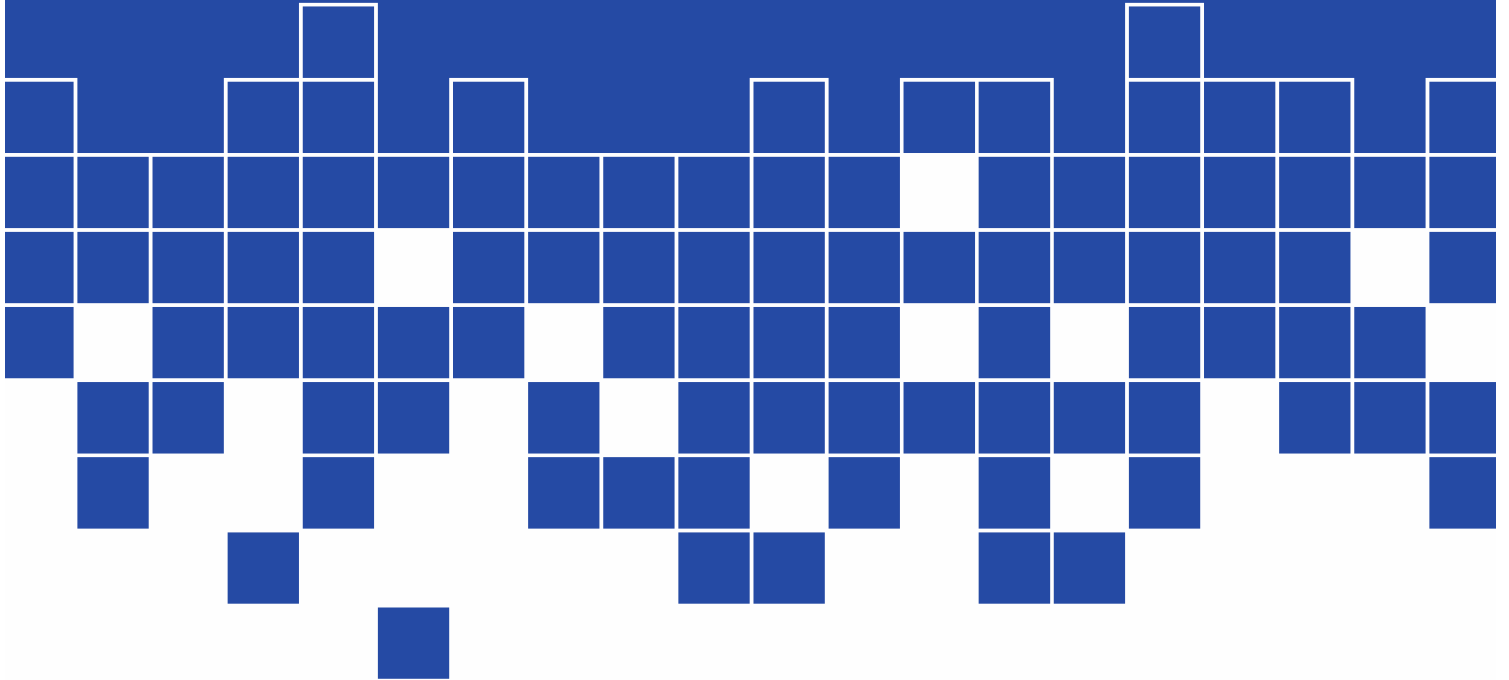




UniSA

Ehrenberg-Bass
Institute for Marketing Science



Dog attacks in South Australia: Findings from Omnibus Research

Prepared for:

Ben Luxton
Communications Officer
Dog and Cat Management Board
Department for Environment and Heritage

Prepared by:

Nicole Hartnett
Senior Research Associate
Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science
T. (08) 8302 9166 M. 0401 267 762

Date of issue:

11 March 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings on dog attacks, based on data collected by the Harrison's Health Omnibus survey. The questionnaire was designed and data analysed by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute (the Institute) on behalf of the Dog and Cat Management Board.

The objective of this research was to explore and *quantify* the incidence and nature of dog attacks. This research builds upon a small pilot study conducted by the Institute in mid-2010. From this pilot, the Institute developed a short 10-question survey specifically for Harrison's Health Omnibus, in collaboration with the Board, with data being collected in late-2010. A total of 3,046 respondents were approached by the Omnibus, of which 108 respondents were eligible to participate in the dog attack component of the survey as they claimed they, or their children, had been attacked by a dog in the past three years. Key findings related to the project objective are detailed briefly below.

