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Injury is a leading cause of death and disability for all Australians. Each year, 12,000 deaths are the result of injury while hospitalisations have steadily increased over the years to now surpass 460,000 each year. Whilst falls remain the leading cause of injury in Australia, suicide, burns, drowning and transport crashes as well as violence all remain significant challenges for the healthcare system. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are twice as likely to be injured or die as a result of an injury compared to that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There are significant equity issues in the injury burden with injury rates increasing more for those from lower socioeconomic groups.

Australia has an increasing body of internationally recognised injury prevention experts with many research programs now being trialled to provide up to date evidence-based knowledge. Within the last decades, substantial advances in injury prevention have been made in the fields of falls prevention, burns and road traffic injuries through robust research and the implementation of appropriate programs. However, without the ongoing investment into injury prevention strategies, Australia's growing, and ageing population will be at high risk of increased injury rates while the Government faces ongoing exorbitant healthcare costs and challenges. Further the social determinants of health are important contributing factors to the injury burden in Australia (including education, social status, economic factors, housing, access to transport) which means attempts to address injury must be multidisciplinary and multisectoral.

Injuries are a largely preventable burden that require a whole of government approach. The lack of continued funding for appropriate injury prevention programs, research and rigorous evaluations will lead to injury and hospitalisation rates throughout Australia reaching unprecedented levels. The National Injury Prevention Strategy is currently being developed, but to date there have been no funds set aside for implementation plans.

As such we strongly urge the Government to:

- Commitment to a funded implementation plan in line with the National Injury Prevention Plan, with clear KPIs and accountability;
- Commit to ongoing funding focusing on coordinated multidisciplinary approaches to injury prevention, specifically targeting those who are at highest risk and for whom targeted approaches are warranted (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children and older adults);
- Fund ongoing targeted rounds for research grants focusing on injury prevention through the National Health and Medical Research Council;
- Fund a National Injury Prevention Clearing House which is responsible for generating data, surveillance reports and coordinating material on known effective prevention programs for dissemination to state governments, NGOs and community organisations.

Yours Sincerely



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