



## **Official Injury Information Plan for 2009**

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## Preface

The *Official Injury Information Plan for 2009* sets out the work programme for the Official Injury Information Programme in 2009. The plan outlines Statistics New Zealand's role as Injury Information Manager and details the work that will be undertaken by government agencies to improve injury information. It gives those working in the injury sector and the wider community, information about the activities underway and the progress being made in the Official Injury Information Programme.

The strategic context for the Official Injury Information Programme is explained and the findings of the 2008 review of the programme are detailed. The plan outlines the development of an agenda for action, with three priority areas to improve injury information over 2009, and the work programme for each of the priority areas. Key milestones show how the plan will be implemented.

The Official Injury Information Programme encompasses the work of government agencies that collect and produce injury data in New Zealand: ACC, Ministry of Health, Department of Labour, Department of Transport, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Social Development. Other agencies and organisations contribute to the programme through research and development, and the publication of injury related information.

Injuries affect the lives of thousands of New Zealanders each day. They range from minor injuries to fatalities and often have major consequences, not only for the victims but also for their families, friends, colleagues, and employers. Injuries also represent a significant cost to the country through treatment, rehabilitation and compensation costs, and lost productivity. A key aim of the Official Injury Information Programme is to help prevent injury and improve rehabilitation outcomes by ensuring the provision of robust injury statistics and enhancing access to relevant datasets.

In 2008, Statistics NZ led a review of the Official Injury Information Programme. This review gave the programme a new focus on working across government agencies, building on existing ways of collecting data, and making injury information more accessible and useful. The role of the Injury Information Manager has also been reframed to focus on providing leadership and direction to the programme, alongside enhancing the distribution and use of injury information. The publication of the *Official Injury Information Plan for 2009* reflects this new direction and illustrates the progress underway.

In preparing the plan, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the government agencies, the Injury Prevention Research Unit, the Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel, and the wider injury community. I look forward to continuing our work together in implementing the plan and making a difference to injury outcomes.

Geoff Bascand  
**Government Statistician**

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Email: [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz)  
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Phone international: +64 4 931 4600  
Fax: +64 4 931 4610  
Post: PO Box 2922, Wellington, 6140, New Zealand  
Website: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)

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## 1. Introduction

Injury is a leading cause of premature death and disability in New Zealand. Injuries currently result in about 1,700 deaths and 50,000 hospitalisations each year. In the 2007/08 year, 1.8 million injury claims were accepted by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC, 2008). The impact of injury on individuals, families/whanau, and communities is pervasive. The social and economic costs at all levels are considerable: a 2008 report from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (2008, p 17) estimated these as being approximately \$60 billion per year.

And yet, most injuries and their consequences are preventable. The collection and promulgation of injury statistics are important components in measuring the trends and impact of injury, and for the prevention of injuries and the improvement of rehabilitation outcomes. Statistics are a sound foundation for government and wider sector decision making.

### Strategic framework

#### The Official Statistics System

In an informed society, government, businesses, communities, and citizens use official statistics to make decisions that contribute to New Zealand's economic and social development. Official statistics are used to inform debate and research, and to help understand New Zealand's environment, economy, and society.

Statistics New Zealand is the leader of the Official Statistics System (OSS) and the major producer of official statistics in New Zealand. Official statistics comprise all statistics produced by government departments. The OSS comprises all official statistics and the mechanisms that produce them (Statistics NZ, 2008).

The Statistics Act 1975 sets out Statistics NZ's responsibilities:

- to ensure official statistics are of high integrity, quality, and are equally available to all
- to be the key contributor to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of official statistics.

The key outcome of the OSS is to have an informed society using official statistics. For this to happen, users must:

- have trust and confidence in the OSS
- be able to access and use official statistics.

Statistics NZ works to achieve these through:

- leading a coherent OSS
- delivering fit-for-purpose statistical outputs

- maintaining a willing supply of information from respondents
- facilitating access to official statistics
- maintaining an enduring national statistical resource.

The work of agencies that produce official statistics is guided by the Statistics Act 1975 and by other legislation. These include the Privacy Act 1993, The Official Information Act 1982, and the Public Records Act 2005. The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics is another key source of guidance.

### **The Official Injury Information Programme**

Statistics NZ has the statutory role of Injury Information Manager (IIM) under the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2001 (IPRC Act). The broad functions of the role include providing leadership and coordination, and the collection and dissemination of official injury statistics.

The role of IIM was created following a review of New Zealand injury data in 2000–01 which found that injury data was "under-reported and fragmented across agencies, agencies use different standards for collecting similar information, and there are gaps and duplication in coverage" (Department of Labour & Statistics NZ, 2002).

The primary goal of the IIM is to improve the quality of information on injury in New Zealand, to achieve better outcomes for injury prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, and to minimise the personal, social, and economic costs of injury. As IIM, Statistics NZ works to achieve this goal through the Official Injury Information Programme.

The aim of the Official Injury Information Programme is to contribute to the prevention of injuries and to improve rehabilitation outcomes by:

- leading and coordinating public sector activities to effectively and efficiently improve injury information in New Zealand
- informing debate, decision making, and research by enabling access to and disseminating injury data
- driving a programme of activity to improve the relevance and reliability of injury data
- developing standards for valid, meaningful, and useful ways of measuring, monitoring, and reporting injury
- leading and coordinating research to build the evidence base and inform future decision making.

Alongside the creation of the IIM role, the Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel (ISMAP) was also established. The role of ISMAP is to provide the government with independent advice, from the perspective of stakeholder representatives, on the strategy and direction the IIM is taking.

