

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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10 TIPS FOR SAFE TRICK OR TREATING

Celebrating Halloween is an increasingly popular occasion in Western Australia, and while it's fun to get dressed up and spook yourself silly, it's important to consider basic safety precautions to help make your child's Halloween a safer night of fun. Constable Care Child Safety Foundation has put together ten safety Halloween tips for parents so they can focus more on treats than tricks:

1. **Supervision or a Buddy System** - No one should ever be alone. Ideally kids should be supervised by parents but if they're not, make sure older children know to stick together.
2. **Make An ID Tag** -- No one plans to lose their child but it's good to be prepared for the worst. We recommend attaching a tag or sticker with emergency contact info to the inside of your child's costume.
3. **Mobile Phone** -- Most people don't leave the house without it anyway, but make sure it's fully charged. If your child is going without adults, make sure they have one just in case.
4. **Street Safety** -- Remind your children not to run, use crossings and stay on the footpaths. Children should put all electronic devices down and keep heads up. Even if they've been told a million times before, a reminder can't hurt.
5. **Be Visible** -- Make sure children understand to stay in well-lit areas. Make sure drivers can see them as they're crossing the street walking from house to house. Torches, reflective or glow in the dark accessories might be good options.
6. **Never Go Inside** -- Make sure children understand they should never enter a house while trick or treating, nor go near a car that might stop to offer treats. Children should only visit well-lit houses and those participating in Halloween.
7. **Allergies** -- If your child is going with another parent, be sure to tell them if they have a common allergy such as to peanuts or chocolate. Similarly, if your child is very young, remind them of what they're not allowed to eat.
8. **Make A Route** -- Plan to go to areas you know. You can put a leaflet in neighbours' letterboxes telling them the time when most children will trick or treat and how to mark their houses if they want to participate.
9. **Check Lollies** -- Don't let children jump into the sugar rush without checking their lollies first. Make sure everything is sealed and unopened. If it's opened or homemade, throw it away.
10. **Talk To Your Child** -- Make sure you talk to them about trick-or-treating beforehand and go over these rules.

For images, interviews or for further information, please contact:

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Notes to editors

- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation is a registered harm prevention charity that delivers award winning safety education programs free of charge to school students throughout Western Australia.
- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation is celebrating 30 years of service in 2019. It was established in 1989 by Sergeant Ross Pengilly and launched by WA Police. Currently the Constable Care Child Safety Foundation is an independent charity.
- The Foundation continues to support the growing needs of children, youth and families by developing ongoing programs and products relevant to the challenges faced by our youth to ensure a safer, brighter future for those living in Western Australia.
- Free services provided to WA schools include; Constable Care Pre-school to Year 6 educational puppet and actor shows, Theatrical Response Group interactive performances and intensive workshops for Years 7 to 12 and Comfort Packs for children in distress or at-risk youth.
- Constable Care Child Safety Foundation also provides best practice, Lost Child Points – a meeting point service and a safe refuge for children, should they become separated from their parents or guardians at major events in WA
- The Foundation has recently introduced the state’s first transport safety learning centre. Based on best practice education principles of learning through play and simulation, the Constable Care Safety School provides a simulated risk environment that incorporates the recreation of Perth streets, rail carriage platform, road signs and pedestrian crossings as well as most other road elements that a child pedestrian or cyclist will encounter. The Safety School caters for children 4-11 years of age who will practice road and public transport safety skills that will potentially one day save their lives.