



Burns campaign

Andy Leopardi and Member of Swan Steve Irons launch a burns first aid campaign at the Victoria Park Fire Station. Photograph - Matt Devlin.

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Poor burns first aid gets a boost

- First aid

Federal Member for Swan deputy chair of the house of representatives health and ageing committee Steve Irons launched an electorate-wide first aid in burns campaign at Kensington fire station last Friday.

Large fridge magnets were distributed to every household in the electorate with the official Australian and New Zealand Burns Association advice on how to stop the burning process.

Mr Irons started the campaign after findings of a recent health and ageing committee inquiry into burns, which found burns injuries were common but many were not aware of the basic first aid steps that needed to be taken to stop the burning process.

“Australian data shows more than 46,000 people were hospitalised as a result of a burn related injury in the five years from 1999 to 2004,” he said.

“Younger and older people are particularly over-represented in these statistics.

“The committee found that burns are often more

severe due to poor first aid response in the community or delayed referral to a burns centre.

“I want to make sure that everyone is aware of Australian and New Zealand Burns Association first aid procedures for dealing with burns so we can help reduce the severity of these common household injuries.

“We are fortunate in Perth to have a world class burns unit at the Royal Perth Hospital led by Professor Fiona Wood and Perth played a central part in the burns inquiry.

“I hope through this campaign Perth can also become a leader in burns first aid because how burns injuries are managed in the first few hours makes a huge difference to the ultimate scale of the injury and treatment needed.

“It’s an exercise for the community and even if it saves one person from extensive burns injuries it’s a program worth doing.” Mr Irons said he had started the process of distribution and would aim to get to every household in the Swan electorate.