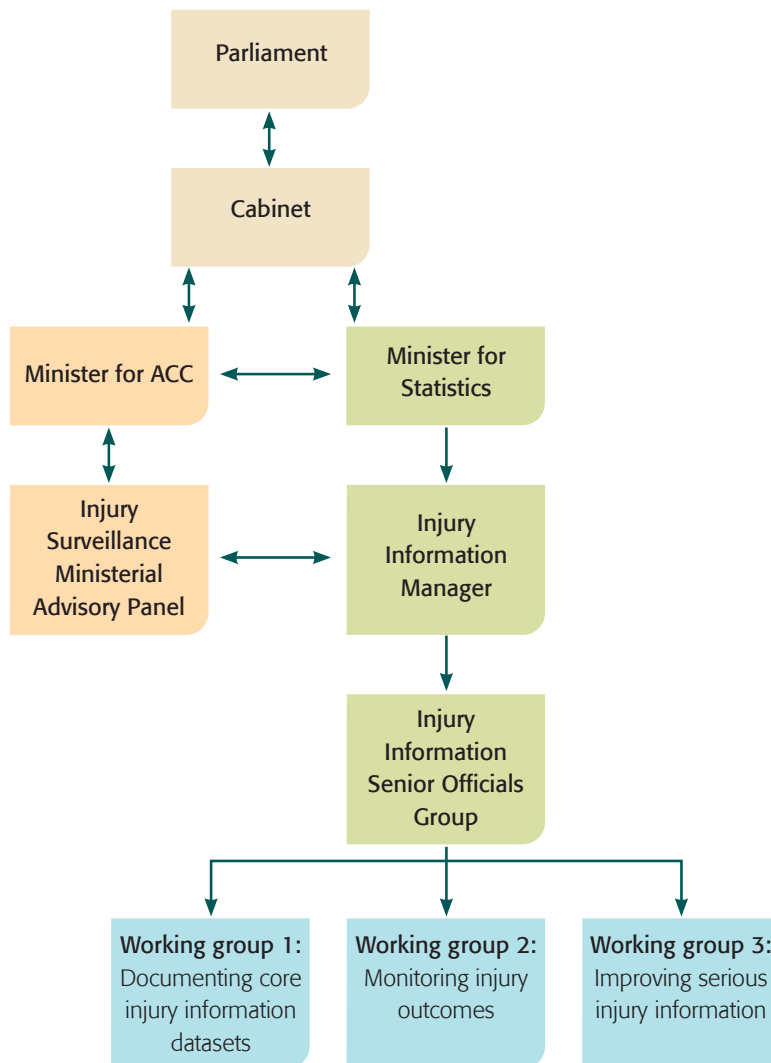
In December 2007, ISMAP made seven recommendations on how the IIM should work and how the quality of injury statistics could be improved (appendix 2). These recommendations have been incorporated into the development of the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009.

There are currently five major contributors to the Official Injury Information Programme: Ministry of Health, ACC, Ministry of Transport, Department of Labour, and Statistics NZ. Other contributors include Water Safety New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority, Maritime Safety New Zealand, and the Coronial Information Service.

Figure 1 shows the governance structure for the Official Injury Information Programme. Further information on the roles of the governance groups can be found in appendix 5.

**Figure 1**

**Governance Structure of the Official Injury Information Programme**



## **The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy**

The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) was released by the Minister for ACC in June 2003. This strategy establishes the government's strategic direction and framework for the improvement of New Zealand's injury prevention performance.

The NZIPS aims to address some deficiencies that existed in previous injury prevention efforts, including the quality of, access to, and dissemination of, injury information to support injury prevention activity.

The NZIPS has 10 objectives, each of which has a set of actions to achieve its aim. As IIM, Statistics NZ has a key role in objective 6: to advance injury prevention knowledge and information. The Official Injury Information Programme encompasses some of NZIPS's actions to achieve this objective:

1. Investigating the social and economic costs of injury.
2. Investigating the demographic, geographic, and socio-economic characteristics of groups most at risk of injury, and the factors that contribute to injury.
3. Improving injury surveillance systems through the coordination and enhancement of injury databases, and the aggregation and publication of timely and comprehensive injury statistics.
4. Improving the availability and quality of ethnicity information on injury databases by ensuring consistency with standards for collection, production, and presentation of ethnic data recommended by Statistics NZ.
5. Disseminating injury statistics and information on interventions and their effectiveness in ways that are relevant and accessible to users, through injury prevention practitioners and service providers.
6. Investigating methods to measure changes in safety culture and safe environments.

The NZIPS identifies six national injury prevention priority areas which collectively account for at least 80 percent of injury deaths and serious injuries in New Zealand (ACC, 2003). These areas are:

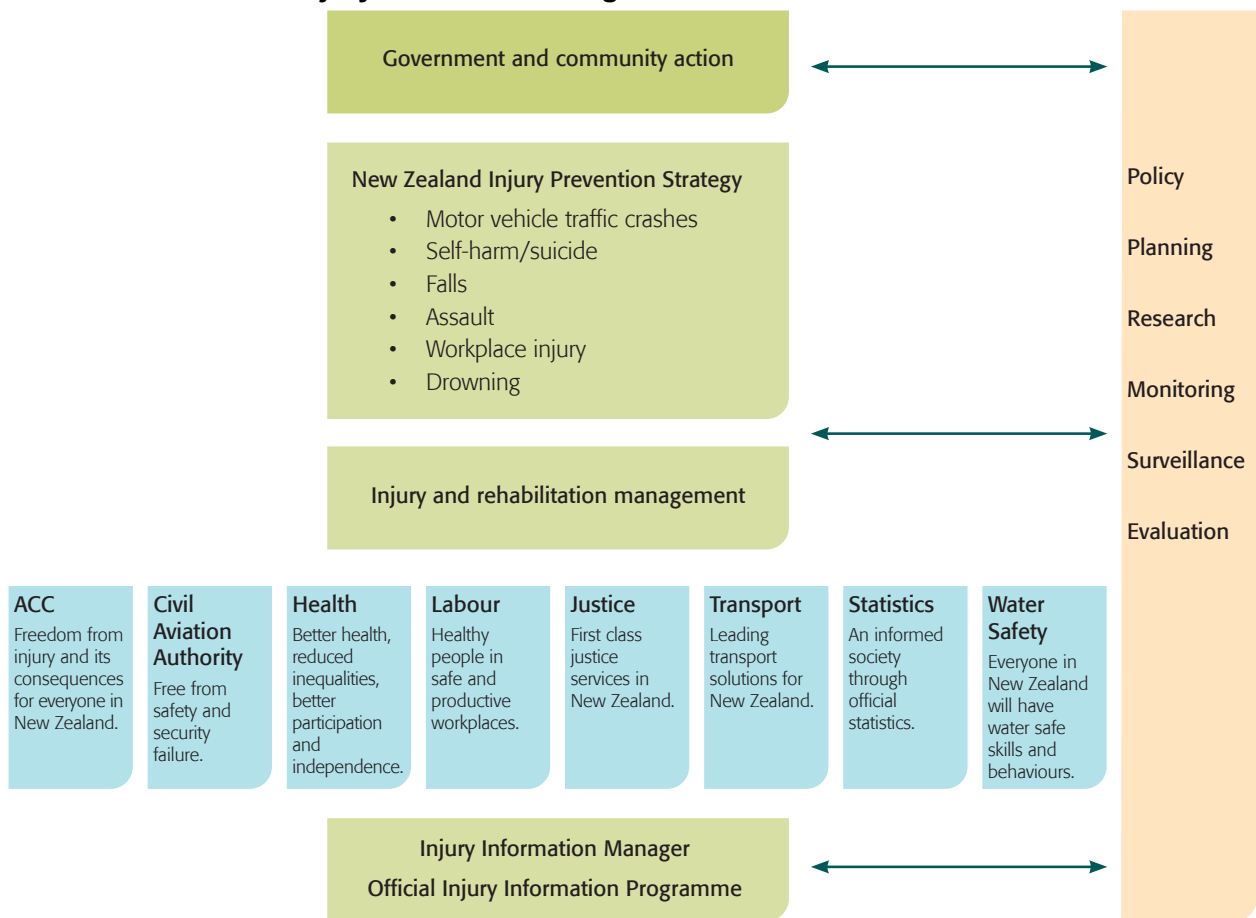
1. motor vehicle traffic crashes
2. suicide and deliberate self-harm
3. falls
4. assault
5. workplace injuries (including occupational disease)
6. drowning.

