

SHIFT IN TREND POSES SERIOUS RISK FOR CHILDREN

NEWS RELEASE

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Safety Nets For Life Pty Ltd

The idea that Australian families with young children should live in a house with a backyard does not reflect reality anymore.

Attitudes are changing and there is a new trend emerging.

Hundreds of families are choosing to live in units, with balconies, close to the city or the beaches. These families are seeking a different lifestyle different than the suburban house.

The problem is that living at heights has the potential to be dangerous for families with young children.

“Each year, 8000 children are taken to Hospital in NSW because of fall from positions such as balconies and open windows”. These numbers have been recently confirmed by the NSW Planning Minister Brad Hazzard .¹

For most, the outcome is serious, for some—especially the very young, it can be fatal. The majority of serious falls occur in children aged 0—4.²

Dr. Danny Cass, a pediatric surgeon at the Westmead Children’s Hospital said recently at a press conference³ that children’s bedrooms should be a safe sanctuary, but they can become death traps.

Dr. Danny Cass is well aware of the dangers heights present to children, having met several victims and their families. Dr. Cass leads a task force formed by the Westmead Children’s Hospital and which includes people from the NSW Health Department, from the NSW Planning Department and from Local Councils. The group’s objective was to conduct a study on falls and to come up with some solutions to this serious issue.

One of the ways to come up with solutions to the problem of falls, the Working Party decided to organize a sub-group involving Industry Leaders, from companies who sell products related to improve the safety for children against falls.

¹ Part 1 of media conference.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIKIBE8Ww8w>

² *The Children’s Hospital at Westmead Working Party for the Prevention of Children Falling*

from Residential Buildings Outcomes Report, February 2011

³ Part 2 of media conference.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIKIBE8Ww8w>

Amongst the Industry Leader's invited was Luciana Muratori, owner and director of Safety Nets For Life. The family-operated business sells and installs safety nets used to childproof windows, balconies, stairs or open spaces. Safety nets are a new and innovative concept in safety for children against heights.

Mrs Muratori urges families living with children 2 meters or higher off the ground to be aware of the dangers presented by heights and to look for options to childproof their dangerous openings.

"There are several products available to childproof windows and balconies. Parents must take the issue very seriously and chose the products that are better suited for their life style".

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