

Making a Difference

The Victorian Burns Prevention Partnership



Yvonne Singer
Care Coordinator
Victorian Adult Burns Service (VABS)
The Alfred

Victorian Burns Prevention Partnership History

- Tertiary prevention?
- Victorian Trauma Foundation scholarship 2003
- US model – collaboration between Fire Departments and Burns Units
- 2004 - Replicated in Victoria
- Snowballed from there



Victorian Burns Prevention Partnership

- Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Royal Childrens Hospital (RCH)
- Victorian Adult Burns Service (VABS)

Aims

- Exchange/share information and resources
- Pursue opportunities that raise community awareness of burn injuries/fatalities
- Seek funding for research initiatives
- Seek funding for prevention programs initiatives

Outcomes

- Burn unit visits to MFB training campus
- MFB visits to VABS
- Burn unit staff & patients speaking at Juvenile Justice Education program
- Fordstar presentations regarding burns management to MFB & CFA

Outcomes

- Royal Melbourne Show
- Generic first aid guidelines
- Injury Prevention Week activities:
 - first aid guidelines for the food service industry
 - burns & the elderly

Networking

- Doors opened..
- New opportunities
- Government and Private Industry

The future...

- Research into drugs, alcohol, fire and burn injuries
- Immediate response to major fire incidents
- Awareness campaign regarding the safe uses of flammable substances



Lessons learnt

- Walking around the elephant
 - John Sax parable
 - 6 blind men & the elephant
 - collaboration
- Many voices echo louder than one
- Duplication?

Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can
change the world. Indeed, it is the only
thing that ever has

Margaret Mead



Thank you