

Media Release

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Royal Perth Hospital sets the standard across Australia in saving our youth

Royal Perth Hospital's successful P.A.R.T.Y (Prevent Alcohol & Risk related Trauma in Youth) program is leading Australia in saving kids.

A representative from the prestigious Alfred Hospital has visited RPH this week to observe our PARTY Program with the hope of emulating the success in Melbourne.

RPH first introduced the program in 2006 and since then it has continued to be a popular program with schools.

The program brings high school students through the hospital in order to teach them the consequences of road trauma.

The PARTY program is licensed from a successful Canadian program, and involves taking teenagers through the hospital system, following the path of patients with major trauma from the Emergency Department to a rehabilitation ward.

The aim is to evaluate and improve students' attitudes towards risk-taking behaviour, and to empower them to make informed choices.

The students are shown real road crash scenarios and are taught about the effects of a road crash on the body. They then visit the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit, as well as patients in the orthopaedic trauma ward, Spinal Unit and the head injury rehabilitation ward at Shenton Park Campus.

Most trauma presentations were people in the 15-24 year age group and were predominately male.

Royal Perth Hospital's Head of Trauma Services Dr Sudhakar Rao, said the students were presented with the reality of serious injury.

"We want teenagers to see the reality of what can happen if you suffer a major trauma, particularly relating to head and spinal injuries," Dr Rao said.

"This kind of injury can be permanent and disability is often life-long so we really want to encourage teenagers to avoid high risk- taking behaviour, and never mix alcohol with driving," he said.

Research showed that teenagers who participated in the Canadian program were 75 per cent less likely to be involved in alcohol offences and 50 per cent less likely to be involved in seatbelt offences.

Perth schools continue to be very supportive of the PARTY program which is booked solid for the next two years and on the back of this success other hospitals around the country have started to take notice with the Alfred expected to introduce the program around the middle of this year.

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