

17 January 2018

Holiday safety

The ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee and Kidsafe ACT today issued a reminder to Canberrans about keeping children safe during the holidays.

The Chair of the Committee, Ms Margaret Carmody has said: "Keeping children safe is the responsibility of the whole community. We want to remind parents and carers about what they can do to keep children safe over the holidays and during the warmer weather."

Never leave children unattended in cars

The temperature inside a parked car can be more than 30°C hotter than outside the car and temperatures rise very quickly. Children left unattended in hot cars may die or suffer serious injury.

Ms Carmody has said: "Never leave children alone in cars, always take them with you. It is also important for parents to check the back seat before leaving the car, as busy parents have been known to forget young children are in the car."

Ms Carmody has also warned about the dangers of covering babies in prams, saying that "by covering a pram, even with a thin wrap, the air flow is restricted and the temperature can rise quickly. This can lead babies to overheat and may cause serious injury."

Supervise children in and around water

Drowning is a leading cause of death and injury in children under the age of five. Most drownings occur in backyard swimming pools. Mr Eric Chalmers CEO KidSafe ACT, advised "pool gates should never be propped open and while pool barriers assist in keeping children safe, they do not replace the importance of close supervision. Make sure an adult is always supervising children in and around the water".

Protect children from the sun

It is important to protect children from the sun by following the SunSmart steps: slip on sun-protective clothing, slop on sunscreen, slap on a broad-brimmed hat, seek shade and slide on sunglasses.

Ms Carmody reports that "babies have particularly sensitive skin so it is best to keep them out of the sun and when travelling with children in the car during hot weather, use sun shades on windows and have water available to help to keep children cool."

Parents should also be aware that playground equipment has the potential to cause burns or scalds on bright, sunny days. Metal and plastic equipment, as well as rubber and synthetic grass, can heat up rapidly. The Committee advises that children should wear shoes and appropriate clothing to protect against contact scalds.

Media Contact: Kidsafe - Mr Eric Chalmers 0402 097 339 CYPDRC Ms Margaret Carmody 0413 025 751

ACT Children and Young people Death Review Committee and Kidsafe ACT

Media Release