



# INJURY BULLETIN

c/o Mater Hospitals, South Brisbane 4101

Ph 61 7 38408569 Fax 61 7 38401684 E-Mail Mail@qisu.qld.gov.au

Website: <http://www.qisu.qld.gov.au>

The two topics which will be focused on in this issue are:

\* **Rollerblading**

\* **Injuries occurring in Nursing Homes**

**Also** in this issue, a new regular feature will be introduced which will provide readers with an up to date account of the latest investigations and findings currently being carried out by the Queensland Department of Consumer Affairs. It is hoped that you find this section both informative and useful.

## ROLLERBLADING

Rollerblading is a controversial topic at the moment due to the safety considerations involved with the activity. There appear to be inconsistent opinions and statistics regarding this issue. In fact, Adelaide and Melbourne have banned rollerblading in designated areas. Due to these differing opinions, this bulletin will clarify some of these issues by providing an analysis of the number and type of injuries recorded by QISPP over the two year period between January 1991 to January 1993.

There have been a total of 131 roller blade injuries recorded during this period, of which three quarters of those injuries involved males. The largest age group represented was the 14 years age group. However, it is not only a children's activity as 5 of those injured were over 35. The wider age group involved is

perhaps one of the reasons for the high incidence of rollerblading injuries. There were no injuries recorded in the under five years of age.

One in five skating injuries (not including skateboards) was a rollerblading injury. The severity of the injuries was high as 21% of them required admission to hospital. This is in comparison with the QISPP database average admission rate for all injuries (12%) and skateboarding (15%). Roller skating was lower again at 12%. This was despite the fact that more rollerbladers wore safety gear in comparison to other skaters. The breakdown for use of safety equipment is as follows:

*17% of rollerbladers wore safety equipment  
8% of skateboarders " "  
3% of the roller skaters " "*

The most common injuries requiring admission to hospital were fractures of the forearm or wrist. In fact, 44% of all injuries recorded were these type of fractures. Surprisingly, there were few ankle injuries. Almost 90% of the injuries were the direct result of contact with the ground, concrete or other man-made outdoor surfaces.

One third of the injuries occurred in private homes, private roads or driveways.

(Continued on page 2)

\* QISU data is based on emergency department presentations to the following hospitals: Mater Children's Hospital, Mater Adult Hospital, Mater Private Emergency Care Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital, Redland Hospital, Logan Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Mt Isa Hospital and Mackay and district hospitals.



(Continued from page 1)

A further third occurred on public roads, footpaths, parking areas or bikeways and 13% occurred in public parks.

The severity and apparent frequency of rollerblading as compared with roller skating or skateboarding injuries may be explained by:

- ◆ **increased manoeuvrability of roller blades, allowing more dangerous stunts**
- ◆ **increased speed capability of roller blades**
- ◆ **increased need for strength and balance due to smaller surface area in contact with ground**
- ◆ **preference for braking by turning instead of using braking device on heel**
- ◆ **the appeal to a wider age range than traditional roller skates or skateboards**
- ◆ **powerful cult appeal of rollerblading (e.g. advertisements featuring rollerblading stunts, trendy gear etc.)**

## NURSING HOME INJURIES

Three quarters of the people injured in nursing homes were females, which reflects the population structure in nursing homes.

Half of these injuries presenting at the Brisbane South Emergency Departments required admission to hospital. This is a very high admission rate.

The QISPP dBase admission rate is 12%. This indicated the susceptibility of the aged in regard to accidents and injuries. 65% of those injured were over the age of eighty.

The most common times of day for the occurrence of the injuries were 9am, 7am, 12md and 4pm, in decreasing numbers of injuries. It is possible that during these times the residents are more likely to be injured when mobilizing to shower, dress and attend meals.

Over half of the injuries were fractures and one third of all injuries were fractured femurs.

The next most common injury was laceration to the face or head. Finally, over three quarters of nursing home residents were injured as a direct result of contact with the floor.

## SWIMMING POOL FENCING

The Queensland Department of Consumer Affairs' Consumer Safety Committee is currently investigating the effectiveness of child safety barriers (fencing) used around private swimming pools.

The Department's Consumer Safety Section is co-ordinating the investigation and is interested in hearing from parents/care providers who have first hand experience with children, under 5 years of age, who have gained access to the area enclosed by a swimming pool fence.

Consumer Affairs are particularly interested in:

- ◆ **the child's age**
- ◆ **brand and style of the pool fence/gate**
- ◆ **if the fence complied with Council requirements**
- ◆ **how exactly the child gained access**
- ◆ **the number of times the child has gained access**
- ◆ **any modifications carried out on the fence/gate to prevent repeated access and if the modification/s were successful**

If you can assist with information please contact Mr Paul Loeffler – White, Senior Consumer Safety Officer, on (07) 3836 0415.

## Recall Product Notices for January 1993

**Pneumatiques Kleber SA: Size 225/50 R 16** tyres speed rate V & Z possibility that circumferential cracks may develop in lower sidewall areas of tyres.

**Bonlac Foods Ltd.: Payless Brand 1.0kg pack** marked "48 processed cheddar slices" use by date: 30 July 1993; - may contain bacteria.

**Phillips: Phillips TV model V6820 and Marantz model MTV750** sold from 1985 until around 1987. Due to a component working loose on a printed circuit board arcing can occur with the risk of serious damage. TV should not be left on while unattended.

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation: "My Very Own Baby Humpty" doll (small); "Humpty Dumpty" doll (large)** - nose of both toys could be detached and may present an ingestion and inhalation hazard.

## Product Recall Notices for February 1993

**VSI Hardware: 'Buffalo 240 Volt 30 Soldering Gun'** - no efficient earthing facilities, no cord anchorage and could become a potential danger to the user.

**Akai Pty. Ltd.: Akai 34cm (14") and 49cm (20") colour television sets manufactured in 1988 and 1989.**

**Model CTK 202**

**Model CTK207**

**Model CTK108**

May contain soldering defects in the electronic circuit joints that could cause arcing with the risk of serious damage.

**Action Trampolines and Gymnastic Equip-ment Pty. Ltd.:** Yellow hanger bars with flattened end for the glide and boatswing attachments. Tube is cracking where it has been flattened and punched.

**Harley Davison Inc.: Carburettor Fuel Inlet (1990/1991 1340CC Models)** fuel may be released (from the overflow system); and **Starter Relay 1989/1992 Softail Models** may develop an internal electrical short which in some circumstances may generate sufficient heat to cause relay (and possibly other parts) to burn.

For further information concerning these recall notices please contact the manufacturer direct or the Consumer Safety Section of the Department of Consumer Affairs on (07) 3836 0402

*If you have any particular topics which you would like to see covered in our bulletin please contact us as we would be more than happy to include your ideas.*