

# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY EDUCATION A MUST

Royal Life Saving released some alarming information in regards to swimming and our young Australian school children. Royal Life Saving state that, "50,000 children will leave primary school this summer unable to swim, making them vulnerable to drowning". Royal Life Saving continues to add that, "At an absolute minimum, children should be able to swim 50 metres, float for 2 minutes and be able to practice basic rescue techniques before they leave primary school."

AUSTSWIM supports Royal Life Saving's call that swimming needs to remain in the National School Curriculum to allow the necessary access to swim lessons for all primary aged children. Australia is surrounded by water and has inland water ways, rivers, lakes and dams, so it is essential that our Australian school children possess water safety and survival skills, such as, floating, sculling, and treading water. These skills are best practiced in a well supervised and structured swim lesson so as to be properly guided by an accredited AUSTSWIM Teacher™ about important water safety techniques and skills and be equipped with invaluable water safety knowledge. Aquatic Education in primary schools is a must so that children can have fun and safely experience the many water activities Australia has to offer.

While some children are enrolled in private swim lessons, many miss out and rely on school's to provide the opportunity of swim lessons. The Royal Life Saving highlights that children who don't have access to or partake in water safety skills lessons, are 'extremely vulnerable to drowning when they are anywhere near water.'

AUSTSWIM CEO Gordon Mallett urges Australian parents to ensure that children are constantly supervised in and around the water and that they receive regular learn to swim and water safety aquatic education in a fun, engaging and safe environment by appropriately accredited AUSTSWIM Teachers™. Learning to swim provides your children with important skills and the confidence to be able to enjoy water safely. Providing your child with the opportunity to learn to swim and water safety skills will give them the best chance of survival if an accident were ever to happen. The National Curriculum needs to keep 'swimming' as a focus within the school curriculum to ensure all primary children can leave primary school with swimming and water safety skills.

**For further information please contact:**

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