



# Australian Water Safety Council

## Audit of National Water Safety Programs 2005



**June 2005**



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing



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**Suggested citation:**

Franklin RC, Morris B (2005). *Audit of National Water Safety Programs 2005*. Sydney, Australian Water Safety Council [Secretariat: Royal Life Saving Society Australia, PO Box 558, Broadway NSW 2007, Australia]

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**Funding**

Funding for this report was provided by the Australian Government.

**The Australian Water Safety Council is comprised of:**

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA); Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA); AUSTSWIM; Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association (ASCTA); Australian Swimming Incorporated; Kidsafe Australia; Farmsafe Australia (FSA); Australia & New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG); Australian Local Government Association (ALGA); Surfing Australia; Aquatic and Recreation Institute (ARI); Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS).



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**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:  
Abbreviation**

AS	Australian Standard
ASCTA	Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association
AUSTSWIM	The Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety
AWSC	Australian Water Safety Council
AWSCRC	Australian Water Safety Council Research Committee
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
CHW	Community Health Worker
CSA	Community Service Announcement
Dept	Department
DES	Department of Emergency Services
DLG	Department of Local Government
DSR	Department of Sport and Recreation
FSA	Farmsafe Australia
GSPO	Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation
JLC	Junior Life Guard Club
NCIS	National Coroners Information Service
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NWSP	National Water Safety Plan
PFD	Personal Flotation Device
QA	Quality Assurance
QISU	Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit
Qld	Queensland
R&Y	Red and Yellow
RLSSA	Royal Life Saving Society Australia
RLSSWA	Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia
SA	South Australia
SLSA	Surf Life Saving Australia
SLSNSW	Surf Life Saving New South Wales
SLSNT	Surf Life Saving Northern Territory
SPSA	Swimming Pool Safety Assessment
TV	Television
USA	United States of America
VASR	Victorian Association of Sport and Recreation
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

## Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs: Preamble

The Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC) in 2004 renewed its push to reduce drowning deaths in Australia with the launch of the National Water Safety Plan for the period 2004-2007. This new plan establishes both the good work being undertaken around Australia in drowning prevention and aquatic safety and provides direction in collaboration with State and Territory Water Safety Councils or Taskforces to continue to reduce drowning deaths.

As part of the effort the AWSC undertook an audit of water safety programs, services and resources available in Australia. The audit provides a snapshot of current activities that can be used / shared / implemented around Australia. There are plans for an online updatable database that will allow for searches to be carried out the programs to be displayed on the AWSC website.

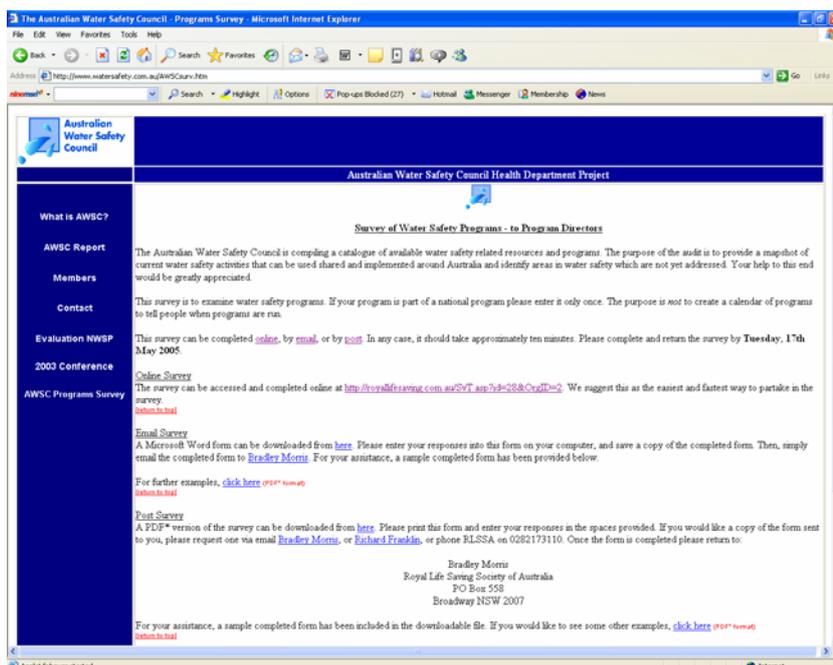
The programs that have been entered to date are presented later in the document. To undertake the audit several methods of collection have been established.

### ***How was the information collected?***

All members of the Australian Water Safety Council (AWSC), coordinators of State of Territory Water Safety Councils / Taskforces, all Royal Life Saving Executive Directors were emailed about the Audit on the 6 April 2005. The preferred collection method was on-line as this meant that the information did not need to be handled twice.

The on-line information can be accessed at the Australian Water Safety Council web site at [www.watersafety.com.au/awscsurv.htm](http://www.watersafety.com.au/awscsurv.htm) which also contains electronic copies of the form, both in Word and PDF format (Figure 1). Examples of the type of information sort are also contained on the website.

**Figure 1 Screenshot of webpage containing information about audit**





## **Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

Return of information was requested by the 17 May 2005, however many organisations need to be chased and some information was not entered until the 8 June 2005.

Programs were also identified by browsing websites of organisations including RLSSA, SLSA, FARMSAFE, AUSTSWIM, Swimming Australia, Surfing Australia, as well as each state government's Dept of Health and Dept of Sport & Recreation. If enough information was available I entered it myself.

Where a program was identified the organisation was sent an e-mail asking them to enter it into the audit. Where there was enough information and nobody could be contacted the information was entered by the project officer. However, there was usually not enough information of the type required (we wanted focus on target participants, locality, accessibility, delivery, resources; but web information usually not detailed enough or placed focus on costs, children's sections, consequences of program, etc), so further requests for information were sent to the contact listed on these websites (all unsuccessful).

Information from reports including *NWSP 2004-2007*, *AWSC 2003 Water Safety Conference Program*, *Report to Minister's Council for Sport and Recreation - A National Approach to Water Safety* were also examined for water safety program and where sufficient information was provided were entered into the audit.

