

## TRANSFORM: 27

a communiqué for networks transforming SUDI into 'survive and thrive'

### End of year greetings

Baby Jesus is central to the Christmas story. It is a story of a family away from home and in circumstances that required them to improvise in order to meet the needs of their newborn baby. And so our safe sleep work is supported every December by the many images of the sleeping child, on his back, in his manger (baby bed), close to his parents. We can only assume that He was also smokefree!



The next weeks are a time when many modern day parents are also away from home and in changed circumstances that might influence the care decisions for their babies. It is a sad fact that in the **month of January 2010 five babies** in the Northland/Auckland region died a sudden infant death. All five babies were exposed to smoking in their households and only one of the five was bed sharing at the time of death. This is a harsh reality check that babies do die in summer, that smoking in pregnancy is a **tenacious risk factor** and that we cannot relax our advocacy for developmentally appropriate conditions for babies, especially as they grow in the womb and in the places that they sleep.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and until next year,  
Stephanie, Sharon and Judith



**pursuing safe sleep  
for every baby, every place, every sleep**

**New location:** 132c Victoria St, PO Box 36406, Christchurch 8146. Tel: 03 379 6686

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