

# Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

March 2008

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**Safety Assist**  
sign of a  
safer  
community

## Australia Day Recognition for our Patron

THE PATRON of our organization, **Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR**, Governor of South Australia, has received Australia's highest civic honour. The **Companion of the Order of Australia** is awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or humanity at large.

*Our President, Mr Bryce Saint OAM, sent this letter to His Excellency:*

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Board and members of Safer Communities Australia Inc, I extend heartiest congratulations to you on your recent appointment as Companion in the Order of Australia. We are delighted that our Patron has been recognised with this highest distinction.

Yours sincerely, Bryce Saint OAM,  
President

*His Excellency replied:*

Dear Bryce,

Thank you, the Board and members of Safer Communities Australia very much for the letter of congratulations on my appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours list.

I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to our defence business community, but recognize that whatever has been achieved, would not have been possible without the great support of our Government, business and defence sectors.

I look forward to working with you and Safer Communities Australia in the future.

Yours sincerely, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia



*His Excellency presenting awards to Safety Ambassadors*

## Million Dollar Lottery!

**THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRAL COMMUNITY LOTTERY** is on again – but now it's bigger and better than ever, aiming to return over **one million dollars** to participating organisations!

*What's different?*

- More tickets are available which means more community organisations will benefit.
- Australian Central and its Business and Media Partners are picking up ALL the costs of the lottery – so for every \$2 ticket we sell, our organisation receives \$2.
- And best of all ... the prize pool has sky-rocketed to over 110 prizes with a total value of \$186,000!!

**Let's check out some of the prizes:**

A Mitsubishi Lancer, a Mitsubishi Colt, a \$25,000 Harvey Norman Shopping Spree and a \$20,000 International Holiday Package.

*And ... Return tickets in Gold Service aboard The Legendary Ghan to Darwin, Toshiba Home Theatre System, leather lounge suite ... the prizes just keep coming.*

This is our major fundraiser for the year – **and we want your help.**

Please support us by buying a book or 2 of tickets or selling them to family, friends or in your local community. Further details are on the address page that accompanied this newsletter – *or just give us a call.*



# Editor's Corner

OUR ORGANISATION anticipates another very busy year with a focus on increasing the number of **Safety Assist** locations throughout South Australia. There are many ways that you can help – encourage local shops, businesses, neighbours and friends to join; invite speakers from Safer Communities Australia to make presentations to meetings of community groups in your area; let us know of community newsletters and publications in which we can feature articles on the **Safety Assist** program. *It's that simple!*

Last year we embarked on a program of activities to expand our network of **volunteers** and we have had considerable success, particularly in country areas. We are still seeking a number of additional volunteers for such jobs as sourcing and presenting talks, promoting the **Safety Assist** program and checking signs in local areas. For a complete list of available volunteer duties, give us a call. Your commitment could be as much or as little as you like.

We are planning two **Community Safety Expos** this year – one in Adelaide and the other in Whyalla. As seen from our successful expos in 2007, these events have proven to be very popular and a fun way to spread safety messages.

Sourcing funding for, and organising the erection of, **Safety Assist street signs** continues to be an enormous ongoing task. Substantial progress has been made over the past 12 months but we still have a long way to go. Once your street sign goes up, we ask that you check it regularly and report back to us if it is vandalized or faded.

*We look forward to working with you all throughout 2008 as we aim to make our communities safer for young and old.*

**Rona Sakko - Editor**

## Grant for Story Book

SAFER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA is delighted to be the recipient of a grant of \$7,000 from **Community Benefit SA** for the production of a story book for young people about Safety Assist and staying safe.

Our delightful character, **Safe T Hound**, will have a starring role in this colourful story book and he will be joined by a number of friends such as Harry Hamster and Kate Tabby. We are working in with author Chris Pelly who has produced a child safety series called "Stumpy and Friends". It will be exciting to have our popular mascot Safe T Hound and his new friends being featured in their own story book.

Our Association is most grateful for this invaluable support from Community Benefit SA which has given us a number of grants over the years for much-needed projects such as Safety Ambassador resources, brochures, computers and MapInfo program.



## Victim Support Service

### *HAVE YOU BEEN a victim of crime?*

There is help available through **Victim Support Service**.

Professional staff provide a comprehensive range of services for adults who have suffered as a result of a criminal offence. This could range from assault or home invasion to robbery or homicide. Support is provided for individual crime victims, their families, friends and the wider community. You do not need to have reported a crime to access the services which include information about your rights, counselling, assistance with court matters, support groups

and resource centre.