Each program was entered once only (thus programs that are run at different levels are in the audit once). People were informed that the purpose of the audit was to create an index of programs, services and resources, not to create a calendar of programs that tell people when programs are run, however this may be considered in the future.

### ***Information Collected***

- Type of program
- Organisation responsible
- Location
- Program coverage
- Target population
- Program start date
- Program end date
- Months run in 2004
- Description of the program
- How the program is delivered
- Resources used by the program
- Reasons the program is considered best practice
- Level of evidence
- Supporting reasons for best practice
- References
- Web links
- Who provided the information



## **Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs: Description of Levels of Evidence**

- I – Evidence obtained from a systematic review of all relevant randomised controlled trials.
- II – Evidence obtained from at least one properly designed randomized controlled trial.
- III-1 – Evidence obtained from well-designed pseudo-randomised controlled trials (alternate allocation or some other method).
- III-2 – Evidence obtained from comparative studies with concurrent controls and allocation not randomised (cohort studies), case control studies, or interrupted time series with a control group.
- III-3 – Evidence obtained from comparative studies with historical control, two or more single arm studies, or interrupted time series without a parallel control group.
- IV – Evidence obtained from case series, either post-test or pre-test and post-test.
- V – Expert Opinion

### ***Future Directions***

Water safety program will continue to be collected and entered into the audit database and a report produced on an annual basis.

An upgrade of the Australian Water Safety Council website ([www.watersafety.com.au](http://www.watersafety.com.au)) will allow for a searchable feature to search for water safety programs and resources. This feature will also allow for the searcher to be directed to particular members' website, if this is where the information resides. For example if someone is searching for "surf clubs" they would be directed to the Surf Life Saving Australia website ([www.slsa.asn.au](http://www.slsa.asn.au)) or if someone was search for a "swim school" they would be directed to the Royal Life Saving Website ([www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)).

The audit information will also be integrated into the website thus allowing for people to update there information on a regular basis. It will also have a feature where an e-mail will be sent to people responsible for the program to update their information. The audit information will also be displayed on the website allowing for a person to scroll through the difference programs at their leisure.



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:  
Outback Road Show**

**Type of program:** Prevention Activity

**Organisation responsible:** Aquarena,RLSSWA, DSR (midwest)

**Location:** Geraldton, WA

**Program coverage:** *Regional:* Midwest/Gasgoine

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages *Community:* Remote Communities

**Program start date:** March, 2002

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** In 2002 we went to remote communities travelling in excess of 2000Km. To teach water safety in rural/remote areas in the knowledge that three time the number drown in dams,water tanks,rivers and lakes. In 2003/04 we worked on the Swim Across Australia. The pool used for this unique trip is being modified to use as a mobile teaching/safety facility and will travel to the very remote areas of WA. I would really like to see the same in other states of Australia.We will be ready to start our travels in 2006.

**How the program is delivered:** The original program was delivered by volunteers. We communicated with Communities, Schools and individuals to deliver the first pilot program. The program costs were met by DSR,RLSSWA & Aquarena. We taught where we could find water,like lakes pools,water holes and where there was no water (March very hot and dry) we used dry river beds and sand pits.

**Resources used by the program:** teaching/rescue aids because we were out in remote areas we used natural resources rather than commercial ones that are not available. In addition to teaching water safety we ran the Heart Beat Club for Community members and school teachers.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** The partnership between DSR, RLSSWA and the City of Geraldton Aquarena.This proved so successful and rewarding. The development of a partnership between rural and remote communities. We all able to learn so much. This led to the Swim Across Australia pool on the truck being further developed to continue this unique program.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:**

**Information provided by:** Colin Hassell



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Child safety on farms**

**Type of program:** Prevention Activity: Promotion and education

**Organisation responsible:** Farmsafe Australia

**Location:** Moree, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: Targets farmers, farm families, farm managers re death/injury of kids 0-14*

**Program start date:** September, 2002

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Child drowning is one fo the key risks to children living on or visiting farms. The program promotes: - elimination of water hazards where feasible - securely fenced safe play areas on farms as a support to supervision and family rules Promotional methods/tools include: - safe play areas on farms resource guide (including fencing options) - poster and brochure - website (www.farmsafe.org.au) - TV community service ad (NSW and VIC) to be extended nationally - educational resources for schools Conduct regular surveys to help assess progress in implementation. Monitor incidents through media monitoring and NCIS. Conduct research as necessary (eg., fence assessment)

**How the program is delivered:** Material available free from Farmsafe Australia. Regular proactive promotion in media and through farmer mailouts conducted. Materials provided to third party partners for distribution also. Implementation is voluntary.

**Resources used by the program:** Staff of Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety with program funding from the Dept of Health and Ageing plus sponsorships from agribusiness partners.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** developed in consultation with industry evidence based used in Australia and overseas modified cochrane review has been conducted risk management approach practical and is being implemented by farmers

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Centre, Child and adolescent drowning. University of Washington, 1997. Thompson DC, Rivara FP. Pool fencing for preventing drowning in children (Cochrane Review) in The Cochrane Library 2001; 1 Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety. Children on farms. Moree: Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, 1997; Guidance Note Series No 7.

