



Paul Toole
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE SUPPORT FOR POOL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The NSW Government will increase its support for a summer advertising blitz about backyard pool safety, Minister for Local Government Paul Toole said today.

“Active adult supervision of young children is the first line of defence against drowning in backyard pools,” Mr Toole said.

“Royal Lifesaving NSW’s campaign, with increased NSW Government support, will drive home this important message.”

The increased support for the campaign formed part of the NSW Government’s response to the Independent Review of Swimming Pool Regulation.

“The review made 62 recommendations that required extensive analysis and careful consideration,” Mr Toole said.

A recommendation to force all pool owners to comply with a single standard, rather than retain the existing relevant standards, has not been accepted.

An analysis of the recommendations found the cost of implementing all the review’s recommendations would be more than \$1 billion.

This would be a cost borne by pool owners of between \$2,000 and \$5,000 each.

User-friendly guidance material advising pool owners in practical terms what they need to do to comply with the relevant standard will be produced. Guidance material will also be produced for pool certifiers.

Royal Life Saving Society NSW operations manager Michael Ilinsky said a sharper focus on active adult supervision would be the most effective way of preventing drowning in backyard pools.

“The research backs this up. Active adult supervision is the best way to keep kids safe, and regular, targeted reminders of this message through advertising and media is the best way to ensure adults remain vigilant,” Mr Ilinsky said.

Earlier this year, the NSW Government introduced new legislative provisions applying to the sale and lease of properties with swimming pools. Under those changes, property buyers have 90 days from settlement to rectify non-compliant pool barriers.

The Independent Review of Swimming Pool Regulation, the NSW Government response and supporting documents can be found at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/content/swimming-pool-barrier-review-2015

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