Services are confidential and free of charge. There are offices in the main regional areas as well as Adelaide.

Speakers are available to present community talks about victims of crime and the support offered through Victim Support Service.

Contact details: ph 8231 5626 or [info@victimsa.org](mailto:info@victimsa.org) or [www.victimsa.org](http://www.victimsa.org)



## Child Abuse Report Line

CHILD PROTECTION is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who may cause them harm. Child abuse could be physical, emotional, sexual or neglect.

Safer Communities Australia members, staff and volunteers have a duty of care to take all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from harm. **We have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect.**

If, in the course of undertaking your role as a Safety Assist member (eg responding to a request for assistance from a child who has knocked on your door), you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is the victim of abuse or neglect, you need to make a report.

To report an incident or suspicion of child abuse, phone the **Child Abuse Report Line** on **13 14 78**. This is a 24 hour facility operated by social workers.

Our organisation has a number of policies in place, including a **Child Safe Policy** and **Code of Conduct**. Please contact our office if you would like a copy of these policies.

**Safer Communities Australia Inc is a child-safe organisation.**



## Walk Safely to School Day

CHILDREN ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA will be urged to walk to school on **Walk Safely To School Day**, held this year on **Friday, 2 May**.

This national, annual event sees tens of thousands of primary and junior primary school-aged children walking to and from school with their parents and carers – and last year nearly 125 schools across South Australia took part – about 32,500 students.



Packages of posters and stickers will be sent to every school in the State by the Pedestrian Council and

parent clubs and teachers are invited to organise special events for the day, such as a healthy breakfast or a piece of fruit for every child.

### *The objectives of the event are:*

To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.

To promote the health benefits of walking and help to foster regular walking habits at an early age.

To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.

To reduce car dependency habits.

To promote use of public transport.

To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.

To reduce traffic congestion around school gates.

Good habits start young and safe pedestrian behaviour, healthy exercise and eating are encouraged by **Walk Safely to School Day**.

For more information, visit <http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/page.asp?pageid=260>

or contact the State Co-ordinator, Chris Chalk, on [chris\\_chalke@chalkepr.com.au](mailto:chris_chalke@chalkepr.com.au)

*Parents, when walking or driving your children to school, point out any Safety Assist locations along the way so your children know where to go if they need help. Approach your school to feature Safety Assist information (available from our office) in a school newsletter to encourage parents to apply for Safety Assist status to help with safety around your school.*

## First Aid Post

### **HERE IS SOMETHING to keep in mind ...**

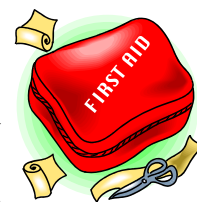


Safety Assist members in private premises may extend their volunteer community service by also participating in **St Johns First Aid Post** program.

*Check this out ...* you receive **FREE** training for your **Senior First Aid Certificate** (full costs are reimbursed after 6 months in the program) and ongoing training updates are **FREE**. You will also receive the **FREE** loan of a **First Aid Kit** for the duration of your time as a First Aid Post member.

*Consider the benefits ...* ideally, we all should have first aid training – and you can achieve this at no cost. Plus you will have the skills to provide first aid to anyone who is hurt and knocks on your door for help.

*Here's how easy it is ...* training can be undertaken at a time and location to suit your requirements. Just give our office a call and we will send you further information



## Safety for Seniors

THE COUNCIL ON THE AGEING (SA) has launched a new initiative to help older people feel safe and be safe. Called **Safety for Seniors**, this crime prevention program aims to reduce the fear of crime amongst older people, and to foster a feeling of safety and confidence leading to greater community participation and improved quality of life.

The project utilizes an innovative volunteer peer education model with peer educators promoting crime prevention strategies and distributing information to community members, including culturally and linguistically diverse people, through seniors clubs and community groups.

The program will be conducted in metropolitan Adelaide and rural South Australia and will target people aged 50 years and over living in a community based setting.

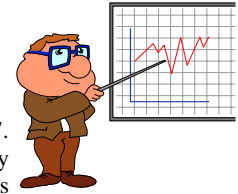
### *The four key messages of Safety for Seniors are:*

- ◆ We all have the right to feel safe and secure.
- ◆ Older people are less likely to be victims of crime than other age groups.
- ◆ People actively involved in the community feel safer and live longer.
- ◆ Common sense safety strategies can empower you to live a full life.



