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**DISCLAIMER**

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Last updated December 2024

**LEARN CPR AND TO SWIM**

Swimming is an important life skill which builds water confidence and is the first step when it comes to teaching your children water awareness.

The earlier your child is introduced to water, the more likely they will develop water safety and swimming skills which are vital lifesaving skills.

Ipswich City Council's SEAL Pool Safety Program offers a free six-week program, 30-minute lesson per week, for children aged 6 months to 5 years, to help them build water confidence, and encouraging them to be more comfortable in the water, learning lifesaving skills while having fun.

Ipswich City Council, in conjunction with Royal Life Saving Queensland, offers adults aged 18+ years, a free five-day water safety and swimming program, one hour lesson per day. Participants will learn skills like safe water entry, breath control, floating, kicking, arm introduction and life jacket experience.

Ipswich City Council, in conjunction with Royal Life Saving Queensland's Water STAARS (Support to Access Aquatic Recreational Spaces) Program, offers a free four-week program, one hour lesson per week, to those aged 6 years and older with a disability. The program is designed to support people with disabilities to access and recreate safely in and around various water aquatic spaces.

A child is four times more likely to survive a near drowning if parents/guardians/carers or bystanders know CPR and it is performed immediately.

Ipswich City Council's SEAL Pool Safety Program offers free CPR awareness sessions for adults aged 18+ years and children aged 5-12 years to help teach them lifesaving skills. Sessions run for one hour and are conducted by Queensland Ambulance Service.

**Knowing the basics of CPR could help save a life!**

For bookings and more information visit [ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal)

**CPR SIGNAGE**

It is a requirement that current CPR signage must be displayed clearly to anyone near your pool/spa. It should display the following and must:

- Be attached to the barrier, or displayed near the pool/spa
- Be easily visible to anyone near the pool/spa
- Be at least 300mm x 300mm in size
- Be made of durable and weatherproof material
- Have diagrams and letters that are durable, legible and clearly visible.

For up-to-date information about CPR signage requirements visit [ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe)

CPR sign example:

**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT**

**D** Dangers?

**R** Responsive?

**S** Send for help

**A** Open Airway

**B** Normal Breathing?

**C** Start CPR  
30 compressions : 2 breaths

**D** Attach Defibrillator (AED)  
as soon as available, follow prompts

Continue CPR until responsiveness or normal breathing returns

For more information, please contact our friendly Pool Safety Team on (07) 3810 6120 or email [poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au)

# Pool Safety

- S**UPERVISE around the pool
- E**NCLOSE the pool with a fence
- A**CTIVELY check the pool gate and fence
- L**EARN CPR and to swim



[ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal)



The SEAL Pool Safety Program was initiated in January 2021 in response to child drowning statistics, which showed pool drownings as being a leading cause of death for children under the age of five in Queensland. The SEAL Pool Safety Program is designed to encourage active adult and child participation in programs, such as learning to swim, supervision, CPR and pool fence compliance in order to educate the community to the benefits of water safety.

Pools and spas are becoming increasingly popular across Australia.

Spring and summer are the seasons in which children are most active in and around pools and spas, with most immersions (fatal and non-fatal combined) occurring in these seasons.

A child that experiences an immersion and survives may suffer from long-term medical issues. Non-fatal immersions can have serious consequences, including brain or organ damage and can impact long-term health outcomes and quality of life.

## SUPERVISE IN THE POOL

Active adult supervision, swimming lessons, learning basic CPR and having compliant pool/spa fencing can save lives.

Supervision means continually watching your children. Be familiar with your child's swimming ability and always keep within arm's reach when in or around the water. Put away distractions and be prepared to get in the water in an emergency.

A child or toddler can drown within 20 seconds, in as little as 50mm of water. **A child drowning is silent.**

For more information visit [Qfcc.qld.gov.au](http://Qfcc.qld.gov.au)

## ENCLOSE THE POOL WITH A FENCE

The *Queensland Building Act 1975* defines a Regulated Pool as: - **231B What is a regulated pool**

- 1) A regulated pool—
  - a) is a swimming pool situated on regulated land; and
  - b) includes the barriers for the pool.
- 2) The barriers for the pool include any of the following—
  - a) the fencing for the pool;
  - b) the walls of a building enclosing the pool;
  - c) another form of barrier mentioned or provided for in the pool safety standard.

If your private swimming pool/spa meet any of the following criteria, you are required by law to gain a building approval and to enclose it with a fence:

- Capable of holding water to a depth greater than 300mm
- Has the capacity to hold over 2,000L of water
- Has a filtration system.

For more information about fencing requirements visit [lpswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe](http://lpswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe)

### Registered pools in Queensland

All regulated swimming pools and spas in Queensland must be registered with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC). As a pool/spa owner you are required to ensure the pool/spa is correctly registered on the QBCC website. Visit [My.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/pool-register](http://My.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/pool-register) for more information.

## ACTIVELY CHECK POOL/SPA GATE AND FENCE

Things to check to ensure your pool/spa is safe all year round:

- Ensure the pool/spa fence has been installed as a permanent structure
- Ensure the effective pool/spa fence height is **not less than 1200mm high from above the ground** and includes a continuous non-climbable zone around the entire pool/spa fence (*QDC MP3.4 Swimming Pool Barriers*)
- Ensure all objects inside the pool/spa fence that may provide footholds are moved a **minimum of 300mm** away from the fence
- Ensure there are **no climbable objects** such as furniture, trees, branches, shrubs, plants, pool toys or any other obstructions around the fence that a child could use to climb over the fence or open the gate to gain access to the pool/spa area
- Ensure the maximum distance under the pool/spa fence to the ground level does **not exceed 100mm**
- Ensure the maximum gap anywhere in the pool/spa fence does **not exceed 100mm**
- Ensure the gate latch is a **minimum of 1500mm** when measured from the finished ground level to the bottom of the latch to prevent unsupervised access by young children
- Ensure the gate hinges are **900mm apart**, from the **top of the top hinge** to the **top of the lower hinge**
- Direct access from a dwelling into a pool/spa enclosure is **not** allowable. Ensure that **all entry points** to a pool/spa is **only through an approved pool/spa gate**
- Ensure any building with windows and doors that open **more than 100mm** directly into a pool/spa enclosure has a permanently fixed security screen fitted, so children are not able to access the pool/spa area
- The pool/spa gate should be kept **closed at all times**
- Gates should open **outwards away** from the pool/spa area, and must be **self-closing and self-latching from all open positions** – **replace immediately** if it no longer self-latches
- Look for signs of deterioration such as rust, loose hinges or broken panels and arrange for immediate repair
- Ensure there is a **current CPR** sign displayed clearly to anyone near the pool/spa
- Actively supervise children **at all times** when **in or around** the pool/spa
- Is your pool/spa registered with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission? (QBCC) (see [Qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://Qbcc.qld.gov.au)).

