



MEDIA RELEASE

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RE: 2017 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults Award

AUSTSWIM LIMITED

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of Swimming and Water Safety
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Accolade for seniors water safety program

Seymour swimming and water safety teacher Jennifer Fuhrmeister is making a huge contribution to keep local seniors safer in the water.

Jennifer, who was recently named recipient of the 2017 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults Award, co-created and successfully ran a 10-week Grey Medallion Course for 35 seniors last year.

All members of the initial class graduated and subsequent courses at the Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre have been in high demand.

One of the key objectives of the latest Australian Water Safety Council Strategy, aimed at reducing drowning by 50% by 2020, is to strengthen healthy aquatic activity programs targeting people aged over 65.

The centre's swim supervisor Laura Lehner said Jennifer had had some amazing results in her adults course. "One adult client came to Jennifer as she was too scared to place her face in the water," Laura said. "After four weeks, Jennifer had her paddling the full length of the pool and beginning to perfect freestyle and backstroke."

Jennifer has been teaching swimming and water safety for 10 years. "I initially wanted to volunteer at the local primary school to teach the children swimming and water safety," she said. She now teaches a range of classes at the Seymour centre.

The presentation of eight national AUSTSWIM awards was a highlight of the 2017 'Soak It Up' National Conference and Aquasummit in Tweed Heads at the end of September.

AUSTSWIM CEO Jennifer Schembri-Portelli said the national awards were the pinnacle of recognition for swimming and water safety educators. With over 30,000 licenced teachers, AUSTSWIM services the community and enhances a skilled aquatic workforce.

A not-for-profit body, AUSTSWIM is Australia's pre-eminent provider of swimming and water safety teacher training. Its licensed teachers are accredited to the ISO17024 standard and provide an essential link in drowning prevention and safer aquatic participation.

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