Six agencies lead the development and implementation of separate strategies and action plans for each of the NZIPS priority areas (ACC, 2008):

- Ministry of Transport (motor vehicle traffic crashes)
- Ministry of Health (suicide and deliberate self-harm)
- ACC (falls and drowning)
- Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Development (assault)
- Department of Labour (workplace injuries).

Figure 2 shows the key linkages between partners under the Official Injury Information Programme, and the location of the NZIPS within the programme's structure.

**Figure 2**  
**The Official Injury Information Programme**



## Monitoring, measuring, and reporting injury

### New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy Serious Injury Outcome Indicators

A key aspect of evaluating the NZIPS's implementation plan involves the use of indicators to measure serious injury trends over time (ACC, 2008). Injury indicators are an important cornerstone of surveillance that enable us to measure and monitor how effective we are on injury prevention performance (Cryer & Langley, 2008).

A set of serious injury outcome indicators was developed by the Injury Prevention Research Unit in 2004. These indicators are based on either death or on serious injury incidence, where 'serious' is defined in terms of threat to life (Cryer, Langley & Stephenson, 2004). The indicators focus on 'all injury' as well as the six priority areas identified in the NZIPS.

The serious non-fatal indicators are based on ACC claims data and hospital discharge data, while fatal injury indicators are based on:

- mortality data
- ACC (work related)
- police reports (motor vehicle traffic crashes)
- DrownBase (drowning).

In 2006/07 and in 2008, three 'chartbooks' of injury indicators were published, covering the 'all population' group, children (0–14 years), and Māori (Gulliver, Cryer & Davie, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c). These chartbooks track the changes in the frequency and age-standardised rates of serious non-fatal injury, death for all injury, and each of the six NZIPS priority areas.

Along with the annual publication of updated injury chartbooks, there is an ongoing programme of review and further development of the injury indicators. Details of this programme are provided in section 5.

## **2. Review of the Official Injury Information Programme**

This section gives background information on the collection of injury data and the early work of the Official Injury Information Programme. An outline of the 2008 review of the programme is provided, with the key findings providing the basis for its future direction.

### **Background**

#### **Injury data collection**

Injury data is collected by a range of government agencies and non-government organisations. The major collections include:

- Ministry of Health hospital discharge data and mortality data
- ACC injury claims
- Land Transport New Zealand motor vehicle traffic crashes.

Other agencies that collect injury data include:

- Water Safety New Zealand
- Coronial Information Service (fatal injuries investigated by a coroner)
- Maritime Safety New Zealand
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Department of Labour
- New Zealand Police.

Currently, much of the data collected by agencies is incomplete or inaccurate for monitoring or research purposes. For example, motor-vehicle related injuries are not included in ACC records if they do not generate an ACC claim. Data management practices also vary between agencies, which can make comparisons difficult. These problems affect any subsequent analysis of the data, making them difficult to compare or link.

#### **The Official Injury Statistics Programme 2003–06**

The early strategic direction and funding base for the Official Injury Statistics Programme was established following a review completed in 2001 (Department of Labour & Statistics NZ, 2002) and subsequent direction from Cabinet.

The Official Injury Statistics Programme 2003–06 focused on developing new ways of combining injury data to improve injury monitoring statistics and provide a resource for injury prevention research.

Data integration was intended to overcome some of the known shortcomings of the administrative datasets of individual agencies. Only three sets of data were found to have sufficient statistical value and potential compatibility to justify integration: ACC claim data, public hospital injury case discharges, and the Ministry of Transport crash analysis data.

A pilot programme found that linking injury events from ACC claim data with episodes of treatment in hospitalisation data was resource intensive and difficult to complete.

As a result, the focus of the programme in 2006 shifted to improving the dissemination of statistical information, exploring information needs, and developing classifications and standards. This shift was based on the need for the programme to more actively embrace the contributions of other key partners in the injury statistics sector, all of whom have established injury monitoring programmes. In particular, the development of the NZIPS has created specific injury monitoring needs not originally envisaged when the Official Injury Information Programme was established.

## **The 2008 review of the Official Injury Statistics Programme**

In January 2008, Statistics NZ began a review of the programme. The aim of the review was to ensure the programme provides maximum opportunities for preventing injuries and improving rehabilitation outcomes in New Zealand.

