

## Free fire alarms for the elderly

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Cr Robert Furolo MP, is reminding frail-aged residents and residents with a disability to get involved in Project SABRE (Smoke Alarm Battery Replacement for the Elderly).

"Tragically, statistics reveal that the elderly (65 years and over) represents over 31% of all fire victims, and the risk of fire fatality to people 65 years and over is nearly three times greater than for other persons," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

"That's why Council and the Fire and rescue NSW have once again joined forces to participate in project SABRE – a program designed to supply smoke detectors and replace batteries for frail aged residents or people with a disability who do not have an operating smoke detector.

"And since the program began in 2003, we've successfully installed more than 1,000 smoke alarms and replaced over 680 batteries in the homes of people with a disability and the frail-aged.

"This program is so important, because if you have a working smoke alarm you are reducing the fire risk to yourself and your family.

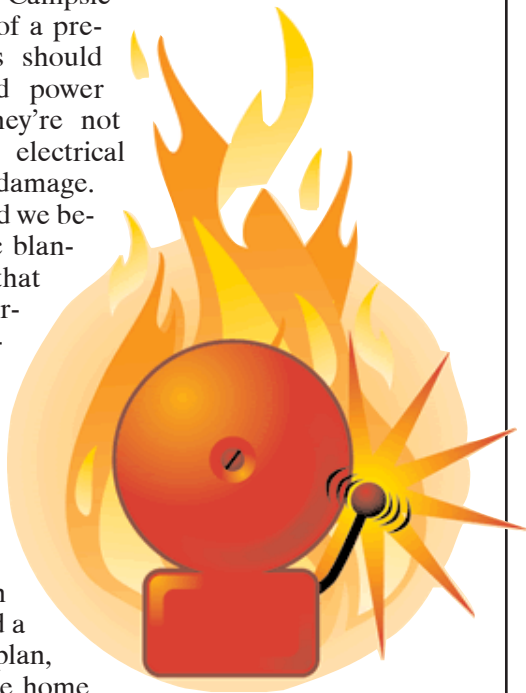
"If a fire breaks out while you're distracted or asleep, a working smoke alarm will alert you to the danger and help avoid a possible devastating situation.

"Smoke alarms are easy to install and forget about, but we should test our smoke alarms and replace the batteries at least once a year.

"Smoke alarms are compulsory and must be installed in residential buildings on or near the ceiling of every storey - those that do not have a smoke alarm installed face fines of up to \$550 under NSW legislation.

"As well as installing a working fire alarm, it's important to take precautions around the house to avoid fires," Mayor Robert Furolo said. Station Commander Glen Whitehead from Campsie Fire Station said as part of a pre-winter routine, residents should check power points and power boards to make sure they're not overloaded and inspect electrical cords and equipment for damage. "As winter approaches and we begin using heaters, electric blankets and other products that keep us warm, it's important to make sure you examine the cords and connections. If they are damaged, replace the cord or the product immediately."

Station Commander Whitehead said these simple steps, coupled with working smoke alarms and a rehearsed home escape plan, would help ensure that the home was safer from fire hazards.



### Smoke Alarm Safety Tips

- ✓ It is important that smoke alarms are tested once a month to ensure that the battery and the alarm sounder are working.
- ✓ It is also important to clean your smoke alarm regularly, using a vacuum cleaner. This will remove any particles that may hinder its performance.
- ✓ Batteries must be replaced once a year. If your smoke alarm uses a lithium battery, it will not need replacing annually as the battery is inbuilt into the alarm - the entire unit will need replacing every 10 years.
- ✓ All types of smoke alarms should be removed, replaced and disposed of every 10 years.
- ✓ Ionisation smoke alarms in quantities of less than 10 may be disposed of with your household rubbish. If you have more than 10 ionisation smoke alarms, they must be treated as radioactive waste and disposed of in accordance with local council regulations.
- ✓ Photo-electric smoke alarms in any quantity may be disposed of with your household rubbish.

"Remember: In an Emergency, Call Triple Zero (000)"

Firefighters from Fire and Rescue NSW install the smoke detectors and replace batteries on a voluntary basis. For further information or to be part of Project SABRE, please contact Canterbury City Council on 9789 9300.



Left to right:  
Chris Rehn CEO  
RIDBC, Senator  
Jan McLucas,  
Mother Shamila  
Kahn with baby  
Zakariyah, Julie  
Owens MP

## Milestone for deaf and blind children

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, and Member for Parramatta, Julie Owens, today visited the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in North Rocks, Sydney, to help celebrate the enrolment of their 1000th child in their core education and therapy services.

The visit also coincided with the commencement of the Gillard Government's new \$147 million Better Start for Children with Disability initiative.

Meeting with staff, parents and children at the Institute today, Ms Owens said the Better Start initiative will be a big help for local families of children with disability.

"We know that early intervention can make a big difference to the quality of life for a child with disability but one of the biggest hurdles for families is the high cost of early these services."

"Better Start is making these services more accessible to local families by providing up to \$12,000 for early intervention services and therapies they can choose themselves," Ms Owens said. Children who have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and moderate or severe vision or hearing impairments including deaf-blindness, under the age of six years, will be eligible. Senator McLucas said eligible children will be able to access a range of early inter-

vention service providers, including speech pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, orthoptists and psychologists. Registrations for Better Start opened to families on 1 July. "Families can register through Carers Australia over the phone or in person at the Better Start Registration and Information Service based in every capital city and in regional centres across Australia," she said. Ms Owens said "I really encourage local parents of young children with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and vision or hearing impairments to register for Better Start."

During the visit to the RIDBC, Senator McLucas met Zakariyah Whatham, the 1000th child enrolled in their core education and

"Congratulations to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children on reaching this special milestone. I look forward to continuing to work with their team to improve the lives of children with disability."

RIDBC Chief Executive, Chris Rehn, said "We know that intensive early intervention greatly maximises the outcomes for children with a disability and we are delighted the Government is investing in such a critical area," said Mr Rehn.

For more information on Better Start, contact Carers Australia by phoning 1800 242 636 or the Office of Julie Owens MP on (02) 9689 1455.

## New Direction for cancer research in NSW

A breakthrough study of cellular immortalisation - the ability of cancer cells to divide an unlimited number of times - has helped Professor Roger Reddel from the Children's Medical Research Institute win the 2011 Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher. At a gala event in Sydney last week, the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, presented Professor Reddel with the award and \$50,000 in prize money to further his research. The 2011 Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research honour the innovation and passion of the state's most dynamic cancer researchers.

"Professor Reddel's

ground-breaking study of cellular immortalisation holds so much potential for improving the lives of people with cancer," Mrs Skinner said. "By understanding the unique behaviour of cancerous cells, we can develop tests to help detect cancer earlier and drugs to help treat the disease more effectively," she said.

"Professor Reddel and his team have laid a foundation for researchers around the world to deliver some really exciting developments in cancer control - his work epitomises the NSW Government's commitment to medical research." Professor Reddel joins an illustrious list of previous winners, including Professors Bruce Armstrong, Simon Chapman

and Robyn Ward. Dr Alexander Swarbrick, from the Garvan Institute, was named the 2011 Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow for his work examining inhibitors to tumour-suppressing genes in neuroblastoma and breast cancer.

The award for Outstanding Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials was presented to the Sydney South West Palliative Care Service, led by Associate Professor Meera Agar, who is leading the world's largest study on delirium and its effect on advanced cancer patients. Dr David Chang, from the Garvan Institute, was recognised as the Outstanding Cancer Research Scholar for his work studying the biological markers of pancreatic cancer.