



MEDIA RELEASE

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MAY, THE KILLER MONTH FOR ASTHMA ATTACKS AMONG CHILDREN

National research shows that hospital admissions and the incidence of asthma attacks among children increase during the month of May every year and the Asthma Foundation with the help of two paediatric experts are joining forces to provide a free information session that is open to the community to learn more about childhood asthma and the best ways to manage children's health.

The information session, 'Ask the Experts' will take place on Tuesday 6th May from 7:30pm-9:00pm at Technology Park in Bentley, and will provide the opportunity for parents and individuals to ask questions about childhood asthma and preventative techniques.

The Asthma Foundation's Community Education Manager, Deb Wilkes says "This year two highly respected paediatric experts Dr Wilson, a consultant Paediatrician at PMH and Associate Professor Loh, the Head of Immunology and Allergy at PMH and Pathwest, will be on hand to discuss topics including children growing out of asthma, the benefits and risks of using steroids for asthma management, asthma and hay fever and asthma and allergies".

Asthma affects 1 in 6 children under the age of 15 and is the leading cause of hospital admissions in children under 12.

"A large variety of issues are raised at the Foundation's 'Ask the Experts' information sessions and the experts have a range of experience in managing children's asthma. This is an ideal opportunity for people who have children with asthma to jump the long specialists' queues and not have to pay a cent for this critical medical advice," she said.

Dr Wilson will concentrate on presenting about asthma brought on by non-allergic triggers such as exercise, emotions and air temperature; while Professor Loh will be speak on asthma triggered by allergies such as dust mite, pollen & animals.

This free 'Ask the Expert' Information session has come at a crucial time amidst recent findings from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that show that deaths due to asthma are on the increase.

The alarming news from the recent statistics indicates a 26% jump from 318 registered deaths in 2005 to 402 deaths in 2006. With 1 in 9 adults suffering from asthma, the statistics also point to almost double the mortality rate in females than in males. Asthma was also identified as an associated or underlying cause of 1,255 deaths registered in 2006.

Bookings for the 'Ask the Expert' session can be made by calling Nyree at the Asthma Foundation on (08) 9289 3643. For more information about the Asthma Foundation or to make a donation please visit the website www.asthmawa.org.au.

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