

MEDIA RELEASE

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Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee Annual Report for 2010-2011

The NT Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee is pleased to release its Annual Report 2010-2011. The report provides an overview of the performance of the statutory functions and activities conducted by the Committee over the course of the financial year. It also provides analysis of the number and causes of child deaths in the NT for the calendar year 2010.

In 2010, there were 44 deaths of NT resident children; the average over the past five years has been 50. Of those 29 (66%) were Aboriginal and 15 (34%) were non-Aboriginal. The total number of child deaths included 24 (55%) infant deaths. The proportion of infant deaths compared to overall child deaths is consistent with national trends.

Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy (SUDI) was the cause of death for 24 NT infants in the years 2006 to 2010. A majority of these deaths were associated with known sleep-related risk factors including , maternal use of alcohol and tobacco, infant vulnerability due to prematurity and the presence of medical conditions, and co-sleeping. The Committee has identified SUDI as an issue that requires further research and examination.

Analysis performed by the Committee last year regarding intentional self-harm events indicates that the NT rates were substantially higher than other jurisdictions. The Committee commissioned the Menzies School of Health Research to conduct a study into this issue. The Committee is considering a number of recommendations arising from this report. A summary of the report's findings will be made public in early 2012.

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Annual Report is located at <http://www.childrenscommissioner.nt.gov.au/publications.html>

