

### Media statement

15 December 2017

#### **We are putting out the bat signal! Educate your kids to AVOID bats**

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's Public Health Unit is reminding residents not to handle sick or injured bats. With children being on holidays there are higher chances of them approaching bats while playing.

Public health doctor Dr Shaun Hosein reminds residents that:

"Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) is a virus that can be transmitted from bats to humans. Some bats carry the virus, more so if they are behaving abnormally which includes letting people get close to them," Dr Hosein said

"ABLV infection in humans causes serious illness but could be prevented with appropriate treatment.

"It is how important to be aware of the health risk and avoid contact with ALL bats.

"Please educate and remind your children to NOT approach ANY bat dead or alive. They should immediately report the presence of bat to a responsible adult," Dr Hosein said.

"If you encounter or are told about a sick or injured bat please contact a wildlife rescue organization which has trained handlers."

If you or your child has handled a bat and been bitten, scratched or had their eyes, nose or mouth exposed to bat saliva please immediately contact the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit on 5409 6600 during normal working hours; or 13 Health (13 43 25 84) after hours for advice on protective treatment.

More information can be found in these fact sheets:

- [Australian Bat Lyssavirus fact sheet](#)
- [Kids and bats fact sheet](#)
- [Information For People Who Have Found A Sick Or Injured Bat](#)

**ENDS**

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