

# WATCH AROUND WATER

**YOUR CHILD YOUR FOCUS**  
PARENTS SUPERVISE – LIFEGUARDS SAVE LIVES.



23 February 2017

Watch Around Water is an education and public awareness raising program that addresses the supervision of young children at public swimming pools. The program assists aquatic staff to promote safe supervision practices and provides a safe venue for the community to participate in sport and recreation.

The program was developed by the aquatics industry and is based on the premise that it is unrealistic to expect lifeguards to provide the constant and close supervision required for each young child at the pool at all times. Although lifeguards should always be present, the responsibility of supervision of children is shared between lifeguards and parents or responsible carers.

## Program Objectives:

- Prevent drowning deaths and drowning related injuries at public swimming pools
- Promote active parental supervision
- Assist aquatic staff to promote safe supervision practices
- Provide a safe aquatic venue for the community

## Key Principles:

1. Children under 5 years must be constantly supervised and remain within arms reach
2. Children under 10 years must be accompanied into the facility and constantly supervised by a parent/ guardian
3. Unsupervised children (of any age) will be removed from the water if the lifeguard is concerned for their safety.



## Program Implementation:

- Watch Around Water is adopted by public swimming centre management as a Conditions of Entry
- Watch Around Water centres are provided with signage, flyers, training and resources to communicate the program's key principles in the most effective way to their patrons

## History:

Watch Around Water was started in 2004 in Western Australia following a spate of tragic drowning deaths involving young children at public swimming pools. The incidents prompted the WA Coroner to state that:

*'Competent lifeguards acting responsibly should provide an important safety feature, but they are not intended to, and cannot be expected to replace the close supervision of parents which is required for many children. Public awareness needs to ensure that adults in the community understand that supervision of children in the water must be direct, competent and alert'.*

There was also a growing concern amongst the Western Australian aquatics industry regarding the levels of parental supervision of young children at public swimming pools. At the time many centres were promoting safe supervision policies and messages, however it was acknowledged that an industry wide program was needed to promote a consistent message regarding supervision and make all venues safer.



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## SA Background:

- In 2006 the program was activated at The City of Unley Swimming Centre, with a few of the larger local government operated facilities following suit in 2007.
- In 2014 the program attracted major sponsorship through Clubs SA which allowed for a project officer to be employed on 1 day a week to develop the program and attract an additional 17 swimming centres to adopt the program.
- In 2015 the program has gained support from Hon Tony Piccolo, Minister for Emergency Services, plus a new partnership with Local Government Association of SA will see a \$3,000 sponsorship deal allowing new Councils to sign their swimming pools up to the program at a discounted price.
- In 2015 WAW Membership became more flexible to include swimming pools who are not supervised by lifeguards. The premise behind this was to remind patrons of all public swimming pools to engage in active supervision of children Under 10.
- In 2016 a Code of Practice for Public Swimming Pools in South Australia was released with Watch Around Water a minimum recommendation.

## Program Support:

The program is primarily managed across 3 states, with a small number of pools also in NSW. WA own the program but all ideas, resources and opportunities are shared amongst the states to enhance the program in each state.

	SA	WA	VIC
Management	Recreation SA	Royal Life Saving WA	Lifesaving VIC
Number of Pools	60	126	150
2016/17 Sponsors, Partners & Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubs SA</li> <li>• Nine, Royal Life Saving SA, Kidsafe SA</li> <li>• Brenton Ragless, Germein Sisters, Louise Adams</li> <li>• Local Government Association of SA</li> </ul>		IXOM Operations

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## Watch Around Water Awareness Locations

In 2015/16 the Recreation SA Aquatic Advisory Committee acknowledged the key messages within the Watch Around Water program of actively supervising children Under 10yrs could easily be extended to public swimming areas not patrolled by lifeguards.

Expanding the reach of the Watch Around Water message to such swimming areas would:

- Inform users of the importance of active supervision around the water to keep children safe
- Remind users active supervision should be practiced around all bodies of water
- Support aquatic staff at Accredited Watch Around Water Centres in adhering to a consistent message

## An Awareness Location is:

- Without the presence of a qualified lifeguard
- Possibly an unrestricted body of water open to the public for recreational play and fitness
- Possibly a restricted body of water accessible only through an entry fee or responsible person

Please contact Recreation SA to discuss whether your public swimming venue would be classified as an Accredited Centre or an Awareness Centre.

