**Whitsundays stinger safety**

**FALSE**
- You can’t get stung at the reef or islands
- Summer is the only risk time for jellyfish stings
- I’m in good health, it won’t affect me
- Irukandjis were never here when I grew up; I think this stinger risk stuff is all just a bunch of media hype
- Irukandjis breed in the rivers and estuaries, and therefore they are mostly found close to shore
- I don’t use vinegar anymore, it doesn’t stop the pain
- I’ve got lots of body hair, so it will protect me

**TRUE**
- Different species of Irukandjis occur onshore and offshore
- Stings have been reported all months of the year
- Irukandji syndrome affects all people who are stung
- Accurate medical records since 1943 indicate that Irukandjis have been around a long time
- We do not know where Irukandjis breed, but it does not appear that they breed in the rivers
- Vinegar kills invisible stinging cells, stopping more sting
- Hairy people and animals still get stung

**Myths & Facts**

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**What are the chances?**

Three people are known to have died from Irukandji over the past 100 years worldwide. While the true number is likely to have been somewhat higher, compare this with other routine and recreational hazards:

- Over 300 people are killed each year by road accidents in Queensland alone
- Approximately 292 people drown in their cars in the US each year
- Killed by swans worldwide: 2
- Fatal snake bites in Australia per year: 1
- Australian lightning deaths 1990-1999: 19
- Children drowning in UK garden ponds: 8/yr
- Number of people killed at Disneyland: 9
- Skiing fatalities per year in USA: 34
- American food allergy deaths: 150-200/year
- Killed by electrical current in USA: 1500/yr
- Killed by accidental gunfire in USA: 1452/yr
- Killed by food poisoning in USA: 5000/yr
- Killed by captive elephants since 1983: 17
- 6 in 1000 heart patients dies during sex
**Jellyfish Management**

Government and non-government organisations recognise the need and are working closely with the community on this important issue.

- **Prevention**
  - Emphasis on safety value of wearing protective clothing
- **Treatment**
  - Trained in rapid response, accurate diagnosis, effective management of symptoms

**Public awareness and balanced marketing message**

Experience in treatment and medical management of marine stings