**Our organisation's brochures will be distributed at these seminars to inform older people about the purpose of Safety Assist locations.**

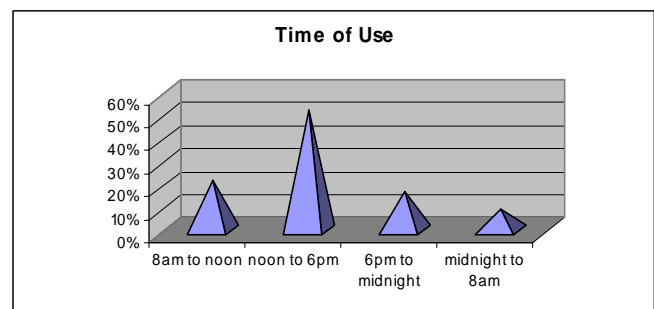
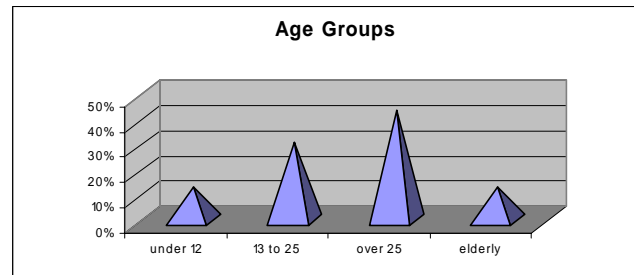
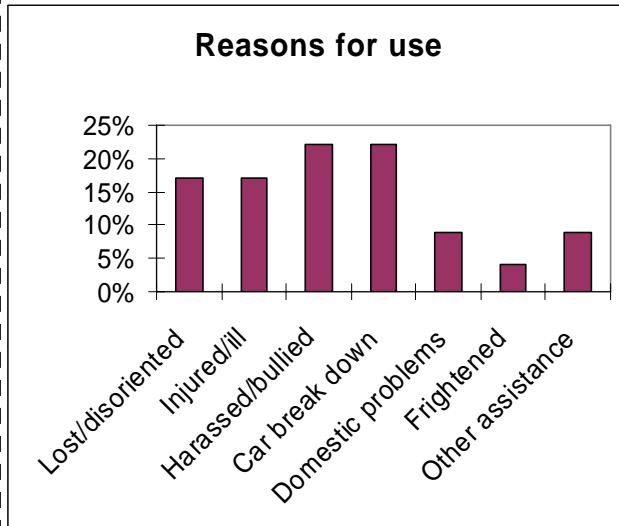
# Safety Assist Statistics



THESE CHARTS GIVE an overview of the **Safety Assist** incidents that were reported by our members in 2007. Compared to previous years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of adults seeking help if they were lost, for a car break down or in domestic violence situations. Bullying is still one of the main reasons children and young people need help, and the afternoon / early evening times are when help is most often sought by people of all ages.

Many of our members may not have had someone call on them for help. *Remember ...* by simply displaying your **Safety Assist** signs you are playing a significant role in increasing the feelings of safety and security in your community.

## Safety Assist – sign of a safer community.

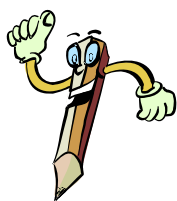


# New Business Premises Guidelines

WE NOW HAVE professionally designed and printed brochures that provide guidelines for business premises wanting to apply for **Safety Assist** status.

Upon request, we can send you a supply of these brochures that you can distribute to businesses in your local area. Think about approaching your local Neighbourhood Watch group and asking that they distribute these brochures to businesses within their areas.

*Quite simply ...* we want your help to increase the number of **Safety Assist** locations throughout South Australia.



# Incident Reports

THESE ARE SAMPLES of recent incidents where our members have helped people in their community. When someone sees your **Safety Assist** sign and knocks on your door for help, don't forget to notify us by phone, mail, fax or email.

### 26/2/08 - Enfield

7.30pm: Lady's car had overheated and she was unable to open bonnet. She rang a friend who suggested that she approach the nearest house and ask for help but lady did not feel safe doing this. After waiting a while, she saw the Safety Assist sign on a nearby house and she felt safe going there. Residents helped to get her car going again.

### 7/2/08 - Elizabeth

9.40am: Very distressed middle-aged man sought help after being abused and threatened by a neighbour. Police attended.

### 19/1/08 - Whyalla Stuart

6.30am: Young couple were visitors to Whyalla and were lost. Safety Assist members gave them local area map and directions.

### 23/11/07 - Mt Gambier

12.30pm: Girl went to Safety Assist premises. She was upset, had been crying and had blistered feet. She wanted help to return home. Taxi was organized for her.

## PATRON:

His Excellency  
Rear Admiral Kevin  
Scarce  
AC CSC RANR  
Governor of South  
Australia