

Injury in Australia

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Injury prevention and control

- Injury prevention and control was declared a National Health Priority Area by the Australian Government in 1998 in recognition of its enormous impact on Australia's health and its largely preventable nature.

Overview of injury in Australia

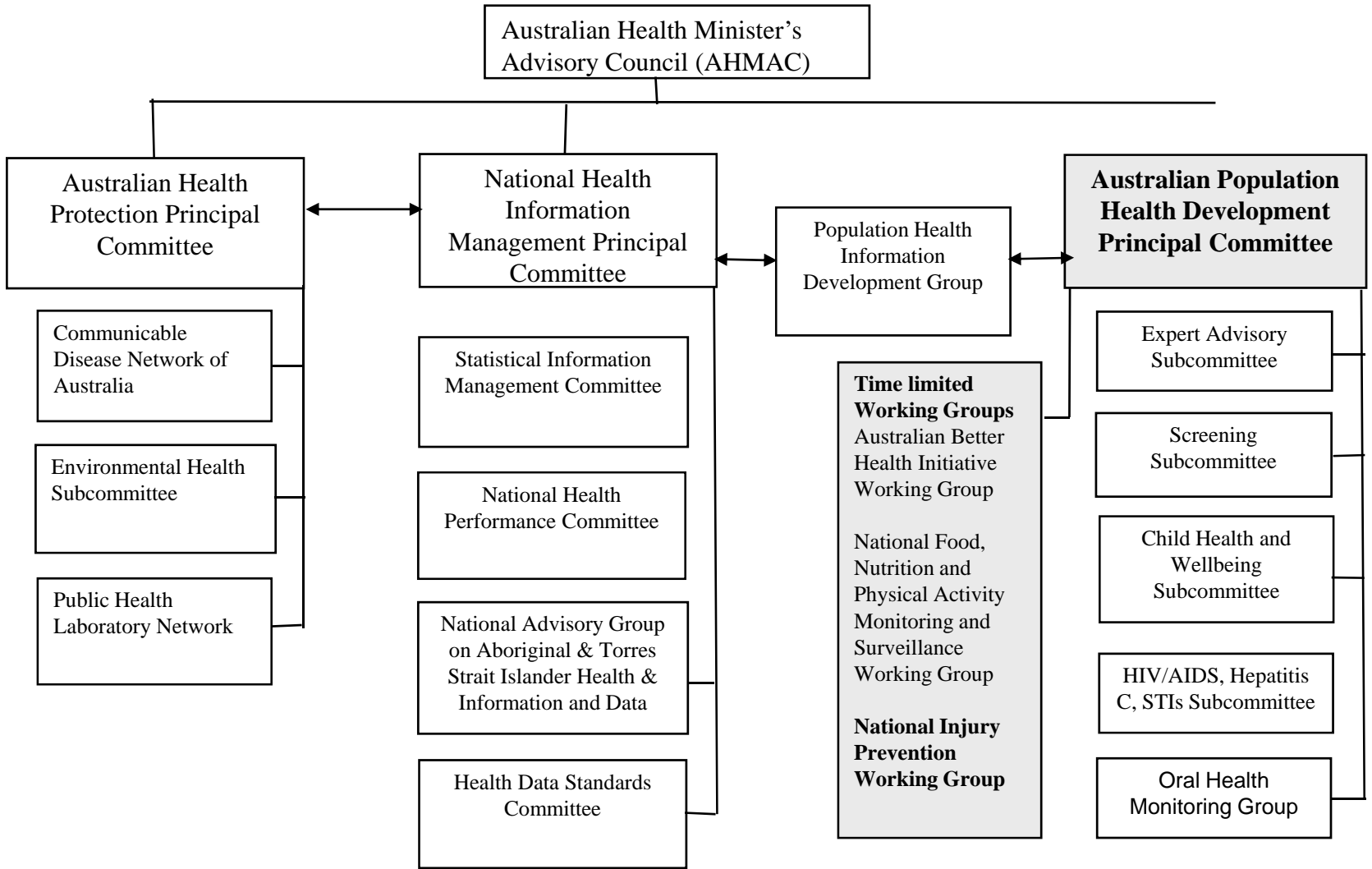
Aspect of injury	Estimate	Description
<i>Injury as an acute condition</i>		
Fatal	9,768 (2004-05)	Deaths registered during 2004-05 with an External Cause assigned as the underlying cause of death.
Hospitalised, high threat-to-life	60,938 (2005–06)	Admitted to hospital with injury conditions that carry 6% or greater likelihood of dying in hospital during acute care.
Hospitalised, total	400,019 (2005–06)	Estimated number of persons hospitalised during 2005–06 due to injury.
Recent injury event	3,614,400 (2004-05)	Persons injured in the 4 weeks before interview who, consequently, took any of a range of actions, including reducing usual activities, seeking treatment, etc. (ABS 2006)
<i>Injury as a chronic condition</i>		
Profound or severe disability	65,400 (2003)	Persons living with profound or severe limitation of communication, mobility or self-care due to effects of injury. (ABS 4430.0 2004)
Long-term conditions	2,094,200 (2004-05)	Persons with a long-term condition resulting from an injury. (ABS 2006)

Injury prevention recent history

- The National Public Health Partnership Group (NPHP) established the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership (SIPP) in August 2000 to provide a forum for leadership in injury prevention in Australia. SIPP was responsible for the development and implementation of national injury prevention plans.
- The National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004-2014 was endorsed by the NPHP and Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) in July 2005 along with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy and the National Falls Prevention for Older People Plan: 2004 Onwards.
- On 30 June 2006 the NPHP was replaced with the Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC) and the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee (APHDPC), two Principal Committees of AHMAC. SIPP was disbanded.

Injury prevention recent history cont'd

- On 9th November 2006, the APHDPC agreed to the establishment of a “sunset” National Injury Prevention Working Group (NIPWG) to develop a plan for the implementation of the existing endorsed National Plans
- Instead of developing implementation plan(s) for all three National plans NIPWG focussed its attention on the National Falls Prevention for Older People Plan, to the exclusion of all others as a first step.





NIPWG's current focus

In Feb 2008 APHDPC endorsed the first phase implementation strategy for the falls prevention plan recommended by NIPWG which included the following short-term objectives:

- progressing the promotion of vitamin D and calcium supplementation for residents of aged care facilities, as well as for those aged 65 years and over with an identified vitamin D deficiency
- promoting implementation of the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care Falls Prevention Best Practice Guidelines within residential aged care facilities
- updating the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care Falls Prevention Best Practice Guidelines for Australian hospitals and residential aged care facilities
- updating the 2004 analysis of falls prevention research in hospital, residential aged care and community settings
- progressing the development of a national resource to inform consistent practice in community settings
- identification of agreed national process, impact and outcome indicators.



Where we are at as of July 1 2008

- In the 4th year of the National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004-2014 we have yet to see any progress on an implementation strategy other than for specific aspects of falls injury prevention in the elderly.
- Injury is absent in all of the current Federal government initiatives within the health and social wellbeing area's.

Current Federal government responsibility for injury

- The Hon Justine Elliot MP, Minister for Ageing

- injury and falls prevention



- The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing.

- national health priorities (with the exception of injury prevention, arthritis musculoskeletal conditions and asthma)