The objectives of the review were to:

- evaluate current and future information needs that drive the collection of injury statistics
- identify implications for the Official Injury Statistics Programme
- consult and analyse feedback from stakeholders on the options developed
- produce findings and priorities for action.

The focus of the review was to ensure that those who use injury data and have an interest in the Official Injury Information Programme were given the opportunity to participate. Stakeholders were invited to contribute to existing understanding on issues with the programme, what was working, and what could be improved. The key findings from the stakeholder interviews are in appendix 2. Subsequently, the *Feedback Report for the Review of the Official Injury Statistics Programme* was published by Statistics NZ in September 2008 and is available on its website at [www.stats.govt.nz/people/health/review-official-injury-statistics-programme](http://www.stats.govt.nz/people/health/review-official-injury-statistics-programme).

## **Recommendations**

The review recommended that:

1. Statistics NZ should convene a small group of experts to lead a second phase of the review that will:
  - list injury information needs
  - map these against existing data sources
  - identify priorities for improving existing injury data or collecting new data.

2. Statistics NZ should circulate the draft findings and recommendations of the second phase of the review for the consideration of and feedback from stakeholders.
3. On completion of the review, the group should develop an implementation plan to give effect to the recommendations for improving injury data collection.
4. The Injury Information Manager should lead work to address:
  - improving awareness and availability of the current official injury statistics information
  - improving integration of data and scoping the development of an official injury rate.

### **Steps taken**

The IIM subsequently convened the Injury Information Senior Officials Group. This group reviewed injury information needs and identified priorities to improve injury data.

Three priority areas were identified and developed into an agenda for action in 2009. This agenda was endorsed by the Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel.

The Official Injury Information Plan for 2009 sets out how the agenda for action will be implemented through a programme of work across government agencies, and how improvements to injury information can be achieved. The plan also reflects the change in the name of the programme from Official Injury Statistics Programme to Official Injury Information Programme. This change recognises that the programme encompasses a broad scope of injury information.

The IIM is also leading work to improve access to injury data and make these understandable and usable. This work includes updating the Statistics NZ website by providing information about what data is available and how these can be interpreted.

### **How the Injury Information Manager will support progress**

The role of the IIM is one key factor that contributes to the success of the injury information programme. The following three operating principles guide Statistics NZ in its role as IIM:

- **No closed shop:** The IIM works and actively engages with the broader community of injury information users and producers. Decisions are made transparently.
- **No wrong door:** Rather than attempting to build a single one-stop shop for injury information through Statistics NZ, the focus is to ensure that any point of entry into New Zealand's injury information system leads directly and clearly to the same information, regardless of where it is accessed.

- **No duplication of effort:** The aim of the IIM is to build on what has been developed and make good use of existing data, not to build extensive new information unless this genuinely adds value.

### **3. Agenda for action**

#### **Priority setting**

A wide range of issues and proposals to improve injury information were identified through the 2008 review of the Official Injury Statistics Programme. However, to achieve change in injury information there is a need to set clear and attainable goals: to prioritise everything is to prioritise nothing.

As a starting point, the Injury Information Senior Officials Group agreed that it was important to identify a limited set of priorities that would significantly improve the quality of injury information in New Zealand. In particular, it was agreed that the priorities should involve actions that:

- improve the quality of injury information in New Zealand
- can be progressed significantly over the next year
- are specific and measurable.

The agenda for action identifies three priority areas for 2009. Using feedback from the 2008 review of the Official Injury Information Programme as a guide, the priorities were based on ideas that would make the greatest difference to injury information at the least cost.

The three priorities for 2009 are:

#### **1. Documenting core injury information datasets**

The documentation of current injury data collections will be improved to make them more useful, accessible, consistent, and easier to use. Actions to meet this priority include:

- publishing data dictionaries for all main injury datasets
- documenting the way in which key injury statistics are developed from datasets
- establishing agreed definitions around serious injury
- identifying and disseminating relevant injury information papers and reports
- promulgating the documented information through publication.

#### **2. Monitoring injury outcome**

Government agencies, in consultation with the injury information sector, will develop and agree on a set of protocols for monitoring injury outcomes at a high level and report on progress to ministers and the general public. Actions to meet this priority will include:

- endorsing the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators as the official measure of serious injury rates
- having agreed protocols in reporting injury to ministers and the general public

- establishing a common and consistent language in relation to injury indicators
- having an agreed process for peer review and the validation of injury indicators.

### **3. Improving the quality of serious injury information**

The datasets used for measuring serious injury will be strengthened and enhanced to provide richer information for monitoring and research purposes. Actions to meet this priority will include:

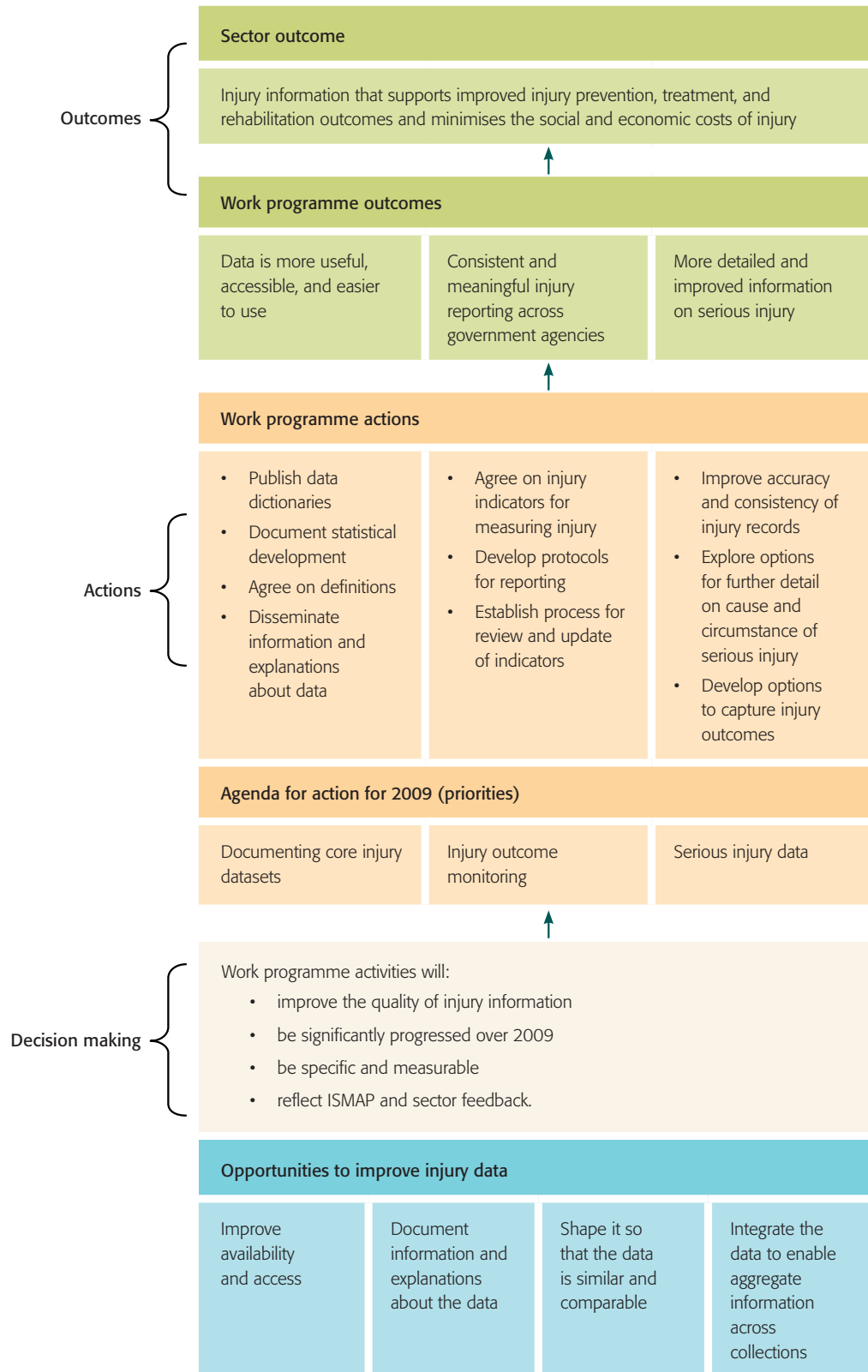
- improving accuracy and consistency in serious injury records
- exploring options for the use of event records to capture detail on the causation and circumstances of serious injury
- developing options to capture information on injury outcomes.

### **Implementing the agenda for action**

The work programme for each priority area is detailed in section 4.

Figure 3 illustrates the structure of the decision-making process in setting priorities for 2009, and shows how work in these areas aims to improve injury outcomes.

**Figure 3  
Injury Information Framework**



## 4. Official Injury Information Programme: activities for 2009

This section discusses how the agenda for action will be implemented, including the outcomes, objectives, and milestones for each of the three priority areas.

### Priority 1: Documenting core injury information datasets

#### Outcome

The documentation of current injury data collections is improved, making them more useful, accessible, consistent, and easier to use.

#### Why this is a priority

Injury information can only contribute to injury prevention and rehabilitation if it can be used by practitioners, researchers, and decision makers to inform policy and practice. The fragmented nature of New Zealand injury information means that:

- it is difficult for practitioners and decision makers to find injury information
- it is difficult for researchers to use existing data to improve knowledge of what works (it is an effort to find injury datasets and develop an understanding of the dataset)
- New Zealand is a small country and existing data is under used. There are gains to be made in realising the potential of current data collections by encouraging analysis of existing data before looking to collect new ones.

#### Objectives

1. Identify the core injury datasets.
2. Publish data dictionaries for core injury datasets starting with ACC and coronial information.
3. Link core injury datasets with metadata and data dictionaries.
4. Identify papers or reports relating to the datasets, and any research on the datasets.
5. Promulgate the documented information through publication on the relevant agency's and Statistics NZ's websites.

#### Working group

Documenting Core Injury Datasets Working Group (see appendix 5 for group membership).

## Outputs

This work programme will deliver:

1. a single website containing a list of New Zealand injury datasets
2. metadata and data dictionaries for core injury datasets
3. documentation and dissemination of key injury statistics and indicators
4. a publication containing an index of articles on data quality and any data issues
5. a common link to all New Zealand injury sector websites.

**Table 1**

### Documenting Core Injury Information Datasets Priority – Milestones

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Project team convened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• core injury datasets identified</li> <li>• key injury statistics agreed</li> </ul>	8 December 2008
2.	Standard for metadata and data dictionary documented	30 April 2009
3.	Bibliography of injury articles commissioned	30 April 2009
4.	Draft metadata received by IIM	31 May 2009
5.	Website online	31 May 2009
6.	Draft bibliography of injury articles received	30 June 2009
7.	How injury data is developed is documented and available on the website	30 October 2009

## Priority 2: Monitoring injury outcomes

### **Outcome**

Protocols are in place to monitor injury outcomes at a high level and to report on progress to government ministers and the general public.

### **Why this is a priority**

To contribute to public debate and for policy making, it is important to make valid comparisons of injury rates by using a consistent set of injury measures.

The current fragmented nature of injury reporting means that different measures are used for different purposes by different agencies. This creates confusion in the absence of a clear official picture.

The use of common measures and reporting focuses debate on what matters – changes in injury – rather than which measure has been used.

### **Objectives**

1. Government agencies will agree and support the use of the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators as the key measures for monitoring and reporting serious injury rates.
2. An agreed protocol for government agencies to report on published data dictionaries for core injury datasets will be put in place.
3. An agreed common and consistent language on injury indicators will be developed.
4. An agreed process for peer review, validation, and updating the injury indicators in use will be documented.

### **Working group**

Monitoring Injury Outcomes Working Group (see appendix 6 for group membership)

### **Outputs**

This work programme will deliver:

- a documented protocol on high-level monitoring and reporting of serious injury
- an 'owner' for the injury indicator set that has responsibility for the ongoing production and promotion of the indicators.