**Web links:** [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au)

Information provided by: Laurie Stiller



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**- Water Safety Practice Note - NSW Swimming Pools Act 1992 and Swimming Pools Regulation 1999 - brochure on pool legislation - backyard pool safety checklist**

**Type of program:** Legislation / Standard

**Organisation responsible:** NSW Department of Local Government

**Location:** Nowra, NSW

**Program coverage:** *State:* NSW

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages

**Program start date:** n/a

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** - Practice Note provides advice to councils to assist them perform their water safety functions in relation to beaches, public pools and other waterways under their care and control. - legislation, brochure and checklist set out legislative requirements in relation to backyard swimming pools, particularly in relation to fencing

**How the program is delivered:** - Practice Note is advisory only - swimming pool legislation is enforced by local councils

**Resources used by the program:** - DLG staff time in preparing Practice Note and administering legislation - council staff time in implementing and enforcing legislation

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** - Practice Note developed in consultation with industry. - legislation restricts children from gaining access to swimming pools.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** - Practice Note, brochure and checklist [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au) - legislation [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)

Information provided by: Karen Paterson



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Domestic swimming pool fencing for preventing children from drowning**

**Type of program:** Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Joint Program of Queensland Health and Department of Emergency Services

**Location:** Brisbane, QLD

**Program coverage:** *Local:* Mt. Isa and Mackay

**Target population:** *Ages:* 0-4 years *Community:* All Health and DES staff

**Program start date:** 2002

**Program end date:** 30/06/2007

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** A Child Injury Prevention Project has been jointly funded till June 2007 in Mt Isa and Mackay. This Project will focus on a number of childhood and toddler injuries including a priority in relation to pool fencing. Work is being done to educate parents and carers as well as with local Councils to establish effective pool fence compliance schemes. Liaison has also been established with local pool providers and pool shops

**How the program is delivered:** Local mass media has been used to promote the key messages of proper fencing, maintenance and locking the gate, fridge magnets have been distributed as has information sheets at pool shops and through Councils.

**Resources used by the program:**

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Baseline data has been established, detailed process evaluation has been carried out and the results are now published in the Cochrane Review, which is considered the best practice possible at the moment. Detailed evaluation data available from Injury Prevention and Control and Professor Rod McClure

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** III-2

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Phillip Carswell



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Pool Fencing for preventing children from drowning.**

**Type of program:** Prevention Activity

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 0-4 years Community: Parents or care givers who look after children 0-4 years of age*

**Program start date:** 1985

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Pool fencing has been found to be an effective measure for restricting the access of children 0-4 years of age from entering an area where there is a swimming pool. An Australian standard (AS1926) has been developed to help ensure compliance. While there is a range of possible swimming pool designs, four-sided fencing ensuring access through a dynamic, secure gate (ie: self-closing and self-latching) was found to be the most effective. Enforcement of these requirements has also been found to increase compliance and effectiveness.

**How the program is delivered:** \* Enforced by state legislature \* Implemented through building codes

**Resources used by the program:** \* Australian Standard AS1926 \* Safety inspectors employed by municipal governments

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** \* Developed in consultation with industry. \* Restricts children from gaining access to swimming pools. \* Being used in Australia and internationally. \* Risk management approach. \* A Cochrane review has been conducted and found to be effective.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** III-2

**References:** \* Thompson, DC. Rivara, FP. (2004) Pool fencing for preventing drowning in children. [Systematic Review] Cochrane Injuries Group Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. \* Australian Standard AS1926 (see web links)

**Web links:**

<http://www.standards.com.au/catalogue/script/Result.asp?PSearch=false&SearchType=simple&Status=al1&DegnKeyword=as1926&Search=Search&Db=AS&Max=15>

**Information provided by:** Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Guide**

**Type of program:** Publication

**Organisation responsible:** Surf Life Saving and Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: All manager and venue operators of aquatic locations*

**Program start date:** 2003

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Signage plays an important role in risk management as it informs users of dangers, and safety information, offers some protection to the land manager from litigation and provides an economic alternative to that of employing a person at every access point to the aquatic location to inform people of dangers. The manual has been designed to provide a clear guide to land managers and venue operators of a best practice signage system that uses existing standards and risk management principles for aquatic and recreational signage.

**How the program is delivered:** Guide accessed through Royal or Surf Life Saving Australia

**Resources used by the program:** \* Based on Australian Standards

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** • This manual is based on current Australian Standards • Was developed with and by industry in conjunction with the community • Is being used by industry • Is based on a risk management approach

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** Ellis B, Waters W (2003). Aquatic and Recreational Signage Manual. Style Guide. Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner Department of Justice: Melbourne

**Web links:**

**Information provided by:** Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Murdi Paaki Mobile Indigenous Training Program**

**Type of program:** Education: Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving NSW

**Location:** Gladesville, NSW

**Program coverage:** *Regional:* Murdi Paaki region

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages

**Program start date:** December, 2004

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The rates of Indigenous drownings are 3.6 times higher than non Indigenous drownings in Australia. The Mobile Indigenous Training Program is unique in that a Royal Life Saving training officer takes the water safety and training programs to the community. Learning is more conducive when participants are in a familiar and supportive environment. Royal Life Saving’s programs are flexible and can be adapted to suit individual settings. Consideration of culturally appropriate timing, location and methods of assessment are incorporated. Providing flexible training programs at the community level ensures that the skills and knowledge base remain within the community to increase capacity. The training officer visits towns throughout the vast Murd Paaki region and can provide a number of programs including Water smart and Swim and Survive, Bronze Medallion, Senior First Aid and Austswim training courses

**How the program is delivered:** The establishment of the program infrastructure has been funded the the VET Infrastructure for Indigenous People Program, Department of Education and Training. Royal Life Saving is working in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and the Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprises through a Integrated Services Delivery Model.

