



## ***Media Statement***

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Friday, 10 June 2011

### **OFF-ROAD ACCIDENTS REQUIRE HOSPITAL ADMISSION**

With the latest report of a further death due to off-road vehicles, it is a timely to remind the community of the injuries, some life-long, which can result from this of recreational activity.

Dr Sudhakar Rao, State Director of Trauma Services, said that since 1995 there have been more than 1500 people admitted to Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) because of an off-road accident. Within this 1500, there were more than 280 patients admitted with a quad bike–related injury.

“The popularity of these vehicles for recreational purposes, particularly quad bikes, has seen an increase in the number of presentations to RPH due to the significant injuries and trauma resulting from off-road accidents,” Dr Rao said.

“While the most common injuries were fractures of limbs and spine, more severe injures were also sustained, such as intracranial and spinal cord injuries, and these take longer than just a few days to recover from.”

The quad bike statistics, from the RPH Trauma Registry, are telling:

- 66% occurred off-road; 29% occurred on a farm
- 81% patients were male
- 61% patients were aged 15 to 34 years; but the age range goes from 13-years up to 74-years
- Drug and/or alcohol use were self-reported in at least 16% of cases
- 23% of cases were considered major trauma<sup>1</sup>
- The average length of stay at RPH was 7.8 days
- 22% of patients required further rehabilitation at Shenton Park Campus
- 28% were reportedly not wearing any form of safety device
- The primary causes of injury involved a fall from the vehicle or a collision such as with another quad bike, a stationary object, or a four-wheel drive vehicle.

“Whilst this form of recreation is fun, the community must remember to take the necessary precautions to prevent the accidents, and the injuries, that can and do occur. We don’t want people becoming one of our statistics!” Dr Rao said.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Major trauma is defined as patients with an Injury Severity Score (ISS) greater than 15. ISS is an anatomical scoring system used internationally to calculate the overall severity of patients’ injuries.