**Table 2**

**Monitoring Injury Outcomes Priority – Milestones**

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Project team convened	8 December 2008
2.	Injury indicators endorsed by key government agencies	8 December 2008
3.	Paper produced with proposed course of action, preferred owner, and scope of the injury indicators	30 June 2009
4.	Injury indicator 'owner' is identified	30 August 2009
5.	Draft protocol completed	30 August 2009
6.	Final protocol published	31 October 2009

**Priority 3: Improving the quality of serious injury information**

**Outcome**

The datasets used for measuring serious injury are strengthened and enhanced, providing richer information for monitoring and research purposes.

**Why this is a priority**

The evidence base on how to prevent injury and improve serious injury outcomes is limited by the quality of serious injury information available. Current serious injury information:

- is inconsistent across data collections
- lacks adequate information on the event causing the injury
- lacks information on rehabilitation outcomes.

## Objectives

1. Improve the accuracy and consistency of serious injury records.
2. Investigate the options for using event records to capture detail on the causation and circumstances of serious injury.
3. Present options to capture information on serious injury outcomes.

## Output

This work programme will deliver:

- a report that identifies the specific changes agencies will use to improve serious injury information, including examining the potential of the national trauma database
- the changes agreed on by key agencies and a project plan for implementing these
- initiation of the work programme for changing datasets.

**Table 3**

### Improving the Quality of Serious Injury Information Priority – Milestones

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Terms of reference agreed	31 March 2009
2.	Contract established	31 March 2009
3.	Draft report compiled	30 September 2009
4.	Final report published	31 October 2009
5.	Recommendations endorsed	31 October 2009
6.	Implementation plan in place	20 December 2009

## **5. Research programme**

This section outlines the research programme for 2009 which focuses on the further development of injury indicators.

### **Injury Information Manager's role**

New Zealand has a strong injury research sector. This sector comprises government agencies including the Department of Labour, Ministry of Health, ACC, and the Ministry of Transport. These are well supported by independent institutes such as the Injury Prevention Research Unit and individual academic researchers. Consequently, most expertise in injury research lies outside the role of the IIM. The primary role of the IIM then is not to undertake or fund the majority of research, but to support the wider injury research sector. In particular, the IIM's role is to:

- support research by promoting access to data including documenting datasets and setting standards for measuring injury
- co-originate a wider research programme across the public sector to help avoid unnecessary duplication of effort
- fund specific research projects that are of strategic value to the Official Injury Information Programme.

### **Injury Information Manager's research priorities for 2009**

The focus of the IIM in 2009 is to support the implementation of the agenda for action. The immediate priorities for injury research are on identifying any necessary improvements to the measures of serious injury, and to support the serious injury outcome indicators so that injury chartbooks can be updated. Table 4 shows the research projects funded by the IIM.

**Table 4**  
**Statistics New Zealand-funded Injury Indicator Research Projects for 2009**

Project	Aim
Māori indicator numerators	To address the uncertainty regarding the appropriate method for counting cases of serious non-fatal injury for Māori.
Case definition of non-fatal injury	To investigate the current and alternative definitions of serious non-fatal injury and propose a definition for stakeholders.
Exploring the provisional status of assault and self-harm indicators (Joint funding from Statistics NZ and ACC)	To find out if there are any changes in the likelihood of recording self-harm or assault over time.

Table 5 shows the projects funded by government agencies.

**Table 5**  
**Government Agency-funded Injury Indicator Research Projects for 2009**

Project	Aim
Impairment indicators chartbooks	To capture injuries, that, although not life threatening, may have a high threat of disability. The development of a chartbook with impairment indicators will provide complementary indicators to current injury indicators.
Work-related serious non-fatal injury provisional indicators	To review the trends of work-related injury that are currently measured on routine data sources.
Validity of underlying cause of death in the NZHIS mortality collection	To investigate the mismatch between hospital principal diagnosis as recorded in the National Minimum Dataset and the underlying cause of death recorded in the mortality collection.

## 6. Future directions

The year 2009 has seen the first of an annual process for priority setting and developing a collective work programme across government agencies. Future priorities will be set against longer term objectives that reflect the changing needs for injury data and the improved ways of collecting, producing, and using injury information.

### Annual process for setting priorities

The development of an agenda for action will be an annual process led by the IIM over the next three years. Working with key stakeholders, the IIM will identify priorities for the year, mindful of where the greatest gains can be made and achieved.

Before the end of 2009, the IIM will convene a workshop for injury sector stakeholders. This workshop will discuss the progress of the agenda for 2009, and seek input on other activities to focus on.

An agenda for action will be developed and published in the first quarter of 2010 along with a report on the achievements of 2009.

### Future priorities to progress

The agenda for action focuses on 'low-hanging fruit' – initiatives that will make the greatest difference to injury information and that can be introduced immediately. Looking ahead, there are many other opportunities for improvement.

The 2008 review of the Official Injury Information Programme, ISMAP, and the wider stakeholder group have identified several areas to be addressed. The introduction of a national trauma database and the continued implementation of the NZIPS provide further opportunities to review the needs for injury data and ensure that future work is relevant and effective.

There are also a number of areas that have the potential for future development as time and resources permit.

Future priorities of the IIM include:

- **Continued improvements to injury information**  
There is other work underway to improve injury information that wasn't included in the first agenda for action. This work has the potential to significantly improve injury information in the medium to long term. The project to develop a national trauma database is a good example, which will be examined more closely over 2009. Led by ACC, this project aims to introduce a national trauma system across district health boards, which will lead to an integrated database containing information about the management of injuries from pre-hospital transport, hospital care, to rehabilitation. As such, it is seen as a valuable tool in providing information about the treatment and management of injury and

outcomes. Another recent improvement with potential for further exploration is the Coronial Information System, which captures details about the causes and circumstances of deaths that are investigated by the coroner.

