

# Māori Health Review

Making Education Easy

From Issue 36:3 - 2012

## Child and adolescent injury report card: New Zealand 2009

**Authors:** Bland V et al

**Summary:** This paper reports on the status of New Zealand's child and adolescent unintentional injury prevention. The study authors applied the methodology of the European Child Safety Alliance Child Safety Report Card (completed for 24 countries in Europe, generating a standardised assessment of child and adolescent injury prevention) to New Zealand's injury prevention position, in relation to 12 injury topics covered by 102 questions. The results were considered by a panel of child and adolescent injury experts, who agreed on scores for each item. The overall score was 33/60. Deficiencies were identified across many injury prevention topics including passenger and driver safety, pedestrian safety, water safety, falls, poisoning, burns/scalds and choking/strangulation. The study notes that New Zealand lacks a robust home visiting programme and injury prevention strategies with specific child and adolescent targets.

**Comment:** I agree with the comments about the lack of robust programmes to visit homes as many child health assessments (e.g. Plunket, B4SC) are now undertaken in clinics. Importantly, such programmes should be developed in ways that are informative and not punitive.

**Reference:** *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2011;47(11):783-7.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1440-1754.2011.02026.x/abstract>

## Independent commentary by Dr Matire Harwood

*Dr Matire Harwood (Ngapuhi) has worked in Hauora Māori, primary health and rehabilitation settings as clinician and researcher since graduating from Auckland Medical School in 1994. She also holds positions on a number of boards, committees and advisory groups including the Health Research Council. Matire lives in Auckland with her whānau including partner Haunui and two young children Te Rangiura and Waimarie.*

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