

# Network News

Newsletter of Safer Communities Australia Inc

March 2010

## Inside this issue:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Editor's Corner          | 2 |
| Future Directions        | 2 |
| A Challenge!             | 2 |
| Walk Safely to School    | 2 |
| 2010 Lottery             | 3 |
| In Case of Emergency     | 3 |
| Street Signs             | 3 |
| New Locations            | 3 |
| Safety Assist Statistics | 4 |
| Incident Reports         | 4 |
| Cheap Candles!           | 4 |



**Safety  
Assist**  
sign of a  
safer  
community

## We've Moved!

### New Safer Communities Australia State Office

For 20 years our organisation has been operating out of 2 rooms in shared accommodation with another not-for-profit organisation. The premises were inadequate, to say the least, particularly since the formation of our new organisation in 2003 and the subsequent expansion of our programs and resources.

***We are delighted to announce that we have moved!***

Our organisation has taken two giant leaps:

**A giant leap forward** - we now have appropriate long-term office accommodation for our staff and volunteers for current and future needs.

**A giant leap sideways** - it has been literally one giant leap to our new office which is right next door to our previous location.

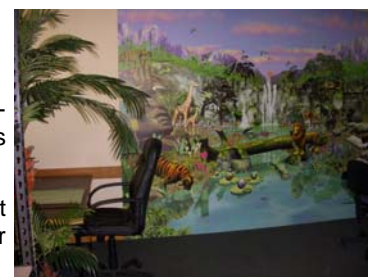
Our new address is: **78 Edmund Avenue, Unley.**

We now occupy an entire cottage, leased from Unley Council. We extend thanks and appreciation to the City of Unley and its Council members for assisting and supporting our organisation to find a resolution to our substantial problem of lack of space, particularly as it impacted on the working conditions for staff and the storage of our brochures and other resources.

Our new premises are bright and spacious and have recently been painted and carpeted – and we also have the bonus of a delightful animal mural in our large meeting room (compliments of the previous tenants).



Staff members Julie and Rona are ecstatic – they now enjoy the luxury of a kitchen to put up their feet and relax over extended morning teas and luncheons, plus comfortable chairs in the meeting room where they can take morning, noon and afternoon naps in between the refreshment breaks. *They have yet to work out when to slot any actual work into their busy new schedules ...*



# Editor's Corner

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK** will be celebrated throughout Australia from 10-16 May. As our next newsletter will not be issued until June, our organisation would like to take this early opportunity to thank our large number of volunteers throughout South Australia for their efforts in ensuring **Safer Communities Australia** remains a strong and vibrant factor in community safety.

Our volunteers include our Board members, committees and coordinators in local areas, Safety Assist members who offer their homes or businesses as safe locations should anyone require help, and our student Safety Ambassadors who we train to advocate and take responsibility for teaching their school communities about safety issues.

*Thank you, everyone, for your invaluable assistance and support. It is so very much appreciated.*

Safer Communities Australia is entering an expansion phase and ushering in a new era. We conducted a major review of our policies and procedures last year, we moved into our new accommodation in January and we are currently finalising our strategic plan. *It is an exciting time!*

Next year we will be celebrating our **30th anniversary** — and there will be much to celebrate. We will keep you up to date with plans as they progress.

We will shortly have Safety Assist streets signs in another three Council areas: **Mitcham, Marion and Burnside**. Our aim is to have a sign pointing towards every Safety Assist location in the State. While we still have a way to go with this massive project, we have made substantial progress and we thank local Councils for their support.

**Rona Sakko - Editor**



## Future Directions

AS MENTIONED in previous newsletters, our Association is in the process of developing a plan to ensure the long-term relevance and viability of Safer Communities Australia in the area of community safety, and to provide a solid foundation for the future.

We are in the final stages of completing our **Strategic Direction**

**2010 - 2015** document which will include our Vision, Mission and Values, the challenges we face, and our strategic priorities and goals. It will also provide a framework for the development of our annual **operational plans**.

*Our members will receive a copy once the document is completed.*



## A Challenge!

A MAJOR CHALLENGE for our organisation is encouraging more members at a time when we are facing an increased demand for our services, particularly our **Safety Assist** program. As you know, it is not onerous displaying our signs as an indication that reliable help is available. *Perhaps you could:*

- Ask your local service club, **Neighbourhood Watch** area or other community groups if they would like a speaker from our organisation to attend one of their meetings.
- If you have children at a local school, check if the school is involved in our **Safety Ambassador** program where we train students to promote aspects of safety to fellow students.
- You could encourage your school to include our **Safety Assist brochures** in their information packs to new parents.
- **Information brochures** could go up on community notice boards and be available at libraries and community centres.

*Simply contact our office and we can send you supplies of brochures, posters, bookmarks or other resources.*

## Walk Safely to School Day

CHILDREN ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA will be urged to walk to school on **Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 7 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. The **Pedestrian Council of Australia** will be distributing activity material and registration forms to every school to encourage participation. 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.

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 Chalke, at [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.*

# Australian Central Community Lottery

## Wow! Check out the Prizes!!



THIS LOTTERY just keeps on getting bigger and better each year!

How would you like to be the winner of a **Mitsubishi Outlander** valued at \$52,000? Perhaps a **caravan** or a \$20,000 shopping spree at **Harvey Norman** or an international **travel voucher** valued at \$20,000? Or maybe a **jet ski** or platinum return tickets to **Darwin**?

There are 165 fantastic prizes to be won in the **2010 Australian Central Community Lottery**.

Our organisation has participated in this lottery for a number of years. It is our major fundraiser and the money raised goes towards much-needed resources, particularly for our student Safety Ambassador program.

### We need your help.

Australian Central and its business and media partners are covering ALL the costs of the lottery – so, for every \$2 ticket we sell, our organisation receives \$2.

