

## Kidsafe (Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia)

**1** Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size, etc.

Kidsafe is the principle child injury prevention organization in Australia. Each State and Territory has a local Kidsafe Association. These eight Associations collectively own the national Foundation (The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia).

*Our vision:* A safer world for kids

*Our Mission:* To lead the action to minimize the unacceptable risks and consequences of unintentional injury to children in our adult-focused world

Kidsafe has been in existence for about 27 years. During this time the number of unintentional child injury deaths in Australia has reduced from over 700 pa to about 240 pa. However, we know that at least 80 additional lives could be saved each year if we could reach all Australian families regularly with the messages and interventions already in place.

Kidsafe is involved in a variety of activities, the mix of work varying between states and territories, depending on the historical funding available to each location. Our work includes

- A number of ongoing support services for families (e.g. infant restraint loan service, car restraint checks, community talks program, playground advisory unit, mobile restraint services, etc)
- Safety shop fronts and safety demonstration houses
- A wide variety of specific safety programs, usually involving direct interaction with families through third party partners such as hospitals, schools, community services, etc
- Advocacy to government and involvement in the development and implementation of standards, laws and regulations support safer environments for children.
- Media programs supporting our other work, including TV, print media and radio

Kidsafe's work and involvement varies around Australia;

- In Melbourne, the second largest city, we do not have a Safety Centre or direct access to families and work out of the Deakin University, with two part-time staff. This is the project-focused version of our Kidsafe model of injury prevention
- In Canberra we have an extensive, integrated set of services and seven staff that provide the most extensive set of services to families and the community and an extensive profile in a regional community of about 400,000 people
- Sydney, the largest Australian city is serviced through a Kidsafe Centre in the largest Children's hospital. This illustrates the Safety House model used in some states.

**2** Describe **in detail** the work or project an intern will do, **please be as specific as possible**.

The intern will experience three different examples, of injury prevention, health promotion organizations at work in the community.

- In Melbourne the experience will cover involvement in specific injury prevention programs delivered through third party community organizations and government agencies. Located within one of the major universities, the Kidsafe team will involve the intern in specific projects – the actual projects will depend on the work program (and funding opportunities) at the time of the visit, as well as the intern’s background and interests.
- In Canberra the intern will participate in the work of the shop front, Loan Service, community talks program and the various activities associated with these services. As the Australian capital city and regional centre, in Canberra we will also share experiences with other community organizations and charities to provide a good background in the variety of work undertaken by the non-profit community sector. We will demonstrate how Kidsafe works with the political system as advocate for safety, funding bodies (both government and private sector), other community organizations and the community. The involvement in project work here will be related directly to the range of services and support activities we have in place.
- A brief stop-over in Sydney on the way back to the USA will provide a third example of how we work. This Kidsafe location is centered on a Safety House in the grounds of the major Children’s Hospital , a Playground Advisory unit that provides ongoing advice and services both Government and the community, and a Road Safety program that is delivered through third party organizations (schools, local councils, etc)

The actual projects and experiences organized for the intern will be finalized with the intern once we know the background of the successful candidate. Our aim is to provide as broad a range of experience as we can, within the scope of the intern’s background and interest.

This helps the intern to settle in and gain the most from the experience, whilst helping ensure that Kidsafe can also obtain some real benefit from the support provided by the intern.

Because we are a charity that is located strongly within the community (focused on parents of young children and grandparents) Kidsafe will also provide the intern with a strong sense of what Australia is like.

### 3 Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern

To some extent we can mould the work and experience here to the back ground of the intern. The main attributes we are seeking are

- Good interpersonal skills, both verbal and written. A major focus of our work is always associated with the development and dissemination of effective, simple messages to families through a wide range of long-term community & media partnerships.
- An interest in the community and in helping people
- Good organization skills to enable the intern to participate quickly in a variety of project and tasks
- Willingness to learn, both about the process and projects and about the local community itself

Start and end dates for the internship are flexible.

The expected working schedule for this internship will vary with the location and specific projects. Our shop fronts are open from 9.00am to 3.00pm, but specific meetings and projects are likely to involve work outside these times. Lunch breaks are usually 30 to 45 minutes.

**\$4000 stipend provided & home stays include food & lodging. Travel within Australia between sites provided.**