committee is currently comprised of:

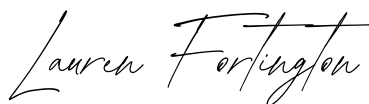
- Ioni Lewis
- Catherine Niven
- Rachel Meade
- Amy Peden
- Lauren Fortington

So far, the committee have prepared our terms of reference, mapped current processing, and initiated targeted communications to support new member sign ups.

Our priorities:

- Improve member sign-up and renewal experience including introduction of a membership pack
- Develop and review membership policies, including membership fees, benefits, and categories.
- Develop strategies to attract new members from relevant professional fields.
- Review and improve member benefits.
- Review individual vs corporate member benefits.
- Implement initiatives to enhance member engagement and participation in AIPN activities, such as conferences, webinars, and networking events.

To date, we have worked to document existing processes and actions and begun to put in place targeted communication for new members. We are currently working on annual certification and better recognition for member renewal. Watch this space in 2025 and please send feedback (good and bad) so we know what is and isn't working well.



Membership Sub-Committee Chair



MEMBERSHIP

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Interpersonal Violence Subcommittee aims to prevent and address interpersonal violence through dedicated advocacy, education, and collaboration. We advocate for evidence informed policies and programs, with robust research and data, enabling equitable access to support and fostering safe homes, schools, workplaces and communities..

Members of the Sub-Committee supported the following activities this year:

- Amy Bestman became the Co-Chair of the IPV committee.
- In June, new firearms laws were passed through parliament in Western Australia. This follows previous advocacy (including an AIPN submission to the WA Firearms Act Reform Consultation Paper in November 2023).
- Patricia Cullen agreed to represent AIPN on Gun Control New Zealand to support advocacy efforts on upcoming firearms law consultations. Gun Control NZ shared their submission on the registry review in August and spoke at a Public Meeting in Christchurch in September. Gun Control NZ are also working with Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) and others on a separate campaign against semi-automatic firearms.
- Debbie Scott proposed working on a commentary or similar for the Conversation on gendered violence with Lyndal Budjega, this can be revisited in 2025.
- Debbie Scott continued as a member of the Working Group that is aiming to ban corporal punishment (in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child that Australia is a signatory to).

Our priorities are to advocate for policies and legislation that enhance the protection and support of people and communities, particularly those disproportionately impacted by interpersonal violence.

Promote and support campaigns to raise awareness about interpersonal violence, the associated risk and preventive factors, and the impact on health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

Share research and initiatives that prevent, respond to and address the impacts of interpersonal violence, and use data to inform and improve interventions and policies.

*Patricia Cullen &
Amy Bestman*

Interpersonal Violence Sub-Committee Chair

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) Product Safety Consultative Committee (PSCC)

In February 2024, AIPN's membership on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Product Safety Consultative Committee (PSCC) was confirmed for a further three years. This committee has a diverse stakeholder membership and meets twice a year to discuss new and emerging product safety issues and significant product safety projects. It provides an opportunity for AIPN to provide updates on product-related injury research and publications, and to bring a public health viewpoint to discussions. AIPN's representative Catherine Niven was a panellist at the last PSCC meeting which discussed emerging young children's product safety issues including the need to expand the concept of safety to take into account a broader range of risks than just physical injury risks (i.e., developmental risks, mental health risks and chronic health risks). Members are welcome to contact Catherine at any time if they have product safety issues they would like to discuss or any content for inclusion in the AIPN update to the PSCC.

Standards Australia

Dr Lisa Sharwood represents the AIPN on the Standards Australia Committee CS-005, Playground Equipment. In this capacity, Dr Sharwood and several CS-005 colleagues, raised an emerging injury mechanism identified in media reports and legal matters; that of giant slides (large tube slides) being introduced to playgrounds around the country. These slides were very often 'standard compliant' however causing serious injuries. It was proposed that the current AS 4685 series – used in playground certification – did not sufficiently address this new product being introduced, leaving playground patrons (most often children) at risk of unacceptable and mitigatable injury. Standards Australia approved and agreed to convene an Experts Forum to discuss the issue. Dr Sharwood collected and presented social media sourced injury narratives at this Forum. The outcome of this forum was that Standards Australia agreed to support the CS-005 committee to draft a Handbook that they could publish as an accompaniment to AS4685, which has been in draft and also gone out for stakeholder consultation over the past 12 months; now ready for publication (AIPN members were invited to comment on a draft version of this document). This objective of this handbook is to provide supplementary guidance on the design, verification, certification, testing, and inspection of giant tunnel slides that is additional to the playground equipment and surfacing series of Standards.



New Life Member

KATHLEEN CLAPHAM

Kathleen Clapham was inducted as a life member into the AIPN and named a s Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2024 for her significant contribution across her career to the field of injury prevention.

