

# Wiimali Chronicle

Volume 11, Edition 3.

Sunny, High 28, Low 22

## Diabetes emergencies in children rise

New figures show a further increase in the number of emergency admissions to hospital of children with diabetes. In 2009, 1800 children were admitted to hospital in NSW compared to 1300 in 2005, an increase of 27%. Diabetes Australia claim this trend is due to cutbacks in healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. They also point out that while these are NSW figures, this is a Australia wide trend.. Peter Brown of Diabetes Australia has called for more resources to be devoted to diabetes nurses and other community services for children with diabetes. Wiimali resident



Sharon McKnight echoed this call. 'Ever since my daughter Imogene was diagnosed with diabetes and rushed to hospital I have realized what a huge impact this condition has on the whole family. Children have special needs, they are not just small versions of adults. I know the government does its best, but it needs to do

better for children and that means more resources. Professor Ross Jackson from the Institute of Child Health admitted that a shortage of diabetes nurses and other community programs might have something to do with the 27% increase in emergency admissions. However he also said there were other complex factors at work including a greater number of diagnoses being made due to greater awareness of the problem. 'We haven't got enough nurses with the expertise to deliver these crucial services he said. Meanwhile, NSW Health has set up a working group to look at the needs of children and young people with diabetes.

## Big Fine over Workplace Death

A Wiimali concrete company has been fined nearly \$100,000 after one of its employees was killed on the job. Wiimali Quickmix Concrete was charged by WorkCover for breaching the Occupational Health and Safety Act after an incident in November

2009. Employee Steven Mark Childs was cleaning one of the company's trucks when his head was crushed between the truck's concrete agitator and the side of the hopper, killing him. The Industrial Relations Court heard the only training the employees received in

terms of cleaning the trucks was through a "buddy system". The company has since fitted all its trucks with a guard between the agitator and the hopper, changed how it cleans its trucks and started a formal training regime.