

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **New guidelines for preventing injury to Aboriginal children and young people**

New guidelines being released today promote activity, safety and community strengths to address indigenous child injury.

Funded by NSW Health, [The Active & Safe: Preventing Unintentional Injury to Aboriginal Children and Young People in NSW](#) guidelines come after extensive research undertaken in 2016 with policy makers, injury researchers, practitioners and Aboriginal community members in NSW.

Australian research shows that Aboriginal children have consistently higher rates of injury than non-Aboriginal children. Mortality rates for Australian Indigenous children from injury-related causes are almost five times higher and hospitalisation rates two times higher than the rates for non-Indigenous children.

The Active & Safe guidelines recognise that effective injury prevention for Aboriginal children requires appropriate engagement with Aboriginal communities and involves many groups working collaboratively to ensure coordination, leadership and sustained commitment.

“The literature tells us that there are a broad range of factors that need to be addressed in order to prevent injury and reduce its impact. These include safer housing, transport, education and access to high quality health care. We know a lot about what needs to happen and we need to address all of these issues in a sustained and long term way to be effective.” said Associate Professor Karen Zwi, SCHN Priority Populations who is also one of the authors of the paper.

“The new guidelines have a strong focus on practical implementation and will be a valuable tool for policy makers, researchers and practitioners.

“As health practitioners we need to work alongside and be guided by Aboriginal communities, building on community strengths and promoting the resilience of Aboriginal children, families and communities in injury prevention.”

The guidelines are intended to assist stakeholder groups, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Non-Government Organisations and researchers and government policy makers to work more effectively in Aboriginal child injury prevention.

The guidelines were developed by collaborators from the Australian Health Services Research Institute, the George Institute for Global Health, the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network, Kidsafe NSW and the Australasian Injury Prevention Network. They were designed to complement the Australian Edition of the [Child Safety Good Practice Guide](#).

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