Kathy's work focuses on health equity; safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people; community-based interventions; social and cultural determinants of health; and health services improvements within the broad area of Indigenous Health at the University of Wollongong.

Kathy has been the architect of injury prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for decades. She led an influential review of injury programs in the early 2000s, highlighting the fragmented way programs were funded and raising awareness of the need for community led and properly funded initiatives. She has provided intellectual and cultural governance for countless projects but importantly also for countless researchers.

She has generously mentored and supported many Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, and her influence is deeply felt in every project.



AIPN Awards

Achievement in Research in Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion

EMMA WYETH

Emma's extensive and distinguished career in research, particularly in the realm of injury prevention and safety promotion within Māori communities, has rightfully earned her the award for research in this field. As the Director of Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora Māori o Ngāi Tahu and an Associate Professor in Māori Health, Emma's leadership and expertise have been instrumental in numerous groundbreaking studies. Her involvement as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator in projects such as the POIS-10 Māori study and the Trauma Outcomes Project underscores her commitment to understanding and improving health outcomes for Māori populations. Additionally, Emma's previous roles, including her tenure as the inaugural Programme Leader for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, showcase her dedication to collaborative research initiatives aimed at addressing pressing health issues within indigenous communities. With her interdisciplinary background and unwavering dedication to advancing Māori health research, Emma embodies excellence in injury prevention and safety promotion, making her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Pam Albany Memorial Award: Contribution to Policy in Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion

RACHEL MEADE

Rachel Meade's receipt of the Pam Albany Award for her outstanding contribution to policy in injury prevention and safety promotion is a testament to her multifaceted impact in the field. As the General Manager of Injury Prevention at Injury Matters in Western Australia, Rachel's leadership extends beyond her immediate role, encompassing a wide array of initiatives aimed at fostering systemic change. Rachel has been instrumental in driving internal priorities, fostering cross-sector connections, and leading reconciliation activities, demonstrating her commitment to inclusive and collaborative approaches to addressing injury prevention. Her engagement with government officials and advocacy efforts have been pivotal in advocating for policy changes to improve safety at a systemic level. Additionally, Rachel's active involvement in professional organisations such as the Australian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) further underscores her dedication to advancing the field. Through her roles within these organizations, including her four-year term as Secretary of the AIPN, Rachel has played a crucial role in shaping governance, advocacy, and strategic activities, ensuring that injury prevention remains a top priority on the national agenda. Furthermore, Rachel's support for national research projects and her role as a mentor in the field exemplify her commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. Rachel's comprehensive and impactful contributions across various facets of injury prevention and safety promotion make her a truly deserving recipient of the Pam Albany Award.

Achievement in Practice in Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion

STACEY PIDGEON

Stacey Pidgeon's exceptional dedication to injury prevention practice, particularly in the field of drowning prevention, has earned her the award for Outstanding Contribution to Injury Prevention Practice. As the National Manager for Research and Policy at Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (RLSSA), Stacey has exhibited exemplary leadership and innovation in her efforts to enhance swimming and water safety (S&WS) programs. Her focus on inclusivity has led to initiatives aimed at increasing access to S&WS programs for individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and age groups in Australia and New Zealand. Through her leadership, Stacey's team produces critical reports such as the 'National Drowning Report' and the 'Summer Drowning Toll,' effectively raising awareness about preventable drowning through targeted messaging. Additionally, her team's research and health promotion programs have advanced understanding of non-fatal drowning and contributed to the development of key publications and symposiums. Stacey's commitment to community engagement has provided unique insights into preventing migrant drowning, leading to tangible outcomes such as influencing the Australian Water Safety Strategy (AWSS) 2030. Furthermore, her facilitation of the first-ever International Women's Day celebration of Women in Drowning Prevention underscores her dedication to diversity and inclusiveness within the field. Stacey Pidgeon's tireless advocacy and innovative approach to injury prevention practice make her a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Award for Sustained Achievement in Injury Prevention

PROF. KIRSTEN VALLMUUR

Kirsten has made significant, sustained and novel contributions to injury prevention since completing her PhD in 2003. In her current role at the Jamieson Trauma Institute, she is driving work to establish the Queensland Injury Data Warehouse, an intelligence platform being established by Queensland Health, linking injury-related patient level data to enable patient-centric analytics to inform trauma clinical improvement and injury prevention initiatives across Queensland. She played an instrumental role in product safety policy and practice developments for over ten years at a state, national and international level, commencing with her establishment of the Queensland Consumer Product Injury Research Advisory Group in 2010. This group was awarded a Children's Commissioner's Award for Excellence in partnership in 2013 and still plays a pivotal role in policy development, research and education. Kirsten has well-established local and international collaborations, and her extensive expertise in injury prevention and trauma surveillance is regularly sought. She is an invited member of the RACS National Trauma Committee, ANZ Trauma Registry, ACCC Product Safety Consultative Committee, WHO ICD-11 Advisory Group for Injury and External Causes, AIHW National Injury Surveillance Advisory Committee, and Injury Prevention editorial board. She has previously been a member of the AIPN executive committee, Queensland Child Death Review Panel, Queensland Trauma Registry Reference Group and OECD global injury data platform advisory committee. An esteemed collaborator, mentor and teacher, she has over 250 injury prevention research outputs, has supervised three honours, six masters and 14 PhD students to completion and is currently supervising four PhD students.