The attacks

- The incidence of dog attack victims in South Australia in the past three years was 3.5%, of which 2.8% were the respondents themselves, and 0.7% was their child.
- The most common attacks occurred when victims were out walking (21%), or playing / patting the dog that attacked them (18%).
- A third of attacks occurred in regional South Australia. Of the metropolitan areas, the "Inner-Southern Sector" had the most attacks (18%). This area spans the City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion and City of Mitcham. Postcodes 5051 and 5113 had the highest number of attacks of all postcodes, with five attacks apiece.
- Legs were the most commonly injured body part (45%) and punctures were the most common injury (44%).
- The majority of injuries were treated at home – about two in every three. After this, 19% were treated by a GP, 11% were treated at an Emergency Department (ED) and then sent home, and 1% were treated at an ED and then admitted to hospital.
- Roughly one in every five attacks was reported to the local council. The severity of the injury sustained did not have much bearing on whether the attack was reported or not.

The victims

- Slightly more males were attacked than females (54% v 46%). However, for children, attacks were skewed to females.
- Roughly three in every 10 victims were a child aged less than 14 years. However, the single largest age bracket of victims was people aged 45 to 54 years (20%).

The dogs

- Roughly four in every 10 attacks were by strange dogs and approximately another four in 10 attacks were by dogs owned by family, friends, or neighbours.
- Consistently, most attacks occurred either in the street or a public park, or in another person's house.
- Working dogs (or Working X's) and Terriers (or Terrier X's) were the most common ANKC groupings responsible for attacks. Particularly German Shepherd Dogs (n=11, 10%), Australian Cattle Dogs (n=7, 6%) and Jack Russell Terriers (n=7, 6%) were the most common specific breeds.

Comparing to the pilot study, most of the results were consistent across the two methods. Key differences between the two studies were: 1) The incidence of dog attacks was higher in the Omnibus (3.5%) than the pilot (2.3%); 2) the incidence of regional attacks was higher in the Omnibus, and; 3) fewer attacks were reported to local councils in the Omnibus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

INTRODUCTION & METHOD 3

THE ATTACKS 4

THE VICTIMS 8

THE DOGS 9

COMPARING TO THE PILOT RESEARCH 11

APPENDIX I: OMNIBUS SURVEY 12

APPENDIX II: ATTACK POSTCODES 14

APPENDIX III: VERBATIM RESPONSES 16

REFERENCES 19

INTRODUCTION & METHOD

This report details key findings from analysis conducted by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute (the Institute), University of South Australia, on behalf of the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board).

This report is an extension of previous research conducted by the Institute for the Board, documented in the report *“Market research report on dog ownership and dog attacks in South Australia”*, issued June 22, 2010. The objective of this prior research related to dog attacks specifically and was undertaken to provide preliminary insight into the incidence of dog attacks in South Australia and the circumstances surrounding these attacks.

The dog attacks component of the June 2010 report was cautioned as largely qualitative (or descriptive) because only 25 dog attack victims were captured in the sample of 759 randomly recruited South Australian residents interviewed via a telephone survey. Consequently, generalisable and quantifiable patterns could not be established. Therefore, the results were used as a pilot to design 10 critical questions to enter into the Harrison’s Health Omnibus survey (Spring 2010), which accesses a large sample cost-effectively, to further explore and quantify the incidence and nature of dog attacks. A copy of the Omnibus questionnaire is attached as Appendix I of this report.

The Harrison’s Omnibus collected a total 3,046 respondents across metropolitan and regional South Australia, and the dataset was delivered to the Institute for analysis.

The body of this report is divided into three main sections: 1) The attacks: gives details on the incidence, situation, location, severity and reporting of attacks; 2) The victims: gives demographic breakdowns of who was attacked; and, 3) The dogs: provides details about the relationship to the owners and the breeds of dogs. To conclude, there is a section that compares the Omnibus findings to the pilot research.

THE ATTACKS

What is the incidence of dog attacks?

The Omnibus collected respondents that had been attacked themselves or respondents whose children had been attacked. As with the June 2010 research, it was stipulated the attack must have occurred in the last three years to guard against the inaccuracy of longer-term memory. A total of 108 respondents (or their children) were attacked in the past three years, representing 3.7% of the sample – see Table 1 below for the breakdown.

