



MEDIA RELEASE

RE: Local acclaimed on the world stage

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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

Stanhope Gardens resident Jared Wilson was recognised at the recent World Conference on Drowning Prevention held in Malaysia for his presentation on rip current awareness.

A feature of the presentation was introducing the international audience to the “u-rippa” device, which provides a simulated environment of moving water, but in a controlled and supervised situation.

Mr Wilson, an AUSTSWIM general manager for program delivery in Sydney, said the presentation centred on rip current awareness and a program his organisation ran as part of the NSW Water Safety Black Spot funding.

“The practical workshops using u-rippa gave students an opportunity to explore and understand how their body feels, moves and reacts in moving water and to understand what they should do if they are caught in a rip current,” Mr Wilson said.

The presentation was recognised at the conference as one of the best papers dealing with beach safety. And a number of countries were particularly interested in the u-rippa device.

About 450 delegates from around the world attended the November 4-6 conference, co-sponsored by the International Life Saving Federation and the World Health Organisation.

Mr Wilson, who has worked for AUSTSWIM since 2007, said it was the first time he had presented at an international conference.

AUSTSWIM is the pre-eminent provider of swimming and water safety teacher training in Australia. In a world-first, it has recently gained ISO accreditation for its swimming and water safety training programs.

The new CEO of AUSTSWIM, Jennifer Schembri-Portelli, said ISO standards gave consumers the confidence that products and services were safe, reliable and of good quality.

“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,” Mrs Schembri-Portelli said.

“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 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.”

For further information please contact:

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

