



For Immediate Release
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Hamidur's TRAGIC, PREVENTABLE DEATH

AAI called for a Coronial Inquest into the death of 13 yr old Hamidur Rahman who died from severe peanut allergy whilst on school camp in March 2002. The coroner is due to hand down findings on 9th September 2005. As a result of this inquest and other preventable fatalities due to anaphylaxis, AAI is making the following recommendations to governments around Australia:

- Legislation (compulsory education) of all school staff on recognition and emergency treatment of severe allergy, to create safer school and childcare environments for all children. Active implementation of existing Department of Health and Department of Education and Training Guidelines for the Management of Anaphylaxis in Schools and production and implementation of similar guidelines for childcare facilities.
- Call for a National Register of Anaphylaxis Deaths from all causes similar to the UK based registry which has been operating since 1992
- Expansion and permanent funding of nurse educator programs (currently in NSW school and childcare environments) to continue crucial education on severe allergy management and EpiPen administration.
- Funding for existing and desperately needed community based patient support organisation.

"Anaphylaxis is a community concern and anyone caring for children has a duty of care to keep them safe. It is a manageable condition if people are educated," stated Maria Said, President of Anaphylaxis Australia. "Education is crucial for the safe management of children in school and childcare. There is no cure for food allergy; correct diagnosis, education on everyday management, including prevention and emergency treatment could have saved the life of the 13 year old," she concluded.

Severe food allergy has increased over recent years with at least 1 in every 100 children being allergic to peanuts. Eight foods including peanuts, tree nuts, egg, milk, soy, fish, shellfish and sesame seeds account for 90% of food anaphylactic reactions in Australia. Children usually out-grow allergies by school age but those allergic to peanut, tree nuts and sesame usually have them for life. Numbers of children diagnosed with severe allergy in school and childcare have increased dramatically in the last 6 yr period. We need to have a structured system in place to help reduce risk to these children whilst empowering them to care for themselves as they get older.

For more information on food allergy please visit AAI's website www.allergyfacts.org.au

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Anaphylaxis Australia Inc (Formerly FACTS) is a non-profit, Australian charity, which was formed in 1993. AAI's mission is to increase awareness of anaphylaxis through education, research and support. The organization works with health and teaching professionals, members of the food industry and all who are touched by life threatening allergy so that, together, we can improve the quality of life of allergic consumers nationally. For more information visit the AAI website: www.allergyfacts.org.au or call 1300 728 000