Table 1: The incidence of dog attacks in South Australia

	n	%*
I was attacked	85	2.8
My child was attacked	23	0.8
Total	108	3.5

*Base = the total sample (n= 3,046)

Note: Three other respondents claimed to have been attacked in the past three years, however, the attacks occurred outside the state – in Queensland, Northern Territory and New Zealand. As the Board’s concern is attacks in South Australia, these respondents were excluded from the analysis.

How do the attacks come about?

This was a newly designed question for the Omnibus survey where respondents were asked to describe what they were doing at the time of the attack. Interviewers noted down the respondent’s description in brief, consequently the verbatim responses were not overly descriptive. The verbatim responses were coded into groups, and are reported in Table 2, however, a full list of the verbatim responses are attached as in Appendix III.

The vast majority of statements imply that the victims were not remotely to blame, somewhat to the effect of “it just attacked me”. Only two respondents admitted to startling the dog that attacked and another two were psychically disciplining the dog when it attacked.

The most common contexts for an attack were walking, either in a park or down the street, or patting and playing with the dog that attacked. Collectively these represented two in five attacks. Entering a premise was the third highest category. It was a subjective category added by the coder because there was a consistent theme where people would describe entering a dog’s territory – i.e., “Putting a neighbour’s bin into their backyard” or “Walked into [my] boyfriend’s house and [the] dog just attacked”. In which case, the dog was presumably being protective, rather than a completely random attack.

Table 2: What respondents were doing at the time of the attack

	n	%
Walking – By myself or with others	23	21
Patting / playing with the dog	19	18
Entering a premise (i.e., the dog’s territory)	14	13
Walking – My dog(s)	8	7
Playing with others (e.g., in a playground, sport, etc.)	6	6
Talking to another person / people	5	5
Riding a bike	4	4
Separating fighting dogs	3	3
Jogging / running	3	3
Disciplining the dog	2	2
Grooming	2	2
Startled the dog	2	2
Feeding	1	1
Other	14	13
Can’t remember / Didn’t specify	2	2
Total	108	100

In which geographic areas do attacks occur?

At the macro-level, 69% (n=74) of attacks were in metropolitan areas and 31% (n=33) in regional areas¹. Only one respondent did not know where they were attacked.

Attacks were grouped according to the CMH Sectors (highlighted in grey) in the “SA Health – Suburbs in Adelaide” document accompanying this report. The grouped results are presented in Table 3 below. For more detailed information, however, a full list of postcodes is attached as an appendix to this report.

Of the metropolitan areas, the Inner-Southern Sector had the most attacks (18%). In this sector, five attacks were in postcode 5051 (which includes Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Craighburn Farm and Hawthorndene) and four attacks were in postcode 5041 (which includes Colonel Light Gardens, Cumberland Park, Daw Park, Panorama and Westbourne Park). Please see Table 4, which documents all postcodes / suburbs that had three or more attacks. This suggests that councils of the City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion and City of Mitcham in this sector would probably benefit from communications and educational materials the Board develops.

The Eastern, Southern and Northern sectors all came a close second, with a similar numbers of attacks in each sector – 13, 12 and 11 respectively. In the Northern Sector, postcode 5113 (which includes Davoren Park, Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth North and Elizabeth West) was one of the areas that had the most attacks in South Australia.

Table 3: Regions where attacks occurred

	n	%
Regional	33	31
Inner-Southern Sector	19	18
Eastern Sector	13	12
Southern Sector	12	11
Northern Sector	11	10
Western Sector	9	8
North East Sector	8	7
Adelaide Central	2	2
Don't know	1	1
Total	108	100

Table 4: Postcodes where three or more attacks occurred

	n	%
5051 – Blackwood, Coromandel Valley, Craighburn Farm, Hawthorndene (<i>Inner-Southern</i>)	5	5
5113 – Davoren Park, Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth West (<i>Northern</i>)	5	5
5041 – Colonel Light Gardens, Cumberland Park, Daw Park, Panorama, Westbourne Park (<i>Inner-Southern</i>)	4	4
5290 – Mount Gambier (<i>Regional</i>)	4	4
5098 – Ingle Farm, Walkley Heights (<i>North East</i>)	3	3
5108 – Paralowie, Salisbury, Salisbury Downs, Salisbury North (<i>Northern</i>)	3	3
5159 – Aberfoyle Park, Flagstaff Hill, Chandlers Hill, Happy Valley (<i>Southern</i>)	3	3
5161 – Reynella, Old Reynella, Reynella East (<i>Southern</i>)	3	3
5252 – Nairne (<i>Regional</i>)	3	3
5253 – Murray Bridge (<i>Regional</i>)	3	3
Total	36	36

¹Metropolitan areas are classified as postcodes that are between 5000 and 5174. Regional areas are any postcodes in South Australia above 5174.

