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Official Injury Information Plan 2010–12



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1 Introduction

The *Official Injury Information Plan 2010–12* sets out the work programme for the Official Injury Information Programme over 2010–12. The plan outlines Statistics New Zealand's role as Injury Information Manager (IIM) and details the work that will be undertaken by government agencies to improve injury information. It gives those working in the injury sector and wider community, information about the progress of, and activities in, the Official Injury Information Programme.

The plan also summarises the development of an agenda for action in 2009 and provides an update on the progress made in completing the work programme that was set out in the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009. The agenda for action for 2010–12 details four priority areas to improve injury information over the two-year period, and the work programme for each of the priority areas. Key milestones show how the plan will be implemented.

Injury is a leading cause of premature death and disability in New Zealand and affects the lives of thousands of New Zealanders each day. Injury is also the second leading cause of hospitalisations. Current evidence estimates the social and economic costs of injury are high, approximately \$9.67 billion per year (Accident Compensation Corporation, 2010).

Yet, most injuries and their consequences are preventable. The collection and dissemination of injury statistics and injury-related information are important for measuring the trends and impacts of injury, developing injury prevention initiatives, and improving rehabilitation outcomes.

The Official Injury Information Programme

Statistics NZ has the statutory role of IIM under the Accident Compensation Act 2001. The broad functions of the role include leading and coordinating the Official Injury Information Programme, and collecting and disseminating official injury information.

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.

The primary goals of the IIM are to improve the quality of injury information 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 research, debate, and decision making 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.

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

Statistics NZ leads the Official Injury Information Programme with support from the Injury Information Senior Officials Group (IISOG). This group comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Health, ACC, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Social Development, and the Department of Labour. The work programme to improve injury information is progressed through an inter-agency working group with members from:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Transport
- ACC
- Department of Labour
- Coronial Services Unit
- Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago
- Auckland University
- Statistics New Zealand.

New Zealand injury data

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
- Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System.

Other agencies that collect injury data include:

- Department of Labour
- Coronial Services Unit
- New Zealand Police
- Water Safety New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand

- Civil Aviation Authority.

Currently, some of the data collected by agencies is incomplete or not useful 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, making comparisons difficult. These problems make data difficult to link or compare and affect any subsequent analysis of the data.

2008 review of the Official Injury Information Programme

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 IIM was also reframed to focus on providing leadership and direction for the new programme, and on enhancing the distribution and use of injury information.

The key findings and recommendations from the review are presented in the Feedback Report for the Review of the Official Injury Statistics Programme, published by Statistics NZ in September 2008 and available to download at www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/injuries/feedback-report-for-rois-prog.aspx.

The IIM subsequently convened the Injury Information Senior Officials Group (IISOG). This group supports the IIM by regularly reviewing injury information needs, identifying priorities to improve injury data, and committing government agency resource to the work programme.

Agenda for action 2009

Using feedback from the 2008 review as a guide, three priority areas were identified and developed into an agenda for action in 2009. These priorities focused on making the greatest difference to injury information at the least cost:

- documenting core injury information datasets
- monitoring injury outcomes
- improving the quality of serious injury information.

An inter-agency work programme was subsequently developed to implement the agenda for action. This work programme was set out in the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009, published by Statistics NZ in April 2009 and available to download at: www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/injuries/official-injury-info-plan-for-2009.aspx

2 Progress in implementing the agenda for action for 2009

Documenting core injury datasets

The aim of this project was to improve the documentation of current injury data collections to make them more useful, consistent, accessible, and easier to use.

The working group identified the following three injury datasets to document:

- Ministry of Health: National Minimum Dataset and Mortality Collection
- coronial information
- ACC claims data.

As the data documentation published by the Ministry of Health was already at a high standard, the focus of the work programme was on documenting ACC claims data and coronial data.