**Resources used by the program:** Royal Life Saving training resources and course books. Specific Indigenous resources are also being developed.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** The program adopts an holistic approach to safety promotion for Indigenous communities: increasing life skills and community capacity, through the provision of aquatic based programs.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Marilyn Lyford



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Australasian-Oceania Swimming Professionals Convention**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association

**Location:** Lavington, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety*

**Number of participants in 2004:** 250

**Program start date:** April, 1994

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** International and national lecturers present on various professional development topics for Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety

**How the program is delivered:** Open to all interested to register

**Resources used by the program:** International and national standard presenters as selected by the ASCTA Learn-to-Swim Committee

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Developed in consultation with the Industry

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:**

**Information provided by:** Ross Gage



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Swim TOUR: National Learn-to-Swim Seminar Tour**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Swim Australia

**Location:** Bellbowrie, QLD

**Program coverage:** *National:* Approximately 12 centres around Australia

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages *Community:* Teachers & Managers of Swimming and Water Safety Programs

**Number of participants in 2004:** 600

**Program start date:** August, 2001

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	√	√	X	X	√	√	X	X	X

**Description of program:** Dave DuBois, USA, presents on various professional development topics for Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety and Swim School managers

**How the program is delivered:** Open to all interested to register

**Resources used by the program:** International standard presenter as selected by the ASCTA Learn-to-Swim Committee

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Developed in consultation with the Industry

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Ross Gage



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Swim and Survive A national swimming and water safety program educating 5-14 year olds.**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** BROADWAY, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 5-14 years*

**Program start date:** 1982

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Swim and Survive is a national swimming and water safety program that has been educating 5-14 year olds for over twenty years. It aims to reduce the number of Australia's drowning by ensuring that people have a sound knowledge of how to be safe when in, on and around water, as well as skills in swimming, personal survival and basic rescue. There are six strands in the Swim and Survive program; Entries & Exits, Sculling & Body Orientation, Movement and Swimming strokes, Survival and PFD skills, Underwater skills and Rescue Skills. Aims to develop these themes; Swimming technique, Water Safety Knowledge, Water confidence, Survival skills, Endurance There are 7 Levels of Swim and Survive to progress through and achieve.

**How the program is delivered:** The program is conducted through RLSSA Endorsed Swim Schools, RLSSA branches, Departments of Education, Schools.

**Resources used by the program:** Aquapak Certificates Aqua quiz Website Log books Brochure Posters

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Developed in consultation with industry Used throughout Australia and internationally Best practice in National Water Safety Plan - all primary school children should achieve Level 4 Swim and Survive National Water Safety Framework Linked outcomes to the Key Learning Area Health and Physical Education in the National Curriculum Over 10 million children have participated in the Swim and Survive program

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.swimandsurvive.com.au](http://www.swimandsurvive.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Penny Flint



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**CALD work in the Vietnamese Community in South Australia.**

**Type of program:** Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *State:* Metro South Australia

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages *Community:* Vietnamese community members without first aid training

**Program start date:** March, 2005

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** Consultation with the Vietnamese community in SA was undertaken to determine their knowledge and awareness of water safety issues, their water safety issues of concern, the information/assistance they required, and how they required this to be delivered. Following community consultation, the emerging issues were highlighted; resources prepared to meet issues, and strategies planned for implementation and ongoing relationships within the community.

**How the program is delivered:** The program is delivered to the community through a public awareness campaign via media channels, the employment of an ambassador, and face to face meetings such as training days and information seminars.

**Resources used by the program:** Materials which have been translated will include: - fact sheets - how to use public pool guide - media releases - website

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** - Developed in consultation with Vietnamese community - Provides access to information and resources to a CALD audience whose access would otherwise have been impeded - Follows recommendation 27 from NWSP

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)

Information provided by: Julia Bowyer



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:  
Work with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities  
across Australia.**

**Type of program:** Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: Targets will vary in each instance depending on the issues identified by the communities*

**Program start date:** March, 2005

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** Royal Life Saving will endeavour to conduct numerous CALD programs in each State and Territory, in recognising the diverse nature of Australia and the different language and cultural needs of Australians. Community consultation will be held to determine what water safety issues are a concern in each of the communities, and what steps can be taken to help alleviate these concerns.

**How the program is delivered:** Through a combination of public awareness campaign through different media channels, the use of a community ambassador, and conducting training classes with bi-lingual presenters.

**Resources used by the program:** Translated resources Websites

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Origins in the best practice recommendation 27 from the NWSP. Developed in consultation with community and fulfilling a vital need to ensure safety information is accessible to all regardless of language barriers.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)

Information provided by: Julia Bowyer



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**RLSSA Infant Aquatics Water Familiarisation program for children aged 6 months to 4 years.**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 0-4 years*

**Program start date:** 2001

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The RLS Infant Aquatic program encourages individual progression in developing aquatic skills suitable to a child's developmental stage. Key Components of the program are; Water Familiarisation Water Safety Early Buoyancy and Swimming Development The key strands of the program are; Getting Wet Keeping Balance Breathing Basic Kick & Arm Action Going Underwater Staying Afloat

**How the program is delivered:** The program is conducted through RLSSA Endorsed Swim Schools and RLSSA Branches.

**Resources used by the program:** Brochures Posters Instructor Guide Information on website Certificates

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Developed in consultation with industry Consideration of physical, cognitive, social and emotional development in development of program. Used throughout Australia

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Penny Flint



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**RLSSA Junior Lifeguard Club A program to further develop swimming and lifesaving skills.**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 5-14 years Community: 8-15 years - above is not correct*

**Program start date:** 1996

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Junior Lifeguard Club program is a unique aquatic alternative for children who want more than just swimming lessons. The program develops swimming and aquatic skills with an emphasis on; Lifesaving Skills Swimming Skills Community Education Competition Lifesaving Knowledge Leadership and Teamwork Fitness

**How the program is delivered:** The program is delivered through swim schools and pools as an alternative program for children. Lifesaving and swimming clubs are often the main organisers of the program.

**Resources used by the program:** JLC Coaches manual Lifesaving equipment Water logs Stickers Posters Brochures

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Only program of it's type Used throughout Australia

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.juniorlifeguard.com.au](http://www.juniorlifeguard.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Penny Flint



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**RLSSA Bronze Rescue**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: Main program Bronze Medallion is 14 years upwards*

**Program start date:** 1894

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Bronze Rescue program gives you the knowledge and skills to be able to make the right survival decisions that may help you or those around you to survive an aquatic emergency. The Bronze Rescue program is made up of Rescue Strands; Dry Rescue Wade Rescue Accompanied Rescue AND Bronze Strands; Bronze Star Bronze Medallion Bronze Cross

**How the program is delivered:** The Bronze Rescue program is conducted throughout Australia through RLSSA branches, schools, and pools.