- **Social and economic costs of injury**  
Information on the costs of injury help in both measuring the impact of injuries and in making resource allocation decisions. There is scope to improve the various measures used to calculate the costs of injury – which include fiscal, economic, and social measures. Apart from improving these methods, there are opportunities to study these more closely, by the nature and circumstances of particular injuries. The 2004 report from the Department of Labour, *Measuring the costs of injury in New Zealand, 2004*, also gives recommendations for further work on measuring the costs of injury.
- **Workplace injury and disease**  
The changing nature of the workplace and the workforce drives the need to better understand workplace injury and disease. Three key agencies, ACC, the Ministry of Health, and the Department of Labour collect work-related injury data. By working collaboratively, there will be more opportunities to enhance how information is collected, and to combine or link data collections for more comprehensive information. The findings of the 2008 review of the Official Injury Information Programme also raised interest in macro and trend statistics alongside workplace surveys and behavioural research.
- **Data linking**  
The integration, matching, and linking of different injury datasets will continue to be long-term objectives of the Official Injury Information Programme. Bringing datasets together allows the most potential for accurately and reliably measuring injury, and for strengthening the use of individual datasets. Many improvements can be made incrementally. In 2009, the need to document existing datasets will be addressed, enabling greater use of the data through improved awareness and information of available data.

The Official Injury Information Programme's early work of integrating injury datasets provided lessons that can be applied to future work. Opportunities to investigate include data-matching techniques, for example, such as that of the Western Australian Data Linkage Project (see [www.datalinkage-wa.org](http://www.datalinkage-wa.org)).

## **Appendix 1: Acronyms**

ACC – Accident Compensation Corporation

IPRU – Injury Prevention Research Unit (University of Otago)

ISMAP – Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel

NZIPS – New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy

IISOG – Injury Information Senior Officials Group

## **Appendix 2: Recommendations of the Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel**

1. the need for an agreed standardised set of data that will help prevention of injury should be part of the future work focus on the Information Manager.
2. the role of data integration in improving injury information should be reviewed critically in regard to costs and benefits and the Panel has requested further information on this topic from the Information Manager
3. facilitating the process of establishing the new coronial information system should be a priority for the Information Manager
4. the Information Manager should support and sponsor research on quality of data and the development of performance indicators
5. the Information manager should look at the current and potential opportunities for supporting injury prevention that could be realised by data integration
6. the Information Manager should ensure the early engagement of people on the ground in the primary health sector if there is any intention to pursue the national minimum data set proposal
7. future reports from the Injury Information Manager should include milestones, showing achievements and progress.

## Appendix 3: Key findings from stakeholder interviews

The key findings from stakeholder interviews showed that:

- There is limited use of the data and information that is currently collected by agencies in the Official Injury Statistics Programme.
- There are a range of views about what information should be collected either as part of the Official Injury Statistics Programme, or in addition to the programme.
- Greater collaboration between agencies and the community is needed to get the best collection and use of official statistics.
- Data quality and the ability to integrate data would be improved if there was a standardised approach to collection and presentation of key data by all partners in the programmes.
- There is interest in reviewing policy and community needs to drive any new collection of data.
- There is confusion and differing views on the role of the IIM.
- The role of the IIM could be strengthened, particularly around leadership and the dissemination and coordination of information.
- The establishment of the NZIPS has driven the need for better information in priority areas and highlighted limitations of current information in some areas.
- Improved statistics could provide better understanding of workplace injury and disease. There is interest in:
  - a. understanding more about workplace injury and disease
  - b. macro and trend statistics as part of the Official Injury Statistics Programme
  - c. workplace surveys and behavioural research.

## **Appendix 4: Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders**

### **The Minister for Statistics**

The lead minister for the Official Injury Information Programme.

### **The Minister for Accident Compensation Corporation**

The lead minister for the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy.

### **Injury Information Manager**

Statistics NZ holds the statutory role of IIM under Part 8 of the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2001 (IPRC Act). The following functions are described under section 289 of the Act:

- (a) to develop, set, publish, and maintain standards for the purpose of this Part (IPRC Act 2001) after consultation with such persons or organisations as the manager considers appropriate:
- (b) to collect and aggregate injury-related information:
- (c) to facilitate access (including publishing) to injury-related information and unit record data:
- (d) to consider and review current and future injury-related information requirements.

(Section 289, Part \* IPRC Act 2001)

### **Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel**

The Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel (ISMAP) is specified in Section 291 of the IPRC Act. The panel comprises stakeholder representatives in the injury sector, including injury surveillance experts, agency data providers, and users.

The ministerial advisory panel must provide independent purchase advice directly to the designated minister on:

- (a) the direction the IIM is taking or has taken under Part 8 of the IPRC Act
- (b) the strategy of the IIM under Part 8 of the IPRC Act .

The principles that guide the advice of ISMAP are:

- consideration of the interests of various stakeholders, for example, data providers and data users
- compliance with the:
  - IPRC Act and associated regulations
  - Statistics Act 1975 and associated regulations

- Privacy Act 1993, Official Information Act 1982, Health Information Privacy Code 1994
- maintenance of a strategic view of the government's overall injury management objectives, and the alignment of the IIM's objectives.

A list of current ISMAP members is in appendix 5.

### **Injury Information Senior Officials Group (IISOG)**

The Injury Information Senior Officials Group (IISOG) comprises senior officials from key government agencies that produce injury data. The group provides a leadership role in coordinating the work programme across government agencies. The major areas of focus for IISOG over 2009 are:

- coordinating injury information across agencies
- actions to improve the detail and quality of information about serious injury across the NZIPS areas
- improving access to injury data and information
- developing and setting quality standards for measuring and reporting injury.

### **Injury information programme working groups**

The terms of reference of the working groups are provided in appendix 6.