Progress over 2009 included:

- Published documentation of the coronial data collection by the Coronial Services Unit. This documentation included information about what data is collected; how the data can be accessed; the quality of the data; and the measures used to monitor and improve the data quality.
- ACC documentation of injury claims data. This included publishing injury data documentation, information on how to access and use the data, and updated injury statistics for 2008/09.
- The development of a template for documenting injury data collections (the process and activity of collecting data) and the resulting datasets. The template presents a 'standard', with the aim that all injury data produced in New Zealand is documented to a consistent level of completeness and specificity. This template makes data easier to use and understand. It was created by taking key fields in existing injury sector documentation and fields not currently documented, and matching these with an international standard for data documentation (DDI, 2003). It allows for ease of comparison with other documentation, and for easy online publication. The template is available for use on the Statistics NZ website (www.stats.govt.nz) at www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/injuries/template-for-documenting-injury-data-collections.aspx.

Monitoring injury outcomes

The aim of this project was to establish protocols to monitor injury outcomes at a high level and, to report on progress to government ministers and the public.

Progress over 2009 included:

- The development of a documented protocol for government agencies to use the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) serious injury outcome indicators to monitor and report injury at a high level. The protocol was signed by the chief executives of the lead agencies for NZIPS and Statistics NZ, and took effect on 1 July 2010.

- Agreement that Statistics NZ will be the ‘owner’ of the injury indicator set, with responsibility for the ongoing production and promotion of the indicators from 2011.

Improving the quality of serious injury information

The aim of this project was to strengthen and enhance the datasets used for measuring serious injury, to provide richer information for monitoring and research purposes.

Progress over 2009 included:

- Consultation across the injury information sector to identify issues with the quality, accessibility, and utility of current serious injury information and options to improve the data. A report that presents the findings of the consultation will be published by Statistics NZ in early 2011.
- Development of a strategic framework (see appendix 1) to structure and standardise the approach to investigating the quality and scope of serious injury information.
- Identification of the following three key areas for improving serious injury information:
 1. organising injury data in a way that can be more easily used
 2. clearly defining what we count and measure
 3. ensuring that the information we need for monitoring injury is collected.
- Agreement by IISOG that the three areas provide a wide scope for improvement and that efforts be focused in the first instance on ensuring that the information we need for monitoring injury is collected. This work has been carried forward into the agenda for action for 2010–12.

In addition to the steps taken to improve injury information in the three priority areas, the IIM has also led work to improve access to injury data and to disseminate injury information across the sector.

Injury information portal

The 2008 review found that many people did not know what injury information was available, and whatever was available they found difficult to access. To address this, Statistics NZ led the development of an injury information portal, which links users to websites that carry information about injury in New Zealand.

Hosted by Statistics NZ, the portal connects to the injury home pages of agencies that produce injury data. The portal also links to Statistics NZ webpages that contain injury data and information about New Zealand injury data collections.

A key part of the injury information portal is the injury information logo. This logo, which users can click to access the central website, brands all injury information regardless of the agency providing the information. The logo reflects the collaborative nature of collecting, disseminating, and reporting injury information. A range of government and non-government agencies have adopted the logo on their injury webpages, enabling users to easy access to the central website and the same information, irrespective of their entry point.

Statistics NZ has published a summary of injury datasets on the portal. This summary provides an overview of information collected by different agencies about injuries in New Zealand. A bibliography of selected articles about using New Zealand injury data is also available.

Collaboration with the injury information sector

Statistics NZ hosted the first injury information forum in December 2009. The purpose of the forum was to bring together stakeholders from government agencies, non-government agencies, clinicians, community practitioners, and researchers, to:

- share the work that was progressed over the 2009 year
- learn about what is happening in injury data collections
- seek input on the development of the next priorities and longer-term goals.

Many issues and proposals to improve injury information were raised at the forum. Broadly, these were:

- continue documenting injury datasets and identifying actions that will improve the quality of serious-injury information
- improve the quality and usefulness of injury data by auditing injury datasets and publishing audit results
- continue making injury information more accessible and useful through collaboration and cooperation across government agencies and data users
- work to improve specific variables, unique identifiers (eg national health index), and the counting and coding of injuries
- further develop injury outcome indicators and disability indicators
- explore opportunities to develop new injury datasets through data linkage and the development of a national trauma database
- greater collaboration between the IIM and community injury prevention practitioners.

