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Bid to stop deaths in the home

WHITNEY HARRIS

PARENTS and carers of young children are being encouraged to attend a free first-aid training course next week to help tackle the alarming number of child deaths and injuries that occur in the home.

More than 300 children are killed each year as a result of injuries in the home, with a further 60,000 being hospitalised across Australia.

In a bid to stop this growing problem, St John Ambulance Australia and Target have joined forces to provide a free first-aid training course for parents and carers of children under the age of 12 at Target in Bendigo next Monday.

St John Ambulance Australia, Victoria deputy chief executive Theron Vassiliou said the number of deaths and serious injuries in the home were alarming and needed to be reduced.

He said many incidents could be prevented if at least one member in every family was trained in first aid.

"The techniques learnt in these courses will be instrumental in saving a child's life," Mr Vassiliou said.

"Providing free first-aid training courses through stores such as Target Bendigo is a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to get a better understanding of how childhood accidents and injuries can be prevented."

Target Bendigo store manager Darren Brown said the partnership would allow 20 parents and carers the chance to learn vital life-saving skills.

The four-hour course covers first-aid techniques dealing with choking, fractures, insect bites, child and infant resuscitation, poisoning, burns and scalds.

It will be held just once on October 17, from 9.30am until 2pm. To register call St John Ambulance on 1300 106 499.