The injuries sustained

This was a new section developed for the Omnibus survey. Respondents were given a visual matrix, with body parts in the rows, and types of injuries (e.g., bruise, puncture, laceration) in the columns. Respondents were asked to select the location and type of injury they received. There were no neck injuries or broken bones, so these are not in the report. Also – lower and upper leg and arm injuries were combined for ease of presenting. Generally lower leg (and arm) injuries were much more common than upper leg (and arm) injuries, at a ratio of four to one.

The results are presented in Table 5, ordered from most common body part (top-to-bottom) and most common type of injury (left-to-right).

Table 5: Types of injuries by body part (%)

	Punct- ure	Lacer- ation	Bruise	Other	Total
Leg	23	12	9	1	45
Hand	12	7	4	0	23
Face	3	5	2	0	9
Arm	5	1	4	0	9
Foot	0	1	2	2	5
Torso	0	0	2	1	3
Head	0	0	1	0	1
Abdomen	1	0	0	0	1
Total	44	26	23	4	97

Note: Four respondents declined to answer this question, and therefore the rows and columns do not add to 100%.

Legs were the most commonly injured body part (45%) and punctures were the most common injury (44%). Unsurprisingly, the most common injury was a puncture to the leg (23%); four of five of which were to the *lower* leg. Lacerations to legs (12%) and punctures to hands (12%) were also relatively common. It was also checked if any breeds were consistent with any particular type of injury. There were no outstanding relationships between injury and breed, however, Terriers (or Terrier X's) caused a disproportionate number of lacerations, and Hounds (or Hound X's) caused a disproportionate number of bruises for the relative size of these groups.

How many attacks required medical attention?

The majority of injuries were treated at home; about two in every three – see Table 6 below. Six of the 33 “severe attacks” requiring professional medical attention were children less than 14 years of age (18%). Of the adults, 14 victims were female and 13 were males – a roughly even split.

Table 6: Was professional medical treatment needed?

	n	%
Treated at home by the respondent	68	63
Treated by a GP	20	19
Treated at the ED and sent home	12	11
Treated at the ED and admitted to hospital	1	1
Not stated	7	7
Total	108	100

Looking at the distribution of types of injuries treated at home: a third were bruises, a third were punctures and a third were lacerations. As such, we would presume these punctures and lacerations were minor. Almost all bruises (84%) were treated at home, although two respondents had bruises treated by a GP. The majority of injuries seen by GP's were punctures (70%), whereas the majority of injuries treated at an ED were lacerations (75%).

A higher proportion of attacks by *Terriers* (Jack Russell dogs and Staffordshire Bull Terriers) had to be treated by a GP – 35%, compared to 19% across all attacks – with fewer injuries treated at home – 45%, compared to 63% across all attacks. A higher proportion of attacks by *Gundogs* (Labrador) and *Utility* (Rottweiler) breeds were treated at the ED – 29% and 23% respectively, compared to 11% across all attacks. However, these were small sample sizes (<20) per breed across the different treatment options, so we would not generalise to say these breeds are consistently more likely to attack than other breeds.

The one hospital admission was a male, between 55 and 64 years of age, with a puncture wound to the hand. The man owned the dog that attacked him. It was a Gundog, or more specifically a Cocker Spaniel. He said he startled the dog.

The locations of severe attacks requiring professional medical attention were also investigated. The results are presented in Table 7. A list of the postcodes in which all severe attacks happened can be found in Appendix II of this report.

Table 7: Regions where severe attacks occurred

	n	% (1)	% (2)
Regional	11	10	33
Inner-Southern Sector	6	6	32
Western Sector	4	4	44
Northern Sector	3	3	27
North East Sector	3	3	38
Eastern Sector	2	2	15
Southern Sector	2	2	17
Adelaide Central	1	1	50
Don't know	1	1	-
Total	33	32	-

% (1) – Base = 108, % (2) – Base = Number of attacks that occurred in that region.