A subsequent workshop was convened with community injury prevention practitioners from the Injury Prevention Network Aotearoa New Zealand.

The forum provided the IIM an opportunity to report to the wider injury information sector on the steps taken after the 2008 review. The forum was also a chance to report on the IIM's progress in leading the programme and in meeting the deliverables set out in the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009.

The priorities identified through the forum and feedback from the community workshop have guided the development of the agenda for action for 2010–12.

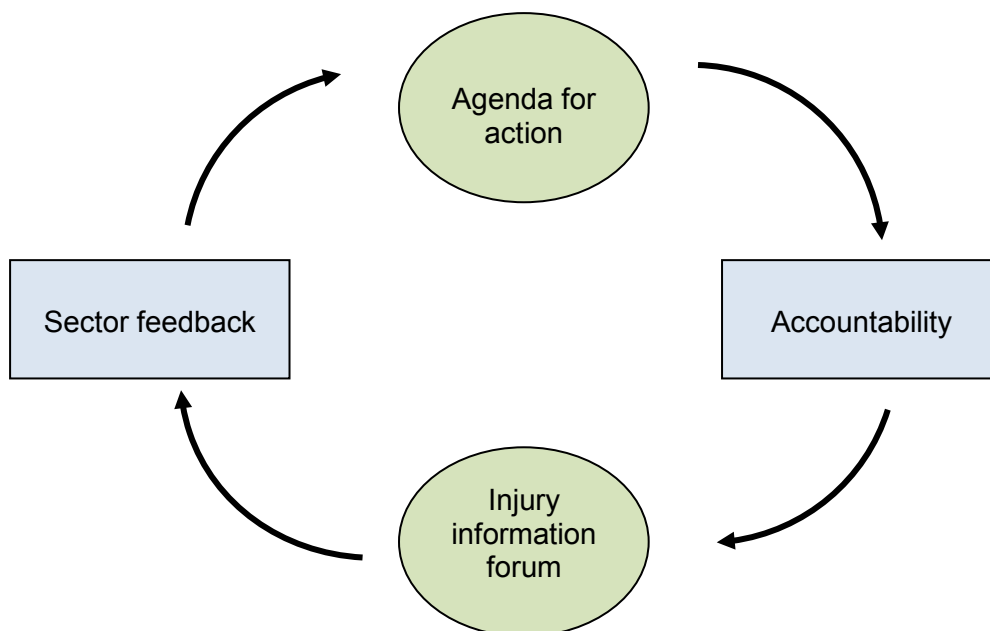
Priority setting

The year 2009 saw the establishment of a continuing process for priority setting and a collective work programme across government agencies was developed. The key deliverables and expected outcomes were detailed in the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009 with progress in completing the agenda for action reported back to the wider sector through the injury information forum.

The development of an agenda for action will continue to be part of the process of monitoring and planning led by the IIM.

Figure 1 illustrates the regular process of working with the sector to set priorities and reporting the progress made.

Figure 1
Feedback and accountability



3 Agenda for action 2010–12

The priorities for 2009 were focused on ‘low-hanging fruit’ – initiatives that would make the greatest difference to injury information and that could be introduced immediately. With the successful completion of much of the 2009 work programme, future priorities for 2010–12 have now been agreed. These priorities have been guided by feedback from the injury information sector and build on the progress made over 2009, mindful of where the greatest gains can be made and achieved. The work programme to address these priorities will be implemented over a two year period from 2010–12 as detailed in section 4.

The four priority areas for 2010–12 are discussed below.

Priority 1: 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 exploring and developing options to:

- improve the accuracy and consistency of serious injury records
- capture details of the cause and circumstances of serious injury
- capture information on injury outcomes
- support initiatives leading to the development of a national trauma system.

