

Australians grow up surrounded by fire safety messages in school and in the media. As a result, there is strong community awareness about the risks of leaving heaters on and unattended, not leaving keys in deadlocks, and the importance of having smoke alarms installed. However, there is always room for improvement.

### FAST FACTS

Many Australians (72 per cent) say they are confident they would know the best response to a fire that started in their home (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

More than two-thirds of Australians (72 per cent) say it would probably be sensible for their home to have more equipment for dealing with a fire, such as fire blankets or extinguishers (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

Half of Australians (44 per cent) say they leave the keys in deadlocked doors and windows for easy escape in the event of fire (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

Nine per cent of parents report that they have experienced a fire-related incident involving children (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

### PLANNING TO PREVENT FIRE

- Half of Australians (47 per cent) say they have a home fire escape plan in place, whereby all family members know what to do in the event of a fire at home that cannot be extinguished (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- Two-thirds of Australians (62 per cent) say the gutters of their home are regularly cleaned or protected against the build-up of leaves and other debris (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- One in eight Australians (12 per cent) admits that given the current condition of their home, they believe it is a fire risk (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

### KNOWING WHAT TO DO IN A FIRE

- One in seven people (15 per cent) says they would not be confident they would know what to do if they were confronted by a house full of smoke (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- One third of Australians (32 per cent) are not confident they would know how to use a fire extinguisher (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- Of the Australians who do not have any fire safety equipment at home, one in 10 people (15 per cent) admits they would not be confident they would know the best response to a fire that started in their home; and one-third (37 per cent) say they do not have a fire escape plan in place, whereby all family members know what to do in the event of a fire (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

### FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- While most Australians have some form of fire safety equipment in the home, of those who have experienced a home fire, one in 20 (five per cent) still do not own a fire extinguisher, fire blanket or smoke alarm (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- Ownership of fire extinguishers is higher among people who have experienced a fire than those who have not (37 per cent versus 29 per cent). However, propensity to own a fire blanket is greater (27 per cent for fire victims and 21 per cent for others) (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- Of those who have smoke alarms, 80 per cent say they are regularly checked to make sure they are working (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)
- Almost all owners of fire extinguishers are likely to know where it is located (98 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Firescreen Index)

# Home Fires

Continued

## HOME FIRE FACTS

- Most Australians (75 per cent) say they are always well-informed about any fire restrictions relevant to their local area (source: *2007 AAMI Firescreen Index*)
- Of those who have experienced a home fire, eight per cent say it occurred in the past year; and 45 per cent say it was in the last five years. One in 20 people (six per cent) says their home fire destroyed the entire house (source: *2007 AAMI Firescreen Index*)
- Almost six in 10 (53 per cent) say the fire started in the kitchen, eight per cent in the bedroom and 10 per cent in the lounge/dining room (source: *2007 AAMI Firescreen Index*)
- Around half (44 per cent) say the fire was caused by cooking and 12 per cent say it was caused by faulty electrical appliances/fittings (source: *2007 AAMI Firescreen Index*)

## HOME FIRE CLAIMS

- The worst time for fires is between 4pm – 8pm (source: *2006 AAMI claims data*)
- Sunday is the worst day of the week for fires (source: *2006 AAMI claims data*)
- South Australia is the worst state for home fires (source: *2006 AAMI claims data*)

