Activities & Achievements in 2008-2009

ICCWA
Injury Control Council of Western Australia

Professional Development & Capacity Building

- ICCWA, with the support of the Department of Health WA, is delivering a range of professional development services to health professionals working in rural and remote WA. The three-year project aims to build the capacity of health professionals and community groups to deliver health promotion messages to the community and to raise awareness of community safety and injury prevention issues. Initiatives include forums, conferences, video conference seminars, regional networking and information sharing sessions. *Strengthening Rural and Remote WA: Community Safety & Injury Prevention Conference* to be held in Geraldton on the 29th & 30th June is the second in a series of capacity building activities for health professionals as part of this project.

- A Way Through – Building Capacity of the Rural Health Workforce – ICCWA received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to deliver this project to the South West region of Western Australia. The 'A Way Through' project provides a set of practical tools for health professionals to engage the communities they serve on mental health issues whilst improving their capability for self care to reduce stress and professional burnout. Free training was offered in a variety of locations throughout the South West in 2009 to any health professional providing direct or indirect client service.

Falls Prevention

- A comprehensive range of awareness raising activities in the area of falls prevention in older people – particularly awareness raising and promotion of the Stay on Your Feet WA® (SOYFWA®) program. ICCWA has been a key service provider for the Department of Health WA's, Stay On Your Feet WA® program since 2001. ICCWA coordinates activities such as resource development and dissemination, professional development and training, awareness raising activities such as community presentations, displays and events, Stay On Your Feet WA®Week, media, marketing and communications, training and information for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities, referral to appropriate services and coordination of a volunteer program.

- The Stay On Your Feet WA® Falls Prevention Resources Information Centre has also been established by ICCWA with funding from the Department of Health WA. The Resources Information Centre forms part of the State Falls Prevention Network and provides a single point of access for information and tools on falls prevention.

- Our Stay On Your Feet WA® volunteer peer educators have been kept busy fulfilling the many requests by community groups for our free falls prevention presentations. Over the last 12 months peer educators delivered more than 95 presentations to over 3000 seniors across the metropolitan area.

Suicide Prevention

- ICCWA is currently managing the Understanding and Building Resilience in the South West Project which is a multi-level suicide prevention project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing via a National Suicide Prevention Strategy. This is a community-based project that involves working collaboratively with communities and key stakeholders to build community resilience, reduce risk factors for suicide and address service gaps in the South West of WA. This Project is providing a range of training and capacity building opportunities, including suicide prevention education, resilience building workshops, diversity awareness raising, and media training. The project has focussed on building local communities and developing partnerships.

Community Safety Month

- Community Safety Month traditionally occurs in October each year and ICCWA has taken on the role of coordinating Community Safety Month from 2009 onwards. The aim of Community Safety Month is to engage the community and encourage participation to improve safety in the community. ICCWA is working closely with the newly formed reference group to plan a range of events and promote opportunities for involvement to a range of stakeholders across the safety promotion sector. A Community Action Kit will be available from the Community Safety Month website to assist stakeholders and community members to participate.

Alcohol

- Piloting Safer Bars WA, a training program funded by the WA Attorney General's Department that provides skills and develops the ability of staff members at licensed premises to appropriately identify, effectively handle and ultimately reduce aggression and violence in and around venues that serve alcohol. A group of eight venues mainly around the Leederville area are participating in the pilot project. ICCWA is working with WA Police, Drug and Alcohol Office, Racing, Gaming & Liquor and other key stakeholders to develop and implement this training.

- Conducting the Drink or Drunk Study examines why staff at licensed premises continue to serve patrons to intoxication despite current laws and interventions such as the Responsible Alcohol Service training. The objectives of the study are to better understand why staff continue to serve patrons to intoxication, examine factors that increase the probability of staff serving patrons to intoxication and identify barriers staff face at licensed premises in providing responsible service. This study is funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund.

- The Rethink Drink alcohol education campaign is a partnership project between ICCWA and the Drug and Alcohol Office and aims to reduce risky alcohol use by changing the acceptability of drunkenness, discouraging drunken behaviour and creating safer drinking environments.

WACAN

- Coordinating the WA Community Alcohol Network [WACAN], an informal, state-wide and inter-sectoral network of government, non-government, community organisations and individuals with an interest in reducing the problems associated with drunkenness. WACAN aims to reduce, and foster public awareness of, the problems associated with drunkenness by challenging alcohol related social rituals and Western Australia's drinking culture in general.

Safe Communities

- Representation on the Management Committee of the Australian Safe Communities Foundation and building national and international contacts with specialists in the development of Safe Communities using the World Health Organisation and Canadian models. ICCWA's Safe Communities portfolio has been re-established as ICCWA continues to promote the Safe Communities philosophies for safety promotion at the local level and support communities in their injury prevention and safety promotion initiatives. The Safe Communities portfolio also incorporates several new project areas such as Community Safety Net and Community Safety Month. ICCWA has also been contracted by the Australian Safe Communities Foundation to redevelop four key resources to support Safe Communities across Australia.

Other Key Activities

- Advocating on a range of injury issues through involvement with the Department of Health WA, Health Networks – the Injury and Trauma Working Group, the Falls Executive Committee, Injury and Trauma Executive Committee & Education Committee.

- Conducting and participating in public forums on emerging injury issues. ICCWA also broadcasts selected injury prevention forums state-wide through the Westlink satellite network and through video-conferencing.

- The ICCWA Newsletter which highlights injury prevention issues on a statewide level and is distributed quarterly to approximately 5,000 individuals and organisations across WA.

- The annual ICCWA Injury Prevention Awards, established in 2002, are presented in recognition of the valuable contributions of individuals and organisations to the prevention of injury in WA.

- Monthly lunchtime Injury Prevention Forums to raise awareness of injury issues and provide opportunities for organisations to share information and network.

- Conducting highly successful walking programs for physically inactive and/or socially isolated older people in the Cities of Melville, Armadale, Belmont and Stirling.