



MEDIA RELEASE

RE: AUSTSWIM CALL'S FOR BEST PRACTICE

Thursday 29th October 2015

AUSTSWIM LIMITED

The Australasian Council for the Teaching
of Swimming and Water Safety
ACN 097 784 122

HEAD OFFICE

8/21 Howleys Road
Notting Hill, Victoria 3168

PO Box 139
Mulgrave, Victoria 3170

TOLL FREE 1300 885 529

T +61 3 9562 7900

F +61 3 9562 6450

E info@austswim.com.au

The Save Our Kids campaign calling for mandatory swimming lessons for all primary school students in Victoria has been applauded by AUSTSWIM.

The campaign, backed by the Herald Sun, would undoubtedly help make children safer in our waterways, said the new CEO of AUSTSWIM, Jennifer Schembri-Portelli.

"The importance of water safety has come in to renewed focus with the launch of the campaign and AUSTSWIM's world-first ISO accreditation this month," Mrs Schembri-Portelli said.

"Surprisingly, until now there have been no standards applying to the accreditation of teachers of swimming and water safety, often leaving parents at the mercy of some less-than-desirable learning environments.

"Best practice guidelines exist, but none have the quality and assurance of an international ISO Standard.

"We undertook a rigorous four-year process to attain **ISO/ IEC 17024**, and now parents and carers who want the best water safety instruction for their loved ones have a benchmark to help in their choice of teacher. The services provided by all AUSTSWIM accredited and licenced teachers conform to this international standard."

Mrs Schembri-Portelli, who took over the reins at AUSTSWIM on October 12, said there are 33,000 AUSTSWIM accredited swimming and water safety teachers across Australia.

The not-for-profit organisation is the pre-eminent provider of swimming and water safety teacher training in Australia and has a growing international presence in New Zealand, Asia, India and Dubai.

With 28 years active involvement in the fitness and aquatic industry Mrs Schembri-Portelli is a passionate advocate for water safety for people of all ages. She will be a presenter at next week's World Conference on drowning prevention in Malaysia.

For further Information please contact:

Jennifer Schembri-Portelli
AUSTSWIM Chief Executive Officer
ceo@austswim.com.au

