

For immediate release

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Newly released WA Falls Report shows falls cost WA \$311 million

The latest Western Australian Falls Report has been released, showing a 31% increase in falls-related fatalities between 2019 and 2020, and a further 35% increase in falls-related hospitalisations among individuals aged 65 years and over between 2017 and 2021.

Injury Matters General Manager – Injury Prevention, Samantha Menezes said, “The fifth edition of the WA Falls Report highlights the growing concern for the welfare of our community and the increasing burden on our healthcare system,”

In 2021, falls-related hospitalisations cost an estimated \$311 million.

In addition to the rising total of falls-related injuries, the concerning frequency of falls among our older adult population cannot be ignored.

“The number of falls-related hospitalisations among people aged 65 and over has increased by 35% since 2017. With an ageing WA population, this will cause significant challenges to our health system well into the future unless we do something now,” Ms Menezes said.

Solutions suggested include increased supports for high-risk populations, like subsidised strength and balance classes for older adults, legislative action to reduce alcohol-related harms, and enhanced falls referral pathways in WA hospitals.

“We need to support our healthcare staff to be able to care for the increased amount of people presenting to medical professionals post-fall or when at risk of falling, and we need it now,” said Ms Menezes.

Ms Menezes highlighted the success of programs like Stay On Your Feet®, which focus on simple steps older adults can take in their lives to remain safe and independent for longer.

Read the full 2023 WA Falls Report at <https://www.injurymatters.org.au/2023-wa-falls-report>

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