**Resources used by the program:** Brochures Posters Swimming & Lifesaving Manual Website Companion website Certificates and medallions

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Used throughout Australia and internationally Best practice in the National Water Safety Plan VET qualification for career (Bronze Medallion) Bronze Medallion is the International Benchmark lifesaving award

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.bronzerescue.com.au](http://www.bronzerescue.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Penny Flint



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Development and distribution of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation.**

**Type of program:** Legislation / Standard

**Organisation responsible:** RLSSA / LSV

**Location:** Oakleigh, VIC

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: COmmercial aquatic industry*

**Number of participants in 2004:** Theoretically the entire industry

**Program start date:** 1991 in Victoria, 1994 nationally

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The purpose of the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO) is the development and distribution of safety standards for the commercial (public) swimming pool industry. It covers 7 areas at the moment, General Operations, Technical Operations (plant room)First Aid, Facility Design, Supervision, Programming and Low Patronage. The GSPO is under a constant review and renew process with a completely re-written Technical Operations section about to be released, a completely re-written Supervision and Low Patronage section currently under development and Facility Design and Program sections about to be reviewed.

**How the program is delivered:** The GSPO is delivered via the [www.poolsafety.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.poolsafety.royallifesaving.com.au) web site or via hard copy in a folder. There is no enforcement per se as the GSPO are Guidelines but we do offer a substantial service in auditing pools against the GSPO with the Swimming Pool Safety Assessment (SPSA)

**Resources used by the program:** Numerous Australian standards,. Dangerous Goods legislation and Codes of Practice from each state and territory. OH&S legislation and codes of practice from each state and territory. Hazardous Substance legislation and codes of practice from each state and territory. Numerous web sites and resources from water safety organisations around the world such as ISRM, Red Cross USE, Jeff Ellis & Associates. Royal Life in other commonwealth countries, Water Safety NZ, FINA etc. RLS staff and other experts donating time (and facilities) to the various working parties. Essentially a full time RLS staff member to maintain the currency of the guidelines and the associated library of resources.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** It is the only standard of its type in Australia. It is referred to in court (civil and coronial) as the relevant standard.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** Too numerous to list - see resources section

**Web links:** [www.poolsafety.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.poolsafety.royallifesaving.com.au)

Information provided by: Alistair Thom



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:  
NSW Pilot Keep Watch Community Health Workers Water Safety  
Program**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *State:* NSW

**Target population:** *Ages:* All ages *Community:* NSW Community Health Workers

**Program start date:** February, 2003

**Program end date:** 31/07/2003

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** A Keep Watch workshop and a number of resources for Community Health Workers (CHWs) in NSW were developed by RLSSA. The main objectives of the pilot program were: - obtain a relatively high level of awareness of the Keep Watch water safety messages and water safety prevention strategies by CHWs in NSW - Distribute Keep Watch water safety prevention strategies by CHWs in NSW

**How the program is delivered:** See "Keep Watch" program

**Resources used by the program:** See "Keep Watch" program

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** The evaluation showed that the workshops increased CHWs knowledge about the Keep watch water safety messages.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** IV

**References:** Franklin RC, Mitchell, R (2003). Evaluation of the Pilot Keep Watch Community Health Workers Water Safety Program. NSW Water Safety Taskforce, Sydney.

**Web links:** <http://www.keepwatch.com.au>

**Information provided by:** Bradley Morris



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

Victorian Schools Pool Lifesaving TELEGAMES 2005

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Life Saving Victoria

**Location:** Box Hill North, VIC

**Program coverage:** State:

**Target population:** Ages: 5-14 years

**Program start date:** September, 2004

**Program end date:** 02/05/05

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X

**Description of program:** The TELEGAMES is a school based Pool lifesaving Competition that is conducted throughout Victoria. The whole event is based on times and there are a number of venues. Results from each event are sent to us in Melbourne and overall winners are posted on the internet. Medals are awarded to individual winners, runners up and third place getters. Pennants are awarded to schools for winning relay events.

**How the program is delivered:** Each area of Victoria where the competition will be held is faxed and notified of the date of the event. Schools can then contact Life Saving Victoria to register a team and then they can compete in the competition. The school is invoiced after the competition for their participation.

**Resources used by the program:** Manual of events The Internet Key Staff from schools Key Staff from Life Saving Victoria Equipment

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Provides a pathway to the Junior Lifeguard Club Provides a pathway to the junior pool lifesaving state and national teams.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au](http://www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Andrew Skillern



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

Open Water Learning Experience

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Life Saving Victoria

**Location:** Oakleigh, VIC

**Program coverage:** State:

**Target population:** Ages: 5-14 years

**Program start date:** November, 2000

**Program end date:** 21/11/2005

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√

**Description of program:** Open Water Learning Experience is a 90 minute program that provides a practical approach to lifesaving skills. Participants learn self preservation and skills to potential save others lives. Children rotate around 5 main activities: 1. Body Boarding Skills 2. Lifejackets (PFD's) 3. Rope Rescues (Rescues) 4. DRABC 5. Ski's or Treasure Hunt Each participant receives a certificate for their participants.

**How the program is delivered:** Schools across Victoria are emailed and faxed information on when the program is available to them. Logistics of the program is managed by Life Saving Victoria staff. The program is delivered by Life Saving Victoria (Casual Staff) The program is enforced in the local press in all areas of Victoria.

**Resources used by the program:** - Equipment - Certificates etc

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Develop awareness of Open Waterways across the Victorian Community.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:**

**Information provided by:** Andrew Skillern



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

Boating Safety for Kids Program

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Victoria

**Location:** Oakleigh, VIC

**Program coverage:** State:

**Target population:** Ages: 5-14 years

**Number of participants in 2004:** 10000

**Program start date:** March, 2005

**Program end date:** 01/07/2005

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** The Boating Safety for Kids Program educates kids on the following: 1. Dangers of different waterways 2. Safety Equipment 3. Use of PFD's 4. Filling in Trip tags 5. Emergency Response Key Messages

**How the program is delivered:** Schools across Victoria are emailed and faxed information on when the program is available to them. Logistics of the program is managed by Life Saving Victoria staff. The program is delivered by Life Saving Victoria (Casual Staff) The program is enforced in the local press in all areas of Victoria.

