



## Media Alert

### Recfishwest helps prevent fishing tragedies in Western Australia

Fishing related deaths in Western Australia are a major concern to the community.

In response to the increasing number of rock and boat fishing fatalities last year, the Royal Life Saving Society (WA Branch) and SunSmart have joined Recfishwest in producing the *SunSmart FishSmart Fishing Safety* brochure.

A media event is being arranged to announce the release of the new Fishing Safety brochure.

**When: 9.00 am Thursday 19 January 2006**

**Where: Hillarys Boat Ramp  
Hillarys Boat Harbour  
Hillarys**

*There will be ample photo opportunities for media with Mark Pagano, Principal Policy Officer with Recfishwest, Francene Hazell from Royal Life Saving Society (WA Branch) representing the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust.*

Recfishwest represents the interests of the 643 000 recreational fishers in Western Australia and through various programs Recfishwest spreads the fishing safely message. The original Fishing Safety brochure was revamped to provide a more succinct and easily read pamphlet for distribution to all participants of Recfishwest fishing clinics. The new brochure will also be distributed to fishing tackle stores throughout Western Australia.

The brochure contains many common sense ideas which could prevent an accident or even save your life or the life of your fishing companion. The Western Australian coastline and boating conditions can be extremely dangerous and responsible planning and assessment of conditions is vital for the safety of all fishers.

Wayne Drew, from the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust lost his 15 year old son to a rock fishing accident. Mr Drew and the Trust give their full support to the brochure and any other recreational fishing safety initiatives. Mr Drew reminds recreational fishers "Don't risk your life for a fish; it's not worth your life. If something happens to you, it also affects your family, loved ones and the community."

Following the launch, a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders and agencies involved with fishing safety and education will discuss new strategies to reduce the incidence of fishing related deaths in Western Australia.

**ENDS**

#### **Media Contact**

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*Recfishwest is sponsored by Healthway. Recfishwest encourages responsible, SunSmart behaviour at all times.*