Regional areas had the largest number of severe attacks, representing a third of all attacks that occurred in regional areas. In metropolitan South Australia, the highest concentration of severe attacks in an area was in the Inner-Southern Sector, followed by the Western Sector. Almost half of the attacks that occurred in the Western sector were severe.

How many attacks were reported to the local council?

The vast majority of attacks went unreported (82%) – see Table 8 below.

Table 8: Reporting attacks to council

	n	%
Reported to council by the respondent	12	11
Reported to council by another party involved	6	6
Not reported	89	82
Unknown	1	1
Total	108	100

Generally, the severity of the injury was not a good indicator of whether the attack was reported or not (i.e., attacks were more likely to get reported if they are severe).

Minor injuries that were treated at home made up the majority (69%) of unreported “attacks” as would be expected. However, being the two largest groups there was bound to be a large overlap. Of the remaining unreported attacks, 17% were treated by a GP (n=15), and 7% were treated at the ED (n=6). The one respondent in the sample that was admitted to hospital did not report the attack to council. This is more likely because the victim owned the dog, and the respondent startled the dog. Therefore, the dog was not entirely to blame for the attack and we can presume the respondent did not want to risk any repercussions for his pet.

Of the 18 reported attacks, six were treated at the ED and sent home, five were treated by a GP, and six were treated at home. Four of the six “minor injuries” (treated at home) reported to council were against a child, suggesting protective parents concerned for the community. The remaining respondent in this category declined to answer the treatment received.

Reported attacks were more likely to involve females rather than males – 78% of reported attacks were women, or their children. Eight of the reported attacks were by *Terrier* breeds, five were by *Working* breeds, and four were by *Utility* breeds.

THE VICTIMS

Demographic characteristics of dog attack victims

This section focuses on two demographic characteristics of interest – gender and age of attack victims.

Gender

Overall, slightly more males were attacked than females – see “Sample” column, Table 9. This was also the case for adults, which made up the majority of the sample. However, for children, attacks were skewed to females.

Table 9: Gender of dog attack victims

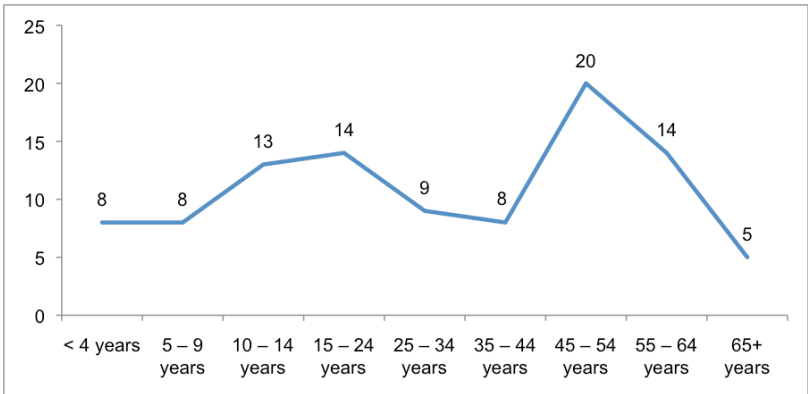
	Me (%)	My child (%)	Sample (%)
Male	58	39	54
Female	42	61	46
Total	100	100	100

Age

The Board wanted to know the age of respondents at the time of the attack. Harrison’s Omnibus survey automatically collects the age of respondents at the time of survey. Rather than ask what age respondents were at the time of the attack, which would have incurred a greater cost to the Board, in this report I have taken three years from the respondents’ age at the time of survey, which represents the youngest age a respondent could have been at the time of the attack. Respondents reporting on behalf of their children were, however, asked the age of their child at the time of the attack. The results are reported graphically in Figure 1.

Roughly three in 10 attacks involved children less than 14 years of age. This is consistent with results of another recent study conducted at Monash University, claiming that almost one third of attacks in NSW involve children less than 14 years of age (Wright, 2010). However, the largest group of attack victims from the Omnibus survey were 45 to 54 years of age – representing two in every 10 victims.

Figure 1: Age of dog attack victims (%)



THE DOGS

Relationship of victims to the dog

The two largest groups of attacks, by far, were by dogs that were owned by a family member, friend or neighbour or a dog unknown to respondents. Collectively these represent eight in 10 attacks – see highlight, Table 10.