Marilyn Lyford Emerging Leader Award

DR GEORGINA LAU

Georgina Lau's receipt of the Marilyn Lyford Emerging Leader Award recognises her exceptional contributions and leadership in the field of substance use and injury prevention. Through her groundbreaking PhD research, Georgina has transformed our understanding of substance-related injuries, shedding light on the significant role of alcohol and other drugs across all causes of serious injury. Her national recognition as an emerging leader, exemplified by the prestigious Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship, underscores the importance and impact of her work. As a Research Fellow, Georgina continues to advance our understanding of substance use in injury events and develops robust countermeasures and treatment pathways. Moreover, Georgina has demonstrated exceptional leadership by fostering collaboration between academics and clinicians from diverse sectors, bridging the gap between the substance use and injury prevention communities. Her advocacy efforts in state and national media further highlight her commitment to preventing substance-related injuries. In addition to her media advocacy, Georgina has significantly contributed to the field of injury prevention through her active involvement with the Australian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN). As the Chair of the AIPN's Alcohol and Other Drug Sub-committee and former Co-Chair of the AIPN's Student Sub-committee, she has played a pivotal role in shaping the discourse around substance-related injuries within the AIPN community. With the Marilyn Lyford Memorial Emerging Leader Award Prize, Georgina intends to further her impact by attending a short course on health data linkage at the University of Western Australia. This opportunity will equip her with the necessary skills to lead a unique program of research focused on using linked data sets to drive evidence-based prevention efforts for substance-related injury events in Australia, solidifying her position as a pioneering leader in the field.



15th Australasian Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion Conference

ROTORUA, AOTEARA NEW ZEALAND

The Australasian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) are pleased to have hosted the premier injury prevention conference for Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the Asia Pacific, the 15th Australasian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference with the theme:

Weaving knowledges for injury prevention and safety promotion; creating a new way together.

The conference was held at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre in Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand, 11-13 March, 2024.

As the Australasian Injury Prevention Network, we recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori, and Pacific Islander peoples have distinct and enduring cultures with a deep and sacred connection to place. When it comes to Indigenous peoples and injury, we are often painted a picture of inequity through a narrative of deficit and disadvantage, however this conference provided the opportunity to instead look to Indigenous knowledges and peoples as a beacon of hope, and a model of excellence for us all in reimagining injury prevention and safety promotion.

Weaving is a cultural practice shared amongst many Indigenous groups and is used in our conference theme to symbolise

the coming together of multiple knowledge systems to create something new, strong, and connected. Injury is a cross cutting issue that has impacts beyond just the 'classic' injury prevention paradigms and is relevant to housing, climate change, urban health, suicide prevention, family violence, employment, alcohol and drug and product safety for example. Delegates from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, across government portfolios, clinicians, practitioners, industry, researchers and communities came together to learn from each other in reimagining injury prevention and safety promotion.

The conference provided a space for Indigenous knowledges to be integrated meaningfully with themes that explored Indigenous approaches to safety, safe practices, storytelling, holistic health and wellbeing.

Congratulations to the following delegates who were recognised at the conference for outstanding presentations:

- Bronte Haynes: Using art-based methods to understand Aboriginal connection to water.
- Jodhi Warwick Ponga & Moira Loach: Haumaru Tāngata
- Joanna Hikaka: Whaioranga to Pā Harakeke





We thank you for your ongoing support of the network.

Acknowledgements

The AIPN would like to thank the following people for their efforts and ongoing support of the AIPN via the Executive Committee and representative committees in 2024:

Debbie Scott
Janneke Berecki
Lauren Fortington
Ben Beck
Keziah Bennett-Brook
Amy Bestman
Julieann Coombes
Patricia Cullen
Helen Harcombe
Kate Hunter
Mareta Hunt
Rebecca Ivers
Georgina Lau
Rebecca Lilley
Rachel Meade
Catherine Niven
Amy Peden
Stacey Pidgeon
Kirsten Vallmuur
Lisa Sharwood

Australasian Injury Prevention Network
www.aipn.com.au
secretariat@aipn.com.au