Priority 2: Documenting injury datasets

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

- publishing data dictionaries for three injury datasets over each year
- continuing to develop and promote the use of the injury information portal.

Priority 3: Auditing the quality of injury datasets

Understanding about the quality of current injury data collections will be strengthened to make the data easier to use, and provide information on where improvements can be made. Actions to meet this priority include:

- documenting options for the audit of injury data collections
- establishing and implementing an ongoing audit programme.

Priority 4: Publish the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicator chartbooks

Statistics NZ will take over the annual publication of the serious injury outcome indicator chartbooks from 2011.

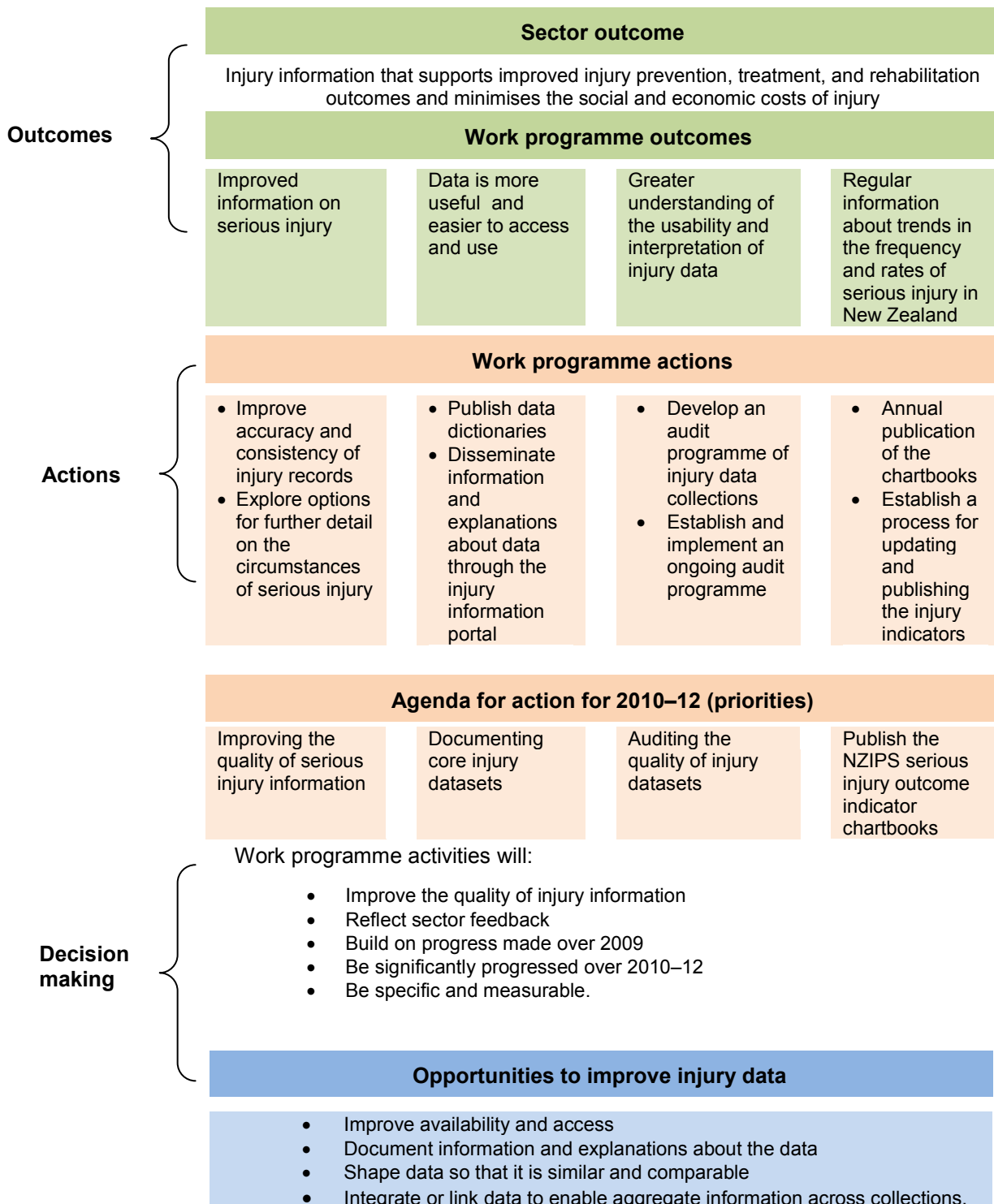
Implementing the agenda for action

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

Figure 2 illustrates the process of setting priorities for 2010–12, and shows how work in these areas aims to improve injury outcomes.

Figure 2

Injury information outcomes framework 2010–12



4 Official Injury Information Programme: activities for 2010–12

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

Priority 1: Improving the quality of serious injury information

Outcome

Injury datasets are strengthened and enhanced, providing richer information for monitoring and research purposes.

Why this is a priority

Improving the quality of serious injury information was identified in the agenda for action for 2009 because 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.

The progress made over 2009 is detailed in section 2. To ensure that the information needed for monitoring serious injury is collected, the work programme for 2010–12 will focus on improving the collection of a limited set of variables.

Objectives

1. Identify and agree on the key variables to focus on in current serious injury datasets.
2. Investigate how the variables are currently collected and identify options to improve the accuracy and consistency of the records.
3. Agree and implement the specific changes agencies will use to improve the key variables.

Outputs

This work programme will deliver:

1. a report that identifies the limitations of serious injury information in current datasets and proposed areas to improve
2. publication of the specific actions and changes that agencies will make to improve one or more variables in serious injury records, and how the actions will be implemented
3. the required changes agreed and implemented by key agencies
4. a report that details the changes made and reviews the impacts of the changes.

Table 1**Milestones for priority 1: Improving the quality of serious injury information**