Table 10: Relationship to the dog

	n	%
Owned by the respondent	14	13
Owned by a person living with the respondent	4	4
Family member, friend or neighbour's dog	42	39
Strange or intruder dog	47	44
Refused	1	1
Total	108	100

Further analysis was done to see if this result varied by age group. Most age groups followed the pattern of the overall sample, however, three age groups showed deviations. The deviations are highlighted in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Relationship to the dog by age – Deviations (%)

	<4 years (%)	10 to 14 (%)	65+ (%)	Sample (%)
Owned by the respondent	33	7	20	13
Owned by a person living with the victim	0	0	0	4
Family member, friend or neighbour's dog	44	29	60	39
Strange or intruder dog	22	65	20	44
Total	100	100	100	100

Note: Deviations are +/-20% from the sample average. None were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) due to small sample sizes.

Children less than four years of age were more likely to be attacked by a dog "I owned" (i.e., their parent's dog) and less likely to be attacked by a strange dog than other age groups. Children aged 10 to 14 years were more likely to be attacked by a strange dog than other age groups. Elderly people, aged more than 65 years were more likely to be attacked by a dog owned by a family member, friend or neighbour.

Where did the attacks occur?

Where refers to the surroundings, not the postcode of the attack. No respondents selected "Cannot recall" – therefore, all could recall precisely *where* the attack occurred.

Considering the majority of attacks were by strange dogs and dogs owned by family members, friends or neighbours, it makes sense that the majority of attacks occurred in the street or a public park (36% collectively), or at another person's home, in the house or yard (28% collectively) – see Table 12 below.

Table 12: Where the attacks occurred

	n	%
Footpath or street	24	22
In another person's house	19	18
Public park	15	14
In respondent's own house	13	12
In another person's yard	11	10
In respondent's own yard	8	7
At the shops / shopping centre	2	2
Other	16	15
Cannot recall	0	0
Total	108	100

Respondents were also asked what they were doing at the time of the attack – which was reported in Table 2 previously – but from this, we could deduce where some of the “Other” responses were located. The results are presented in Table 13. At work and making a house call were other consistent categories that surfaced.

Table 13: Where the attacks occurred – “Other” responses

	n	%*
At work	5	5
Making a delivery / house call	5	5
At the beach	1	1
Didn't specify	5	5
Total	16	100

*Base = number of attacks (n= 108)

What breeds?

Working breeds and Terrier breeds were the most common breeds to attack respondents. The results for all breeds are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: The breeds responsible for the attacks

	n	%
Working or Working X	24	22
Terrier or Terrier X	20	19
Utility or Utility X	13	12
Toy or Toy X	11	10
Gundog or Gundog X	7	7
Hound or Hound X	5	5
Non-sporting or Non-sporting X	2	2
Don't know	26	24
Total	108	100

Within the ANKC groupings the most common specific breeds were:

- Working dogs: German Shepherd Dog (n=11) and Australian Cattle Dog (n=7);
- Terriers: Jack Russell Terrier (n=7) and Staffordshire Bull Terrier (n=4);
- Utility dogs: Rottweiler (n=4);
- Toys: Maltese x Shih Tzu (n=5); and
- Gundogs: Cocker Spaniel (n=4).

These specific breeds should possibly be highlighted or considered more carefully in the Board’s educational materials distributed to the public.

COMPARING TO THE PILOT RESEARCH

Keeping in mind that the initial research collected only 25 dog attacks victims, which spanned respondents, their children, their spouses or people they lived with, it is to be expected that there are differences between the findings from the two different methods and samples. This section highlights consistencies and differences between the two data sets, so that maximum information can be derived on dog attacks from all the research that has been undertaken by the Board and we can see where the research has given robust and replicable findings.

The attacks

- Incidence: The incidence of dog attacks was higher in the Omnibus compared to the pilot – 3.5% versus 2.4%, only including respondents and their children from the pilot. This difference is in the direction that would be expected given the tighter sampling criteria used in the Omnibus.
- Location: There was some consistency in locations of attacks between the two surveys – with the Inner South Sector (near the beach) and the Northern areas. However, we did not collect as many regional attacks in the pilot research.
- Medical attention: Very similar proportions of attacks required medical attention between the samples – roughly three in 10 for each.
- Reporting to council: A lower proportion of attacks were reported to local councils in the Omnibus survey (18%) compared to the pilot research (28%).