## Accredited Centre vs Awareness Location

Accredited Centre	Awareness Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Full” WAW Centre</li><li>• Key principles are a Conditions of Entry and constantly monitored by staff</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Partial” WAW Location</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 2 staff present to allow for lifeguard supervision of water space at all times</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water space is not directly supervised by a lifeguard at all times</li></ul>

## Program Implementation:

- Depending on the location and layout of your water area the Watch Around Water message is best communicated through signage. This may be permanent or removable depending on your location.
- Areas to consider:
  - Entry to the facility
  - Entry or exit of change areas
  - Highly visible locations close to the body of water eg. toddlers pool, play areas, seating, family areas
  - Brochures, websites, promotional material

## Watch Around Water Membership includes:

- Acknowledgement under the Watch Around Water campaign
- Resource package to assist in the implementation of the campaign
  - Media Release to submit to the local newspaper
  - Access to signage and promotional materials
  - Access to digital files and graphics to enhance own resources
  - Assistance and support from Recreation SA to generate local media
  - Opportunity to nominate for the Nine Adelaide Watch Around Water Community Innovation Award
  - Support from the Recreation SA Aquatics Advisory Committee



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<b>Operational</b>		
Staffing/ Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 2 staff present to allow for lifeguard supervision of water space at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water space is not directly supervised by a lifeguard at all times</li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to online resources through Recreation SA Member Login</li> <li>• Full complement start up pack                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 x Centre Sticker</li> <li>- 1 x Floor Graphic</li> <li>- 1 x A2 Corflute</li> <li>- 10 x Balloons</li> <li>- 20 x A4 Posters</li> <li>- 50 x DL Flyers</li> <li>- 50 x DL Stickers</li> <li>- 50 x Magnets</li> <li>- 50 x Wristbands</li> <li>- 1 x A3 Corflute A-Frame</li> <li>- 1 x Pull Up Banner</li> <li>- 50 x Lifeguard Cards</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplified start up pack                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 x Centre Sticker</li> <li>- 1 x Floor Graphic</li> <li>- 1 x A2 Corflute</li> <li>- 10 x Balloons</li> <li>- 20 x A4 Posters</li> <li>- 20 x DL Flyers</li> <li>- 20 x DL Stickers</li> <li>- 20 x Magnets</li> <li>- 20 x Wristbands</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>2016/17 Costs (GST incl)</b>		
Recreation SA Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An annual membership fee/ organisation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$191 – Metropolitan Organisation</li> <li>- \$115 – Regional Organisation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
New Registration Watch Around Water Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost/ swimming centre                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$395 – Metropolitan</li> <li>- \$280 – Regional</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost/ swimming location                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$115 – located Metro or Regional</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Annual Re-registration Watch Around Water Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$115/ swimming centre, which can be claimed back in your choice of Watch Around Water resources if ordered before the stipulated date at the start of the season</li> </ul>	



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## 2016/17 Watch Around Water Registered Locations (as of 23/2/17):

### Accredited Centres

Adelaide Aquatic Centre

Aquadome

The ARC Campbelltown

Barossa Aquatic & Fitness Centre

Blue Dolphin Swim Centre

Bordertown Swimming Pool

Crystal Brook Pool

Exercise Benefits Health & Fitness Centre – Magill

Findon Swim School

Fleurieu Aquatic Centre

Gawler Aquatic Centre

George Bolton Swimming Centre Burnside

Hayden Stoeckel Swimming Pool

Keith Swimming Pool

Marion Swimming Centre

Morphett Road Swimming School

Mountain Pool

Mount Barker Swimming School

Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre

Murray Bridge Swimming Centre

Nangwarry Swimming Pool

Noarlunga Leisure Centre

Norwood Swimming Centre

Norwood Swim School

Nuriootpa Swimming Pool

Parafield Gardens Swim School

Paragon Swim Centre

Payneham Swimming Centre

Penola Swimming Pool

Port Lincoln Leisure Centre

Port Pirie Pool

Renmark Swimming Pool

Roxby Downs Leisure Centre

Salisbury Recreation Precinct

Seaford Swimming School

SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre

Sherriffs Road Swimming Centre

STARplex

Strathalbyn Pool

The Parks Recreation and Sports Centre

The Valleys Lifestyle Centre

Unley Swimming Academy

Unley Swimming Centre

Waikerie Swimming Pool

Waterworld Aquatic Centre

Whyalla Health & Leisure Centre

Williamstown Swimming Pool

### Awareness Locations

Alan Coulter Recreation Centre

Balaklava Swimming Pool

Cambrai Swimming Pool

Copper Coast Sport and Leisure Centre

Hamley Bridge Swimming Pool

Mannum Pool

Millicent Swimming Lake

Naracoorte Swimming Lake

Next Gen Memorial Drive

Orroroo Swimming Pool

Owen Swimming Pool

Riverton Swimming Pool

For further information on the Watch Around Water program, please contact Recreation SA Aquatics Project Officer on (08) 8271 6874 or [aquatics@recreationsa.org](mailto:aquatics@recreationsa.org).



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