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Draft report on stakeholder feedback compiled	31 July 2010
2.	Agreement from key agencies on which serious injury data variable/s to focus efforts on	31 August 2010
3.	Inter-agency working group (project team) convened	31 August 2010
4.	Final report on stakeholder feedback published	31 January 2011
5.	Paper published, detailing proposed changes to serious injury datasets and course of action	30 May 2011
6.	Recommendations endorsed	30 June 2011
7.	Implementation plan in place	30 August 2011
8.	Progress report published	28 February 2012
9.	Final report published	30 June 2012

Priority 2: Documenting core injury information datasets

Outcome

The documentation of current injury data collections is improved, making the data more useful, consistent, accessible, 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.

Objectives

1. Identify injury data collections to document.
2. Publish data dictionaries for core injury datasets starting with Department of Labour Serious Harm Notifications and Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System.
3. Promulgate the documented information through publication on the relevant agency's website and the injury information portal on Statistics NZ's website.

Outputs

This work programme will deliver:

1. metadata and data dictionaries for core injury datasets
2. the injury information portal updated at least quarterly and its use promoted across agencies and organisations.

Table 2

Milestones for priority 2: Documenting core injury information datasets

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Core injury datasets to publish over 2010–11 identified	12 August 2010
2.	Draft metadata received by IIM	28 February 2011
3.	Data dictionaries and metadata published and available online	30 June 2011
4.	Core injury datasets to publish over 2011–12 identified	30 June 2011
5.	Draft metadata received by IIM	30 November 2011
6.	Data dictionaries and metadata published and available online	31 May 2012

Priority 3: Auditing the quality of injury datasets

Outcome

The quality of injury data is better understood and documented to make the data easier to use, and to enable improvements to be targeted.

Why this is a priority

To be able to analyse and interpret injury data for research purposes and decision making, practitioners, researchers, and decision makers need to understand the quality of the data, including limitations of its use.

An external audit process will:

- support the internal quality review process of agencies
- enable agencies and data users to learn about the quality and limitations of their datasets

- identify where the best gains can be made in improving injury data across agency data sets
- give external users greater trust and confidence in using the data.