The victims

- Age: The distribution of ages of victims was fairly similar between samples. Four in 10 victims were less than 14 years old in the pilot research compared to three in 10 in the Omnibus survey.

The dogs

- Relationship between dog and victim: The results were very consistent across the two studies – with the leading groups being strange dogs and dogs owned by family, friends or neighbours.
- Where the dog attacked: On the street was the biggest group for both studies. However, in the Omnibus, more attacks occurred in the house or in a yard (front or back) attached to a house.
- Breeds: The larger sample size of the Omnibus allowed more variations in the breeds and ANKC types of dogs collected. Consequently, there were more discernable leaders. In the pilot research, all types were roughly equally responsible for attacks, whereas *Working* dogs and *Terriers* were more prevalent than other breeds in the Omnibus.

APPENDIX I: OMNIBUS SURVEY

1. Have you, or your child, been attacked in the past three years?

By attack, we mean an intentional bite by a dog, or direct aggression, causing injury to the victim. By victim, we are referring to the person towards whom the initial attack was directed.

- Yes – I was attacked
- Yes – My child was attacked
- No

2. How old was your child at the time?

- 0 to 4 years of age
- 5 to 9 years of age
- 10 to 14 years of age
- 15 to 18 years of age

3. Whose dog was it?

- I was the owner
- The dog was owned by someone else that I (or my child) lived with at the time
- It was a family member's / friend's / colleague's / neighbour's dog that I (or my child) did not live with at the time
- It was an intruder / strange dog
- Refused

4. In what postcode did the attack occur?

5. What breed of dog was responsible for the attack?

6. What were you doing at the time of the attack?

7. Where were you at the time of the attack?

- In my house
- In my yard (attached to the house)
- In a friend, colleague or relative's house
- In a friend, colleague or relative's yard (attached to the house)
- On the street or footpath
- In a public park
- At the shops or a shopping centre
- Other
- Cannot recall

8. What was the most severe injury sustained and to which part of the body?

	Bruise	Laceration	Puncture	Broken bone	Other
Head	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Face	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upper arm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower arm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upper leg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower leg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What treatment did you receive?

- Went to a general practice and was treated by a GP
- Went to a general practice and was then referred to hospital
- Went to a Community Health Centre and was treated at the Centre
- Went to a Community Health Centre and was referred to hospital
- Went to an Emergency Department, was treated at the ED and sent home
- Went to an Emergency Department and was then admitted as a patient to the hospital
- I treated the minor injury myself

10. Was the attack reported to the local council?

- Yes – By me
- Yes – By someone else (i.e., another involved party)
- No
- I do not know

APPENDIX II: ATTACK POSTCODES

Table 15: Postcodes – Regional attacks

	n
5000	1
5006	1
5007	1
5008	1
5011	1
5016	1
5019	1
5022	1
5023	1
5031	1
5038	1
5041	4
5043	2
5044	2
5045	1
5046	2
5048	2
5049	1
5051	5
5061	1
5064	1
5067	1
5068	2
5069	2
5070	1
5073	2
5086	1
5088	1
5092	1
5098	3
5108	3
5113	5
5114	1
5117	1
5118	1
5125	1
5126	1
5142	1
5154	1
5155	1
5159	3
5161	3
5163	2
5164	1
5165	1
5169	1
5174	1

Table 16: Postcodes – Regional attacks

	n
5204	2
5214	1
5223	1
5240	1
5242	1
5244	1
5251	2
5252	3
5253	3
5290	4
5333	2
5373	1
5422	1
5501	1
5573	1
5600	2
5606	2
5608	2
5723	1
5725	1
Don't know	1
Total	108

Table 17: Postcodes – Severe attacks

	n
5006	1
5007	1
5008	1
5011	1
5019	1
5044	1
5045	1
5046	1
5048	1
5051	2
5073	1
5086	1
5091	1
5113	2
5117	1
5125	1
5155	1
5169	1
5174	1
5204	1
5223	1
5244	1
5252	1
5290	1
5333	2
5501	1
5573	1
5600	2
Don't know	1

APPENDIX III: VERBATIM RESPONSES

Respondents were asked the question: *What were you doing at the time of the attack?* Interviewers recorded their responses in brief. The following is a list of the interviewers verbatim recording.