**Resources used by the program:** - Equipment - Showbags (workbook, stickers, trip tags & Recreational boating safety handbook)

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Develop awareness of recreational boating.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:**

**Information provided by:** Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**  
**Regular inspections of private Pool Fencing for preventing children from drowning**

**Type of program:** Legislation / Standard

**Organisation responsible:** Shire of Irwin

**Location:** Dongara, WA

**Program coverage:** Local:

**Target population:** Ages: All ages

**Program start date:** Unknown

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Local Government has an obligation to enforce the WA Building Regulations 1989. All pools in local government areas need to be inspected at least every 4 years. The Shire of Irwin inspects pools every 2 years.

**How the program is delivered:** \* Enforced by state legislature \* Safety inspector visits

**Resources used by the program:** \* Australian Standard AS1926 \* Safety inspectors employed by municipal governments

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** \* Developed in consultation with industry. \* Restricts children from gaining access to swimming pools. \* Being used in Australia and internationally. \* Risk management approach. \* A Cochrane review has been conducted and found to be effective.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** III-2

**References:** \* Thompson, DC. Rivara, FP. (2004) Pool fencing for preventing drowning in children. [Systematic Review] Cochrane Injuries Group Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. \* Australian Standard AS1926 (see web links)

**Web links:**

<http://www.standards.com.au/catalogue/script/Result.asp?PSearch=false&SearchType=simple&Status=al1&DegenKeyword=as1926&Search=Search&Db=AS&Max=15>

**Information provided by:** Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Keep Watch**

**Type of program:** Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

**Location:** Broadway, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 0-4 years Community: Parents of Children 0-4 years*

**Program start date:** 1992

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Keep Watch is a public awareness program targeted at parents of children age 0-5 years to encourage them to supervise their children around water (ie be within arm reach of their child at all times when they are near water), ensure that have appropriate fencing around home swimming pools (ie meets Australian Standard AS1926), learn resuscitation, and have the child take water familiarisation classes.

**How the program is delivered:** Keep Watch is delivered in a range of formats through the RLSSA Branch network. Delivery mechanisms include: providing information sessions to community health workers; community service announcements on tv, radio and in newspapers; distribution of information to parents at special events such as baby shows; website; mother group talks, resuscitation classes; infant aquatic classes; and much more.

**Resources used by the program:** The program has a number of resources: Brochures, posters, CD-Roms, fact sheets, website, tapes, ducks, CPR fridge magnets, and newsletters

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Developed in consultation with parents of children, proven strategies of supervision, fencing, water familiarisation and resuscitation. Has been used for many years in Australia. A cochrane review has found pool fencing to be effective

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** IV

**References:** Thompson, DC. Rivara, FP. (2004) Pool fencing for preventing drowning in children. [Systematic Review] Cochrane Injuries Group Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews  
Australian Standard AS1926

**Web links:** [www.keepwatch.com.au](http://www.keepwatch.com.au)

**Information provided by:** Richard Franklin



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Spinal Injuries Prevention Program - Aquatic Safety**

**Type of program:** Education and Public Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Paraplegic Benefit Fund Australia

**Location:** Osbourne Park, WA

**Program coverage:** *State:* Western Australia

**Target population:** *Ages:* 15-34 years

**Program start date:** 2002

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** PBF's Aquatic Injury Prevention Program has been designed to raise awareness of spinal cord injury in the aquatic environment, with the ultimate aim of reducing the incidence and impact of these injuries. It provides education to the aquatic sector (surf lifesavers, swimming instructors, swimming centre managers), creates awareness in the community, produces resources and actively engages with the community to spread its message. Its aims are: \* Contribute to the reduction of injury in the aquatic environment, including but not limited to spinal cord injury. \* Raise awareness of aquatic related spinal cord injury in the community \* Promote and inspire confidence in the handling and management of suspected spinal cord injury. \* Raise awareness of disability, specifically spinal cord injury, in the community \* Develop and implement community-based aquatic injury prevention programs aimed at reaching young males aged between 16 and 35

**How the program is delivered:** \* Presentations to Centre Supervisors and Instructor inservice. \* Branded with the slogan "What are you diving into?" used on all resources and other reference material. \* Series of resources available for aquatic centres, surf life saving clubs, parents, community groups and other interested parties by contacting PBF.

**Resources used by the program:** Posters – A series of four posters represents different aquatic settings and shows the negative consequences of unsafe aquatic behaviour. These are available for use in aquatic community centres and for other interested parties. Brochure – The information brochure is useful for parents and community centres. It highlights information for safe aquatic use and gives some insight into spinal cord injury in the aquatic environment. Coasters – Coasters have been produced to reach the target group of males aged 16-35 and will be placed in public places like bars, pubs, surf clubs, skate parks and community centres. Video – PBF has produced a water safety video titled "What are you diving into?". This video provides a powerful and unique perspective of aquatic related injuries and stories of five young West Australians who have sustained a spinal cord injury through an aquatic accident and tell of their personal experiences. The video also provides insightful prevention messages and is an excellent educational tool that can be used in schools and other water related organisations. Professional surfer Taj Burrow stars in the video and he reinforces the safety messages that are provided throughout the video. The video is part of a video resource pack that is helpful to implement and facilitate a session that revolves around the use of the video.



