



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Driveway accidents: prevention better than cure**

**One child, often a toddler, is run over in the driveway of their home every week in Australia.**

Now the warm weather is here and children are on school holidays, they are spending more time playing outdoors – in the yard and around driveways and streets.

According to South Western Sydney Area Health Service public health physician Dr Leon Heron, small children can be impossible to see from inside a car, especially if they are immediately behind it.

“The rear vision of a number of popular cars has been tested with results showing there is not a ‘blind spot’ but in fact a large ‘blind space’ behind most cars.

“Even if your car has parking sensors or a video camera fitted, you may not notice a small child until it’s too late to stop,” Dr Heron said.

Dr Heron said many driveway accidents could be prevented and suggests drivers and parents keep the following potentially lifesaving tips in mind:

- Always supervise your child whenever a vehicle is to be moved – hold their hands or hold them close to keep them safe
- If you’re the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle with you while you move it
- A driveway is actually a small road – discourage children from using it as a play area
- Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for a child, possibly using security doors, fencing or gates.

**Issued by South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs, contact Maree Spry 9828 6848 for further information.**