Objectives

1. Develop a framework for auditing the quality of injury data.
2. Establish a process for undertaking an audit of a specific data set.
3. Complete a pilot audit on a selected injury dataset.
4. Publish a report on the findings of the audit and recommendations for improvement.
5. Put in place an ongoing audit programme of injury data.

Outputs

This work programme will deliver:

- a documented framework for assessing the quality of injury data
- a process for undertaking a data audit agreed by key agencies. This process will be documented in a report summarising the findings of a pilot audit and recommendations for improvement
- a documented audit programme of injury datasets.

Table 3

Milestones for priority 3: Auditing the quality of injury datasets

	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	Scope of an injury audit programme agreed by key agencies	31 October 2010
2.	Audit tool documented	30 April 2011
3.	Audit implementation plan in place	30 June 2011
4.	Pilot audit of injury dataset commissioned	1 July 2011
5.	Pilot audit completed	28 February 2012
6.	Report on the pilot audit published	30 June 2012
7.	Ongoing audit programme of injury data implemented	30 June 2012

Priority 4: Publish the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicator chartbooks

Outcome

The NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators will be annually updated and published in a series of chartbooks.

Why this is a priority

Three chartbooks of serious injury have been developed by the Injury Prevention Research Unit (IPRU), Otago University, with funding from ACC. First published in 2006, the injury chartbooks are now well-established products that provide a robust set of information for monitoring the incidence of serious injury.

An outcome from the Official Injury Information Plan for 2009 was agreement across agencies that from 2011, Statistics NZ will publish the chartbooks yearly.

Objective

Develop and implement a process to annually update and publish the chartbooks of the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators.

Outputs

This work programme will deliver:

- an annual publication of the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicator chartbooks
- a documented process for updating and publishing indicators.

Table 4**Milestones for priority 4: Publish the NZIPS serious injury outcome indicator chartbooks**