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Spinal Injuries Prevention Program - Aquatic Safety**

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** \* Developed in response to past injuries, specifically targeting males aged 16-35 \* Review of NSW campaign "Don't dive into a wheelchair" \* Working closely with other aquatic related organisations to reduce the incidence and impact of injury in the aquatic environment

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** Blitvich, J. D., G. K. McElroy, et al. (1999). "Characteristics of "low risk" and "high risk" dives by young adults: risk reduction in spinal cord injury." Spinal Cord 37: 553-559

**Web links:**

[http://www.pfbne.asn.au/asp/index.asp?sid=5&page=injury\\_prevention&cid=80&gid=18](http://www.pfbne.asn.au/asp/index.asp?sid=5&page=injury_prevention&cid=80&gid=18)

Information provided by: Bradley Morris



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

NT Swimming Pool Fencing Legislation

**Type of program:** Legislation / Standard

**Organisation responsible:** NT Governments

**Location:** NT

**Program coverage:** State: Northern Territory

**Target population:** Ages: All ages Community: Swimming pool owners

**Program start date:** January, 2003

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Swimming Pool Fencing Act 2002 commenced on 1 Jan 2003 replacing existing council by-laws statewide. All swimming pools and spas on residential properties less than 1.8ha are now required to be registered. Existing pool owners need not upgrade fencing until their property is sold or tenanted.

**How the program is delivered:** \* All existing pools must be registered. \* All new swimming pools must comply with Australian Standards. \* A 15% compliance check is undertaken by inspectors each year.

**Resources used by the program:** \* Inspectors \* Early Registration Incentive Scheme providing cash rebates and interest free loans for pool fence upgrades

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** \* Supports Australian Standard \* Restricts children from gaining access to swimming pools. \* A Cochrane review has been conducted and found to be effective.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** \* Thompson, DC. Rivara, FP. (2004) Pool fencing for preventing drowning in children. [Systematic Review] Cochrane Injuries Group Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. \* Australian Standard AS1926

**Web links:**

<http://www.standards.com.au/catalogue/script/Result.asp?PSearch=false&SearchType=simple&Status=al I&DegnKeyword=as1926&Search=Search&Db=AS&Max=15>

Information provided by: Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**AUSTSWIM teacher of swimming and watersafety (core program) plus:**  
1. teacher of adults 2. Teacher of people with disability 3. Teacher of infant aquatics 4. Teacher of toward competitive strokes (extension programs with core tsw as prerequisite)

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** AUSTSWIM: The Australian Council For The Teaching Of Swimming And Watersafety

**Location:** Boronia, VIC

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: 16 years plus*

**Number of participants in 2004:** 8,500

**Program start date:** July, 1979

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** Formal course work and practical industry based assessment.

**How the program is delivered:** Network of providers through QA service agreement. Uses AUSTSWIM approved trainers courses and providers.

**Resources used by the program:** Specifically developed resources including: Presenter kits, texts, multimedia, videos, assessment materials, course delivery and assessment policies and procedures.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Industry developed with standind, broad-based review committees.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:** AUSTSWIM resources review committee minutes satisfaction survey

**Web links:** [www.austswim.com.au/policies](http://www.austswim.com.au/policies)

**Information provided by:** Gordon Mallett



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Safe Surfing Australia**

**Type of program:** Education, Prevention activity

**Organisation responsible:** Surfing Australia Inc.

**Location:** Kingscliff, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: All ages Community: Anyone wanting to learn to ride a surfboard*

**Program start date:** October, 2003

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Safe Surfing program is a five level certificate course designed to take the beginner to higher levels of competence. This program is balanced with surf and beach environment issues, educating participants about the dangers of the ocean and giving a greater awareness of changing conditions.

**How the program is delivered:** Safe Surfing is delivered by the 70 affiliated surf schools around Australia.

**Resources used by the program:** - Soft surfboards - Rash shirts and wetsuits (when required). - A 64 page handbook/workbook for the participant to use as a technical backup to the practical course.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** For the student/coach ratio which is 8, although nationally accredited coaches sometimes reduce the ration to 6 for greater personal contact.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Bradley Morris



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Beach to Bush**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Surf Life Saving SA

**Location:** Torrensville, SA

**Program coverage:** *Regional:*

**Target population:** *Ages: 5-14 years Community: remote and country regions*

**Number of participants in 2004:** 4,000

**Program start date:** October, 1999

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X

**Description of program:** Beach to Bush is a free program designed to educate children in rural communities about water safety. Primarily classroom based th programs comes to the community and looks at developing basic awareness and understanding oof aquatic safety issues at a variety of venues, and in partcular the beach. Focus is on safety, being able to recognise a dangerous situations and basic survival tips.

**How the program is delivered:** Promoted to schools in the region being targetted. Provided for free.

**Resources used by the program:** The school also receives a book and other resources for their library and all children receive activity work books. PowerPoint program, video and interactive programs are used to deliver.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Address issue of rural communities not haiving access to such programs Address need that rural communities are higher risk groups. Identifies key issues with resources to back up learning both in class and for parents to see.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Shane Daw



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

Country Energy Water Safety Program

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** SLSNSW

**Location:** Narrabeen, NSW

**Program coverage:** State: rural areas of NSW

**Target population:** Ages: 5-14 years Community: Beach Visitors

**Number of participants in 2004:** 5300

**Program start date:** October, 2004

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X

**Description of program:** This course is designed to teach school children the essentials of water safety and the techniques of a one-person rescue with the equipment at hand. The program is delivered at beaches, pools, dams or wholly in a classroom based setting using props and other equipment. It has been specifically orientated for those areas that are not geographically classed as 'outback' or 'coastal'.

**How the program is delivered:** The Program is sponsored by Country Energy and is designed and accessed through a band of Community Education Trainers within SLSNSW.

**Resources used by the program:** Workbooks, Face to Face delivery modes, SLS rescue equipment, Charts, Brochures, Vehicles

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Targets High Risk Groups Based of actual Statistics Based off othe established programs Evidence of Increased awareness Risk Management approach

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** III-2

**References:**

**Web links:**

Information provided by: Craig Roberts



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Telstra Beach to Bush Surf Safety Program**

**Type of program:** Community Awareness

**Organisation responsible:** Surf Life Saving Australia

**Location:** Bondi Beach, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 5-14 years Community: School Students in Rural communities*

**Number of participants in 2004:** 40,000

**Program start date:** August, 2001

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Telstra Beach to Bush Surf Safety Program offers school-age children in regional areas an introduction to surf lifesaving by utilising local waterways and surf lifesaving equipment. Classroom based surf safety lessons are delivered by a number of knowledgeable facilitators. The programs have been run in schools in remote locations in an attempt to increase awareness of the risks associated with the surf and local waterways, as well as ways to minimise these risks.