1. An adult was patting my dog and my child then went to pat the dog also and he snapped at my child
2. Jogging down the street
3. Collecting money for charity door knocking
4. Walking down the road with my dog
5. Picking up a client at his house to take him to respite centre
6. I was in kitchen child was outside playing when dog bit him on face
7. Two family dogs had been fighting went to check if ok and one flew out of kennel and bit hand - not letting go
8. Rescuing my dog's (snack) 'treat' from this other dog
9. Walking past the house
10. Babysitting the dog in its own home, went to feed it and it bit her hand
11. Walked outside
12. Chasing dog out of work area
13. Walked past the dog then dog attacked
14. Just walking down the street
15. With a friend taking to vet
16. Walking down street
17. Walking into yard
18. Getting out of her car
19. Working
20. I was bending down assessing the dog for grooming
21. At work
22. Daughter going for run on the beach and the dog on a leash attacked her on her leg and ankle causing serious bites
23. Walking my dog on lead dog crossed road and attacked me and my dog
24. Walking from my mums to a friends house
25. Walking dog in playground
26. Jumping the fence for work purposes
27. Walking and it came right behind him
28. Walking by myself
29. I was walking my dog when another dog attacked (was not on lead)
30. Visiting with owner present just got out of car standing
31. At neighbours house playing with the dog
32. Pushing trolleys at my work in the car park of the supermarket
33. I walked up to my own dog and it got startled
34. At the playground park area
35. Looking at plants
36. Was inside house cooking in kitchen, daughter playing in backyard
37. Walking my dog
38. Working near front gate
39. In backyard talking to her friend
40. Patting own dog
41. Playing with my dog in backyard
42. Playing with the dog
43. Walking through house

44. Went to pat dog but it does not like children so snapped at her and bit on face
45. Putting neighbours bin into their back yard
46. Talking to owner
47. Playing with my dog
48. Playing with dog in backyard
49. Walked invited into friends home
50. Talking to neighbour
51. Walking out of gate
52. Walking home, dog attacked through fence
53. Delivering item (work) to home owner - no one at home, dog doing job at protecting property
54. Playing with dog in own house
55. I was playing with the dog
56. Helping woman to put dogs behind gate
57. I was walking along street with friends when dog jumped out of owners van chased me and bit me
58. Walking home not with another dog
59. I was talking to my friend in the garden
60. Patting the dog
61. Walking passed dog
62. Was walking my dogs
63. Teasing the dog
64. 4 year old son was teasing dog with a bone and was bitten really by accident
65. The child touched the dog from behind, the dog bit the child
66. Hitting a punching bag
67. Walked into b/friends house and dog just attacked
68. Talking to a friend at a party my child was at the other end of garden and was attacked by dog
69. I was walking along the street when the dog jumped over picket fence and attacked me
70. Walking down the street
71. Going for a walk
72. Riding scooter past driveway dog (pup) chased me
73. Walking past the house on the footpath
74. I was walking my dog when the other dog went to attack my dog
75. Door knocking for work purposes/notifying of planned power outages
76. Walking into race-course market
77. Delivery Avon
78. I was physically disciplining my dog
79. Walking pass the dog inside the house
80. Getting a beer out of the fridge
81. Sitting at kitchen table went to pat him
82. Standing on side of road
83. Walking my dog and attacked by another dog
84. Patting dog
85. Riding bike on cycle track
86. Grooming
87. In lounge room watching TV
88. Walking to the back door
89. Drinking beer with friends in backyard - talking with group of people
90. Sitting down patting dog on the head
91. I was walking along footpath when dog crosses road and chased me and bit me
92. Walking (daily) alone
93. Walking my dog on a lead
94. Walking
95. I was running
96. Playing in the park with friends
97. Playing cricket with my friends
98. Playing in the play ground
99. Playing in park unleashed dog jumped up on me

- 100. On a walk with father
- 101. Playing at playground
- 102. Walking down the street
- 103. Can't remember
- 104. Entering patient's premises
- 105. Walked into a different room of my friend's house, dog had previously bitten someone else on the foot and caused puncture
- 106. Playing in backyard of neighbours house
- 107. Riding my bike, I put my bike between dog and myself
- 108. Riding bike in parklands

REFERENCES

Wright, A. (2010) "Six people a day fall victim to dog attacks." *Herald Sun*, May 11.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/six-people-a-day-fall-victim-to-dog-attacks/story-e6frf7jo-1225864740316>