



# Watch Around Water Policy

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Leisure Services Coordinator Leisure
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Please check Council's Intranet to ensure this is the latest Revision

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## **Purpose**

To ensure the safety and education of patrons, parents and staff on adequate supervision particularly children under 10 years within the aquatic facility. This policy is implemented to prevent the number of fatal and non-fatal drowning incidences involving young children.

## **Scope**

The policy applies to all Mitchell Leisure Services staff, members and guests.

## **Policy**

All it takes is 20 seconds for a child to drown.

### **1. Children under 5 years old:**

- must be accompanied into the centre by a responsible parent / guardian
- must be constantly and actively supervised during recreational play within arms reach
- **both** parent and child to wear the centre identified with under 5 (yellow) "Watch Around Water wristband" to identify who is the responsible parent / guardian
- responsible parent / guardian needs to be dressed appropriately to enter the water to remain within arms distance
- Failure to comply with the policy will result in the child being removed from the water

### **2. Children under 10 years old:**

- must be accompanied into the centre by a responsible parent / guardian
- must be constantly and actively supervised
- responsible parent / guardian must remain in the centre at all times
- responsible parent / guardian must not engage in other physical activities throughout the centre
- responsible parent / guardian must keep eye contact with their child/ren at all times and not be using electronic devices
- **both** parent and child to wear the centre identified with 5-10 year old (red) "Watch Around Water wristband" to identify who is the responsible parent / guardian
- responsible parent / guardian must be positioned to have a clear view of the child with
- no physical or structural barriers between them and the child / children.

### **3. Children over 10 years old:**

- For children 10 years and older, parents must use their knowledge of the individual child's swimming ability and general development to determine the level of accompaniment required.

### **Implementation of the policy**

- Reception staff and Duty Managers are responsible to ensure that all children under 10 **and** the parent / guardian have the appropriate Watch Around Water wristband placed on their wrist by the staff member.
- Reception and Duty Managers are responsible to explain the Watch Around Water policy and ensure that the parents are clear on what their requirements and expectations are whilst within the centre.
- If parents are not willing to comply with the Watch Around Water policy, admission to the centre will be refused.
- Lifeguards are to ensure that the Watch Around Water wristbands remain on the patrons
- Where required; Lifeguards are to replace the Watch Around Water wristbands on any patrons that has fallen off or been missed at reception
- The Lifeguards role is to enforce the Watch Around Water policy consistently
- Lifeguards may be required to re-educate patrons on the Watch Around Water policy, the safety component to parents and the requirement to be within arms reach
- Failure to comply with the Watch Around Water policy will be escalated to the Duty Manager
- The Duty Manager will reiterate the Watch Around Water policy and need for compliance
- Continual failure to comply will result in the child being removed from the water

### **Swim Teachers Responsibility**

- Ensure that all children under 5 have a Watch Around Water wristband on at all times
- Swim Teachers are to inform the Lifeguard if a child is missing a wristband
- Swim Teachers are to ensure that parents remain in the centre at all times for students under 10.

## **Definitions**

Aquatic Facility:	Council owned aquatic facilities
Responsible Parent/Guardian:	Person over 16 years old, free of drugs and alcohol
Child:	Person under the age of 16 years
Drown:	Respiratory impairment from being in or under liquid

## **Responsibilities**

Duty Managers, Receptionists, Lifeguards, Swim School Teachers, Team Leaders and Management are responsible for implementing this policy.

## **Related Documents**

Pool Lifeguard Manual