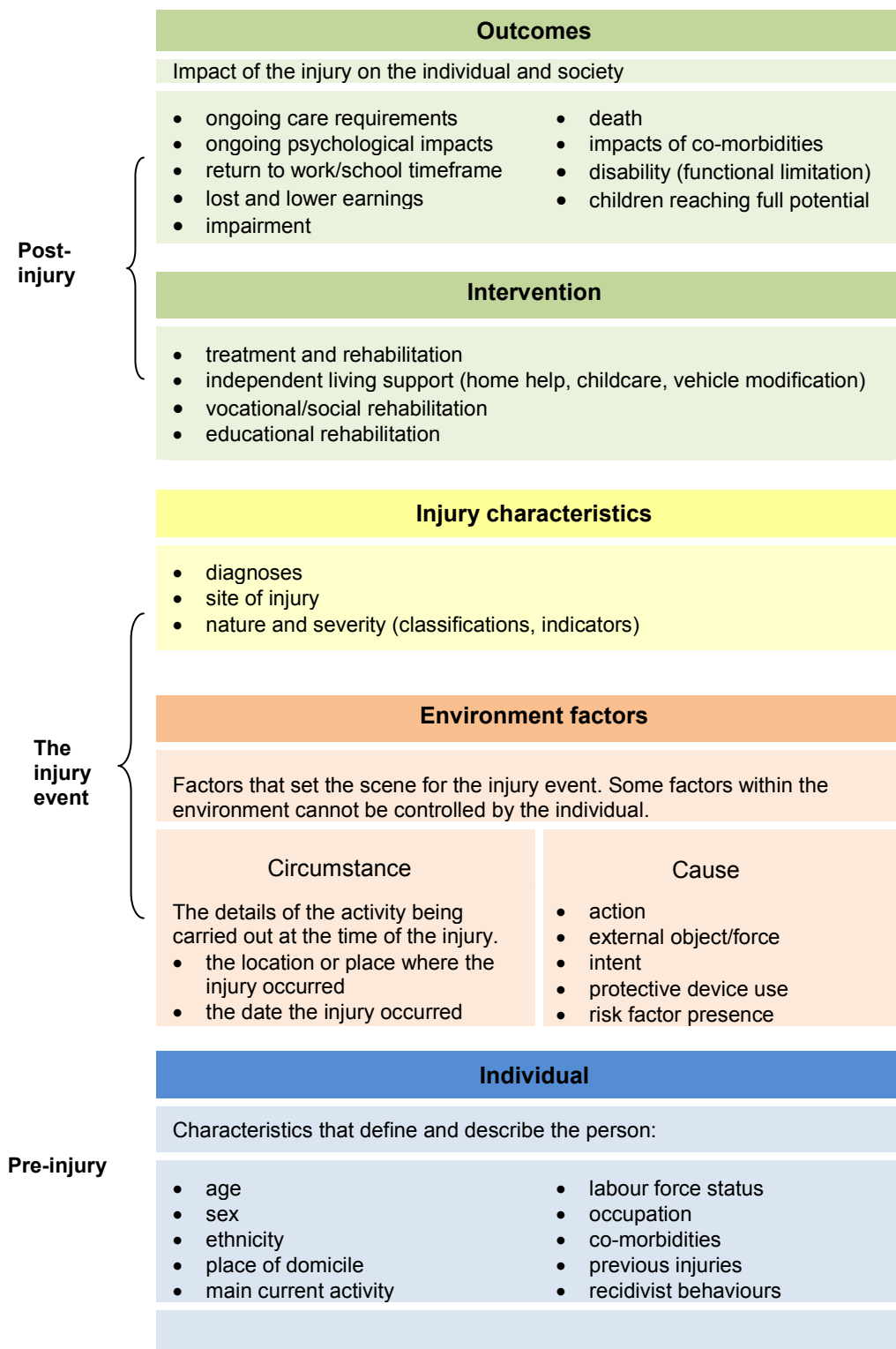
	Milestone	Timeframe
1.	2009 chartbooks published by IPRU and ACC	17 December 2010
2.	2010 source data is compiled and updated	31 July 2011
3.	Calculation of the indicators completed	30 August 2011
4.	Draft 2010 chartbooks compiled	30 September 2011
5.	Communication plan produced	31 October 2011
6.	Final 2010 chartbooks published	30 November 2011
7.	Review of 2010 chartbooks completed	29 February 2012
8.	Consultation and options for the 2011 chartbooks presented	31 March 2012

Appendix 1

Figure 3 illustrates the structure of the injury information framework used to review current serious injury data collections.

Figure 3

Injury information framework



Appendix 2

Membership of governance groups (2010)

Injury Information Senior Officials Group

Steve Manning (Chair)	Statistics NZ
Luisa Beltran-Castillon	Statistics NZ
Richard Doig	ACC
Zeeman van der Merwe	ACC
Jim Murphy	Department of Labour
Jennifer Brown	NZIPS, ACC
Ingrid Jaegers	Statistics NZ
Bevan Sloan	Ministry of Health
Quentin Wilson	Ministry of Health
Jenni Nana	Ministry of Social Development
Leo Mortimer	Ministry of Transport

Injury Information Programme Working Group

Ingrid Jaegers (Chair)	Statistics NZ
Luisa Beltran-Castillon	Statistics NZ
Anna McDowell	Statistics NZ
Sarah Johnson	Statistics NZ
Lorna Bunt	ACC
Zeeman van der Merwe	ACC
John Wren	ACC
Rhea Lewthwaite	Coronial Services Unit, Ministry of Justice
Nick Matsas	Department of Labour
Colin Cryer	IPRU
Pauline Gulliver	IPRU
Wayne Jones	Ministry of Transport
Chris Lewis	Ministry of Health
Angela Pidd	Ministry of Health
Tracy Thompson	Ministry of Health
Shanthi Ameratunga	University of Auckland
Bridget Kool	University of Auckland

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