



MEDIA RELEASE

RE: Olympian Matt Welsh back in the pool

November 23rd 2015

AUSTSWIM LIMITED

The Australasian Council for the Teaching
of Swimming and Water Safety
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Former Olympic swimmer **Matt Welsh** has gone back to lessons in the pool.

Last weekend he started training for his AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety accreditation.

One of Australia's greatest swimmers, having achieved Olympic, World Championship and Commonwealth Games success, Matt said it was now important for him to learn the correct ways to teach vital knowledge, skill and understanding for swimming and water safety.

"For me, swimming has always been an enjoyable, healthy thing to do," Matt said. "My three kids are in learn-to-swim programs and for me the teaching of swimming and water safety has been a great skill to learn and add to my background of swimming.

"I wanted to make sure I'm doing everything the right way. I want to encourage the kids to enjoy the water, but also to ensure we all respect the inherent dangers around water."

Matt said water-based activities were an important part of Australian culture, but, in addition to knowing how to swim, people young and old should gain vital knowledge, skill and understanding to help prevent drowning tragedies.

Matt is also involved with the aquatics program at Melbourne's Genazzano FCJ College, where his AUSTSWIM training will come to the fore.

AUSTSWIM is the pre-eminent provider of swimming and water safety teacher training in Australia. In a world-first the organisation recently achieved international accreditation for its programs, attaining **ISO/IEC 7024** certification.

AUSTSWIM CEO Jennifer Schembri-Portelli said: "We undertook a rigorous four-year process to attain **ISO/IEC 17024**, and now parents and carers who want the best water safety education for their loved ones have a benchmark to help in their choice of teacher. The services provided by AUSTSWIM's 33,000 accredited and licenced teachers conform to this international standard."

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