



# WATCH AROUND WATER PACKAGE

The 'Watch Around Water' program is a comprehensive package which includes five (5) key components:

## (1) Public Education

The Public Education component of the program is designed to challenge the ingrained behaviour of relying on lifeguards to provide supervision of children and to encourage parents/guardians to actively and effectively supervise children. Resources promoting the supervision message will include:

- **Pull-Up Banner:**  
Self standing promotional banner
- **500 Waterproof Wristbands:**  
Distributed upon entry to identify and reinforce children requiring supervision
- **Endorsement Sticker**
- **12 Month Accreditation Certificate**
- **CD (Brochure Inserts, Public Announcements, Colouring Pages)**

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## (2) Professional Development

Professional development training is conducted with both facility management and staff.

- Facility management training will outline the Watch Around Water program and how to implement this program within the aquatic facility. This training will also provide management with the necessary resources to conduct future staff training within the facility.
- Staff training conducted at facilities will outline the Watch Around Water program and its implementation within the aquatic facility. This training will focus on how the program fits in with their daily activities. One of the greatest hurdles young staff at aquatic facilities face is enforcing rules to parents/guardians. Therefore, facility staff will receive training to equip them with conflict resolution skills to assist in promoting and delivering the Watch Around Water program.

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## (3) Aquatic Facility Policy

A number of mandatory and recommended policies have been developed to address parental/guardian supervision of children in aquatic facilities, including age recommendations and ratio specifications. The policies have been developed to compliment and support existing safety policies and the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations which provides best practice guidelines for all aquatic facilities operating in Australia.

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## (4) Environmental Modification

The program also recommends modifications that would assist in the creation of an environment that is more conducive to safe supervision practices. Certain barriers to parents/guardians adequately supervising their children are the result of relatively unchangeable factors inherent in pool design. There may however, be other ways that the pool deck layout can be changed including the provision of additional seating and shading to make it easier for parents/guardians to supervise their children. Recommendations for environmental modifications will be facility specific.

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## (5) Accreditation

Upon signing the Watch Around Water Facilities Agreement, facilities will be accredited for 12 months. Aquatics & Recreation Victoria, the peak body for the aquatic and recreation industry, will provide ongoing support to participating facilities to deliver the Watch Around Water program.