**Please support us** by purchasing a book or two of tickets or selling them to family, friends, at work or in your local community. Further details are on the address page accompanying this newsletter.



## In Case of Emergency (ICE)

WE ALL CARRY our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. However, if we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call.

Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored, but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that, when he went to the scene of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.



In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as "ICE". For more than one contact name, simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

## Safety Assist Street Signs

DO YOU LIVE in the **Mitcham, Burnside** or **Marion Council** areas?

If so, you would have received a letter from us recently asking you to nominate the most appropriate location for the erection of a Safety Assist street sign. These signs are an important indicator for anyone seeking help.



If you have not replied, please contact us as soon as possible to let us know where your sign should be located. We will soon be ready to proceed with the erection of the signs and we need to have heard back from everyone before going ahead.

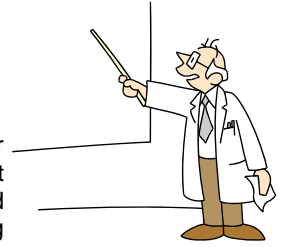
*Thank you.*

## New Safety Assist Locations

WE ARE PLEASED to welcome our new private premises members who have joined our Safety Assist program recently, plus the **Coromandel Community Centre** at Coromandel Valley.

**We extend appreciation to all new members for caring about their community's safety.**

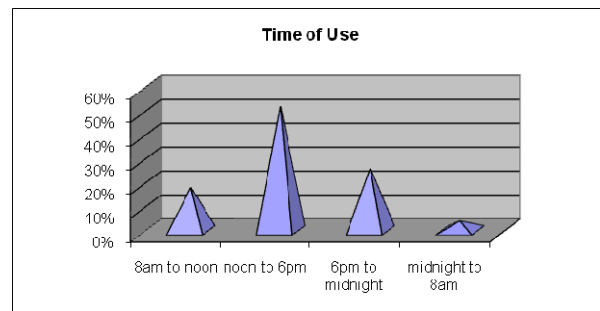
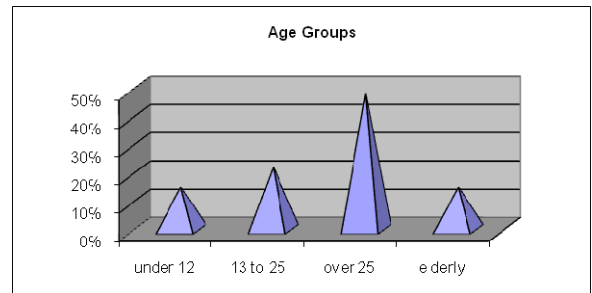
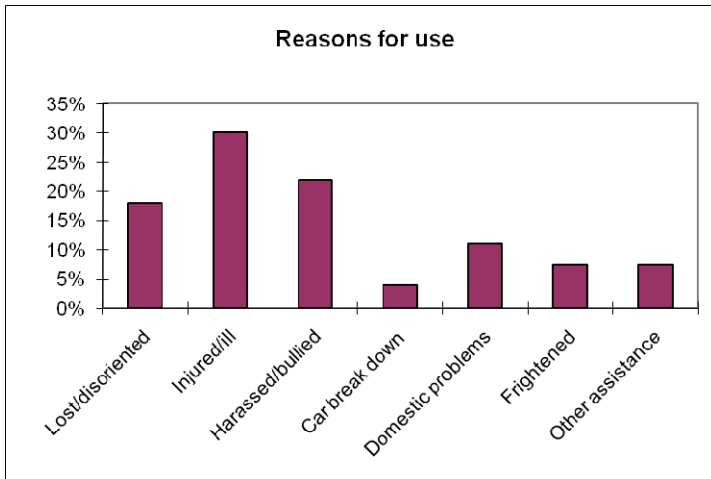
# Safety Assist Statistics



THESE CHARTS GIVE an overview of the **Safety Assist** incidents that were reported by our members in 2009. The statistics show that people of all ages are seeking help at Safety Assist locations. As with the emerging pattern of the past few years, just over half of the incidents occurred in the afternoon or early evening, and almost 50% were due to members of the community being lost, disoriented, injured or ill.

Many of our members rarely — if ever — are called on for help. *Remember ...* simply by 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.**



## Incident Reports

A *SAMPLE OF* recent incidents of **Safety Assist** use includes:

### 31/12/09 – Henley Beach

5.45pm: Lady from a local church requested help from Safety Assist people to locate an agency to help a nervous and frightened refugee woman and her son who were being harassed by neighbours.

### 18/12/09 – Edithburgh

Lady needed help with flat car battery. Assistance given. Very grateful lady and her 2 children continued on their journey back to Adelaide.

### 14/12/09 - Hahndorf

Upon hearing cries for help, Safety Assist occupant ran to very distressed hearing-impaired lady who was cradling her "hearing" dog in her arms and being attacked by 2 other dogs. Lady was bleeding profusely from bites. Taken to doctor's surgery for stitches. Report made to local Council.

### 10/12/09 — Whyalla Stuart

3.30pm: Two ladies sought help after they had inadvertently locked their keys inside their house.

**Has anyone knocked on your door seeking help?** Please let us know so we can monitor our program and its effectiveness.

## CHEAP Candles!



WE CURRENTLY HAVE a supply of several boxes of candles. For a number of years, we sold candles at Carols at the Academy. However, due to the fire risk, electronic devices are now encouraged.

We are offering these candles at only **\$20 a box of 500** (that's only 4 cents a candle!) to any group or organisation that might have some use for them.

If you are interested, please contact our association and give us a brief explanation of who would be using the candles, what they would be used for, and how it would benefit the group to be able to purchase them cheaply.



### PATRON:

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