**How the program is delivered:** This program is delivered by each Surf Life Saving State Centre. Prior to the commencement of each program, these states highlight the specific regions and towns that the program will visit in that particular year and expressions of interest will be sent to each school in the area. This method is used to ensure that most regional communities in each state are able to participate in the program over a given period of time.

**Resources used by the program:** Each program facilitator uses information from all of SLSA's educational material (SLSA Training Manual, SLSA Surf Education Program, etc.) to deliver content. In addition, facilitators will use rescue and patrol equipment as props to highlight some of the important aspects of surf lifesaving. Each participant is also given an activity book which is a fun way for students to learn about the surf.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Provides students in rural communities with an understanding of the dangers at the beach. Due to their distance from the coast, many of these students would not ordinarily have access to this information. Many of these students however, do travel to the coast for holidays, and this program provides them with strong safety tips on these occasions.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc\\_display.asp?document\\_id=453](http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc_display.asp?document_id=453)

Information provided by: Chris Giles



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**Surf Education**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Surf Life Saving Australia

**Location:** Bondi Beach, NSW

**Program coverage:** *National*

**Target population:** *Ages: 5-14 years Community: Junior Activities Members of SLSA*

**Number of participants in 2004:** 40000

**Program start date:** 1994

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	√	√

**Description of program:** Surf Education is a program designed for Junior Activities Members of Surf Life Saving Australia, also known as Nippers. The Program delivers education for children between the ages of U8 and U14, and focuses on surf safety, survival, and awareness. They are taught about the dangers of the surf and how to stay safe when at the beach. The program covers all aspects from water safety - reading the surf, recognising rips and currents, understanding waves etc as well as other dangers, such as the sun.

**How the program is delivered:** The different elements of the Surf Education Program are available for purchase by surf life saving clubs for the delivery of the course. The clubs are required to delivery a minimum level of the course to all junior activites participants. The program is delivered by club members, typically these are the parents of the children involved. these parents undergo training as an Age Manager, which is very comprehensive, incorporating all aspects of Junior Activities - including Surf Education.

**Resources used by the program:** The program uses the resources: - Surf Awareness 1 and 2 - Surf Safety 1 and 2 -Surf Smart 1 and 2

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** Surf Life Saving Australia is the leading authority in surf lifesaving and surf education in Australia. This knowledge and experience is passed onto these members, and can be understood to be best practice by the 40000 strong membership which continues to grow.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** Unsure

**References:**

**Web links:** [http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc\\_display.asp?document\\_id=3](http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc_display.asp?document_id=3)  
[http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc\\_display.asp?document\\_id=78](http://www.slsa.asn.au/doc_display.asp?document_id=78)

**Information provided by:** Tim Lee



Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:

Darwin City Nippers

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Surf Life Saving NT

**Location:** Darwin, NT

**Program coverage:** *Local:* Darwin and Palmerston

**Target population:** *Ages:* 5-14 years

**Number of participants in 2004:** Zero (new program)

**Program start date:** May, 2005

**Program end date:** 02/07/05

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
X	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	X	X

**Description of program:** • To educate the children on beach safety and awareness when visiting a beach or aquatic environment. • To demonstrate the children's knowledge and ability to be able to successfully carry out a range of rescues. • To educate the children about basic first aid and resuscitation skills. • To introduce the children to the competition aspects involved in Surf Life Saving. • To educate the children on the level of fitness required to succeed in this form of recreation and service.

**How the program is delivered:** \* advertised through local media \*promoted through local primary school visits and news letters. \* utilises policies of SLSA.

**Resources used by the program:** \*Life Guard and Instructors employed by SLSNT through funding from the Darwin City Council. \*SLSA and SLSNT policies meber protection, youth development, stingers and other dangerous marine life.

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** \* successfully implemented in Queensland. \* introduces children 7-13 and their parents to safe beach use in the Top End. \* SLSA risk management policies in place to enhance participants safety. \* promotes use of Top End Beaches in a responsible manner. \*provides additional beach patrols at a time and beach previously unpatrolled.

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:**

*Information provided by:* Paul Dale



**Australian Water Safety Council Audit of National Water Safety Programs:**

**The Surfing Victoria Indigenous Surfing Program**

**Type of program:** Education

**Organisation responsible:** Surfing Victoria

**Location:** Torquay, VIC

**Program coverage:** State: Victoria

**Target population:** Ages: All ages Community: Indigenous Australians

**Program start date:** 2001

**Program end date:** Continuing

**Months run in 2004:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

**Description of program:** The Indigenous Surfing Program focuses on the promotion of surfing within indigenous communities in Victoria. Surfing skills and water safety information are taught to participants.

**How the program is delivered:** \* Community visits are performed by representatives to promote the program and its opportunities to community educators. \* Role models go to camps to promote surfing. Surfing / Water safety is an integral component taught to all participants. \* An indigenous component was added to The Roxy Surf Jam to further encourage participation \* The Victorian Indigenous Surfing Titles increases participation and awareness

**Resources used by the program:** \* Surfing Australia local surfing schools \* Support from Sport & Recreation Victoria \* Community role models \* Surfboards, wetsuits

**Reasons the program is considered best practice:** The program encourages participation in surfing and water safety activities. It has been developed with the help of input from a broad base of partners: \* Surfing Victoria \* Surfing Victoria's Indigenous Sub-committee \* Victorian Indigenous Surfing Association \* Sport & Recreation Victoria \* VASR \* local indigenous co-ops & communities

**Level of evidence supporting reasons for best practice:** V

**References:**

**Web links:** <http://www.surfingaustralia.com/>

Information provided by: Bradley Morris