

Bouncy castle alert after freak deaths

By EDMUND BURKE

ALMOST 100 Queensland children a year are injured in bouncing castles, new figures reveal.

Details of the injury toll from the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit come as industry leaders warn cheap toy castles are being hired out for Brisbane events.

The unit says the majority of injuries are sprains or strains (37 per cent), followed by fractures (31 per cent). The most commonly injured body parts are ankles (15 per cent) and

cent) and five to the most (41 per cent) year olds.

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John Newton, owner of national jumping castle hire business J-Jay's Party Castle Hire, based at Eagle Farm in Brisbane, has warned toy castles are intended for private use and do not meet industry standards.

"It's not legal but inspectors can't be everywhere. People think they are getting a bargain because they are paying less, but these toy castles are not meant to be used in this way."



CONCERN: John Newton, who owns a national castle hire business (left); onlookers run to help people trapped when an inflatable sculpture blew away in the UK

These cheap toys have been hired out by individuals and they are just

Newton's warning after two people died in an accident in the UK last year when a giant maze inflatable sculpture

blew away and flew into the air in County Durham in the north of England.

Two women were killed and 13 people hurt as it was lifted into the air and flipped over, landing in the middle of a busy park.

In Adelaide, eight-year-old Jessica Anne Gorostiaga died and 15 people were in-

jured when a bouncy castle blew 2.5m into the air in March 2001.

Accident surveillance unit manager Debbie Scott said that it was important the toy castles were used properly and that children were supervised while using the castles.