

WAW FAQ's - Customers

What is Watch around Water?

Watch Around Water (WAW) is a campaign educating the public about active supervision and encouraging parents / guardians to take on the responsibility of this role while visiting aquatic facilities.

I have not heard of it before?

Watch Around Water commenced in Western Australia A 9 years ago and was introduced into South Australia with the last 2 years. It is currently implemented in over 160 pools throughout Victoria, including a number of metropolitan, regional and seasonal facilities.

What are the guidelines for Watch Around Water?

There are two key supervision guidelines: one for children under 5 (0-4 years), and those under 10 (5-9 years).

- Under 5: Children must be constantly supervised and to remain within arm's reach of a parent or guardian. (If the child is in the water, the parent or guardian must be in the water too).
- Under 10: Children must be accompanied into the facility and constantly supervised by a parent / guardian. The parent / guardian must have clear, constant and direct access to the child at all times.

My child is a competent swimmer. Why do I need to be in the water with them?

It is not only about swimming ability, it is also a safety issue. If a child gets hurt, a parent or guardian within close vicinity can act on the incident immediately, thereby preventing any further complications. It is very easy for young children who are good swimmers to get out of their depth or become tired, making it difficult for them to get back to the edge and often causing children to panic.

I will jump in if I need to, but I do not want to enter the water.

See above. This has become a condition of entry. If you do not comply with the conditions of entry you are welcome to go to reception for a refund on your entry fee.

My toddler is in the toddler pool. Do I need to wear bathers?

No. If you to have your shoes off, pants rolled up and are prepared to get wet, this is ok. You must be ready to respond if something happens to your child in the water. As deep as the child is in the water, you must also be.

Can I read a book or use my phone while watching my child?

No. It is important to remember that active supervision is about constantly watching and always having a clear view of your child. Remember, it only takes 20 seconds for a child to drown, so an incident may easily occur during a short lapse in supervision.

WAW FAQ's - Customers

I am only just ducking off to grab a coffee or go to the toilet. Why is that an issue?

As stated previously, it is important to remember that active supervision is about constantly watching and always having a clear view of your child. Remember, it only takes 20 seconds for a child to drown, so an incident may easily occur during a short lapse in supervision.

Is this legislation?

No. It is a framework and set of guidelines as well as a condition of entry.

My child is having lessons. Do I need to pay if I am going for a swim after the lesson?

If your child is under 5 years you may not need to pay as you are required to be in the water with your child/children. If your child is over 5 years you will be required to pay as you may not be required to be in the water.

My child has swimming lessons, do the guidelines apply?

Individual facilities should determine and document their parental supervision expectations for when young children are taking part in swimming lessons. This internal policy should be clearly advised to parents / guardians and subsequently enforced. There should be a particular focus on the handover process before and after lessons.

It is culturally inappropriate for me to enter the water due to my religion. Can my child under 5 swim alone?

All children under 5 must have a parent or guardian within arm's reach at all times. Your child will only be allowed to swim in the toddler pool, and you must have your shoes off and be prepared to get wet if anything happens to your child in that pool. As deep as the child is in the water, you must also be. If your child would like to swim in the learner pool or 25m pool, you will need to bring another adult that is able to swim.