## **Appendix 5: Membership of governance groups (2009)**

### **Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel**

Paul Cressey (Chair)	Clinical Pharmacist, Board Member, Counties Manukau DHB
Professor John Langlely	Director, Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago
Felicity Lamm	Employment Relations, Faculty of Business, AUT University
Dr Shanthi Ameratunga	Section of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, School of Population Health University of Auckland
Dr Upali Manukulasuriya	Ngati Whatua Orakei Health Services
Karen Below	Director and Consultant, Pohutukawa Red Limited; Clinical Director and Practitioner, MK (Mahi Kotahi) Work One Ltd

### **Injury Information Senior Officials Group**

Paul Barker	Department of Labour
David Eyre	Ministry of Transport
Ingrid Jaegers	Subject Matter Project Manager (Injury), Statistics NZ
Nick Matsas	Senior Analyst, Department of Labour
Ian McGregor	Subject Matter Project Manager (Health), Statistics NZ
Graeme Osborne	General Manager, Information, ACC
Quentin Wilson	Group Manager, Sector Services Information, Ministry of Health
Conal Smith	Manager, Social Conditions Business Unit, Statistics NZ
Geoff Wilson	Manager, NZIPS, ACC

### **Documenting Core Injury Datasets Working Group**

Ingrid Jaegers	Statistics NZ
Ian McGregor	Statistics NZ
Geoff Wilson	ACC
Bhama Rajiv Kumar	ACC
Lorna Bunt	ACC
John Wren	ACC

Zeeman van der Merwe	ACC
Colin Cryer	IPRU
Pauline Gulliver	IPRU
Craig Wright	Ministry of Health
Rhea Lewthwaite	Coronial Services Unit, Ministry of Justice
Nick Matsas	Department of Labour

### **Monitoring Injury Outcomes Working Group**

Ingrid Jaegers	Statistics NZ
Ian McGregor	Statistics NZ
Conal Smith	Statistics NZ
Geoff Wilson	ACC
Bhama Rajiv Kumar	ACC
Diana Pedlow	ACC
Lorna Bunt	ACC
Zeeman van der Merwe	ACC
John Wren	ACC
Colin Cryer	IPRU
Pauline Gulliver	IPRU
David Eyre	Ministry of Transport
Wayne Jones	Ministry of Transport
Nick Matsas	Department of Labour
Harry Kent	Ministry of Justice

## **Appendix 6: Injury information working groups' terms of reference**

### **Documenting Core Injury Information Datasets Working Group**

#### **Project purpose**

To develop, agree and implement a set of protocols for documenting core injury information datasets.

#### **Objectives**

- to identify the core injury datasets
- to publish data dictionaries for core injury datasets starting with ACC and coronial information
- to link core injury datasets with metadata and data dictionaries
- to identify papers or reports relating to the datasets, and any research on the datasets
- to promulgate the documented information through publication on the relevant agency's website and on the Statistics NZ website.

#### **Approach**

The general approach is as follows:

1. Confirm the scope of the project, determine a plan of action, allocate work to be carried out to each team member, and set a timeline and milestones to measure progress.
2. Identify and agree on the core injury datasets or components of core injury datasets which will be addressed through the project.
3. Determine a plan of action to enable agencies to develop and publish data dictionaries.
4. Collect and link metadata to the dictionaries, and identify reports/research relating to the data.
5. Publish the data dictionaries and related information on the relevant agency and Statistics NZ website.

#### **Membership**

The Interagency Working Group will comprise representatives from the Ministry of Health, Statistics NZ, Department of Labour, ACC, the Injury Prevention Research Unit, and the Coronial Services Unit. In addition, on the agreement of the working party, other contributors can be invited to meetings.

### **Decision making**

Key decisions will be discussed at each working group meeting. Endorsement for key decisions will be sought from the Injury Information Senior Officials Group on the recommendation of the working group.

### **Accountabilities**

Project Manager: Statistics NZ

Project administration: Statistics NZ with assistance from other agencies where required

### **Project timeframe**

The working group will be convened on 9 December 2008 and terminate on 20 December 2009, unless otherwise agreed by members of the working group.

### **Administration**

Statistics NZ will administer the working group.

Meeting schedule: Four meetings will be held over 2009 – March, May, August, and November.

Progress reports: A progress report will be compiled and tabled at meetings of the Injury Information Senior Officials Group.

Document management: Statistics NZ will hold all correspondence, reports, papers, meeting agendas, and minutes. All members of the working group will receive copies of any documents produced.

## **Monitoring Injury Outcomes Working Group**

### **Project purpose**

To develop and agree on a set of protocols for monitoring injury outcomes and reporting on progress to ministers and the general public.

### **Objectives**

- government agencies will agree and support the use of the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators as the key measures to monitor and report serious injury rates
- an agreed protocol for government agencies to report on injury to ministers and the general public will be documented
- a common and consistent language in relation to injury indicators will be agreed
- an agreed process for peer review, validation, and updating of the injury indicators in use will be documented.

## **Approach**

The general approach is as follows:

1. Establish a working group with relevant government and research agencies.
2. Review how government agencies are currently monitoring and reporting injury rates.
3. Identify how the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators can be used by agencies to monitor and report injury.
4. Develop a memorandum of understanding across government agencies, which sets out agreed standards for reporting serious injury. These will include:
  - a. how the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators are used and presented within agency injury reports
  - b. the language and definitions in relation to injury indicators
  - c. the required information that explains how the injury statistics have been derived
  - d. an agreed process for peer review, validation, and updating of the injury indicators in use.
5. Implement a method of marketing the injury indicators (including branding and consumer appeal).
6. Identify areas for further development and make recommendations to IISOG.
7. Promulgate the agreed standards through publication and agency websites.

## **Membership**

The Working Group will comprise representatives from Statistics NZ, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, ACC, NZIPS Secretariat, Injury Prevention Research Unit, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Social Development. In addition, on the agreement of the working party, other contributors can be invited to meetings.

## **Decision making**

Key decisions will be discussed at each working group meeting. Endorsement for key decisions will be sought from the Injury Information Senior Officials Group on recommendation of the working group.

## **Accountabilities**

Project Leader: Ingrid Jaegers

Project administration: Statistics NZ with assistance from other agencies where required.

### **Project timeline**

The working group will be convened on 8 December 2008 and terminate on 20 December 2009, unless otherwise agreed by members of the working group.

### **Administration**

Meeting schedule: Four meetings will be held over 2009 – March, May, August, and November.

Progress reports: A progress report will be compiled and tabled at meetings of the Injury Information Senior Officials Group.

Document management: Statistics NZ will hold all correspondence, reports, papers, meeting agendas, and minutes. All members of the working group will receive copies of any documents produced.

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