

POLICY NO: E - -006

POLICY: **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FORMAL AQUATICS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE**

ORIGINAL POLICY: **OCTOBER 1995**

LAST REVIEW DATE: **OCTOBER 2002**

REVIEW DATE: **CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW**

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary role of the swimming teacher is to teach water familiarisation, swimming and safe water practices. However, consideration must also be given to the teacher's role in ensuring the safety of class participants.

The Royal Life Saving Society recognises the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate as a teaching, not a rescue, qualification. It is therefore necessary for swimming teachers to be appropriately qualified in water safety, rescue and resuscitation.

Furthermore, teachers conducting programs for children aged 1 - 4 years should have completed the appropriate AUSTSWIM extension qualification in pre-school aquatics or equivalent.

2. POLICY

a) Teaching qualification

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia recommends that all teachers conducting formal aquatic programs for children aged 1 - 4 years hold the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and an AUSTSWIM Pre-school Extension or Specialist Certificate, or equivalent.

b) Water Safety and Rescue qualification

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia recommends that all teachers conducting formal aquatic programs for children aged 1 - 4 years hold a water safety and rescue qualification which is appropriate to the environment and venue in which the program is conducted. Appropriate qualifications may include:

1. Wade Rescue
2. Accompanied Rescue
3. Bronze Star
4. Bronze Medallion
5. RLSSA Water Rescue Certificate for AUSTSWIM Teachers

c) Resuscitation qualification

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia recommends that all teachers conducting formal aquatic programs for children aged 1 - 4 years hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation qualification which provides training in resuscitation techniques appropriate for infants and children. The Royal Life Saving Society Australia Resuscitation Award or equivalent is the minimum recommended standard. However, in facilities where oxygen equipment is available, The Royal Life Saving Society Oxygen Resuscitation Award is strongly recommended.

d) Currency of Awards

Employers and employees should ensure that all qualifications are current according to the standards of the accrediting organisation. The Royal Life Saving Society Australia and the Australian Resuscitation Council recognises CPR qualifications as being current for one year (ARC PS 9.3.2 March 1993). The Royal Life Saving Society Australia recognises rescue qualifications as being current for one year when used for employment purposes. (RLSSA Policy E001 June 1995 Currency of Awards.)

3. REFERENCES

RLSSA Safety in Swimming Pools: Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation, The Royal Life Saving Society Australia Victoria Branch, August 1991.

AUSTSWIM Policy Statement on Pre-school Swimming Programs, April 1995.

Australian Resuscitation Council Policy Statement Manual