



## Australian Cranio Maxillo Facial Foundation

### Facial Fractures

One of the services provided by the Australian Craniofacial Unit is treatment of patients who suffer facial fractures. Most of these patients are adults treated at the Royal Adelaide Hospital but some are children, treated at the Women's and Children's Hospital. Patients from all over South Australia are referred to us for treatment.

According to a study done some years ago for the adult patients, the main causes of injury are:

Assault	51%
Road Traffic Accident	19%
Sports related	16%
Falls	10%

The same study also noted that 80% of the patients were male and only 20% were female. Shown here is a small selection of those cases.

**Case 1:** This is the CT scan of a local patient who was hit by the mirror of a passing 4WD vehicle. As you can see, he sustained a fracture right down the side of his face, through his eye socket, cheek bones and down to his lower jaw. The scan on the right shows the numerous metal plates used to repair his face.

**Case 2:** This young boy from Port Lincoln was accidentally shot in the face with a spear gun. He was flown to Adelaide and our doctors began the long and extremely delicate process of removing the barbs from his face. The operation took hours but miraculously no vital structures were hit and no lasting damage was done.

**Case 3:** This young Adelaide man was injured when a brick was thrown through the windscreen of his car. He sustained severe skull fractures which necessitated the removal of the shattered bone (as seen, right, on the nylon model of his skull). One large piece of the bone covering half the space was able to be replaced when the brain swelling subsided and the remainder was covered with a custom made titanium mesh plate.



Case 1—Before



Case 1—After



Case 2



Case 3—View 1



Case 3—View 2