



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN04466-2022
Your Ref: E-Petition 3722-2022

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9 June 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-petition number 3722-22 titled 'Mandatory Accreditation and Annual Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Pool safety Standards in Queensland'. The e-petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 May 2022.

I would like to thank the petitioners for their interest in enhancing current pool safety standards and compliance regulations in Queensland.

Pool safety is a matter the government takes extremely seriously, and by way of background, Queensland has some of the most robust swimming pool safety laws in the country.

Key elements of the pool safety framework in Queensland include:

- a requirement that all regulated pools to be included in a state-based pool safety register,
- fencing for portable pools and spas deeper than 300 millimetres,
- a requirement that pool safety certificates be obtained from a licensed pool safety inspector when a property with a pool is sold or leased. Certificates are valid for one year for shared pools and two years for non-shared pools,
- mandatory inspections by local governments for immersion incidents of children under five in swimming pools. These incidents must be reported by hospitals, as well as voluntary reporting by the Queensland Ambulance Service, to Queensland Health.

Under Queensland law, if you have a pool, you must also display CPR signage and instructions prominently. In addition to requirements related to the size, location and durability of the sign, from 1 January 2017, any new or replacement signs must show how to perform CPR in line with the technique published in ANZCOR Guideline 8 – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

We also encourage pool owners and users to learn CPR and keep their skills up-to-date with yearly refresher courses. In support of that, and for the cost of a gold coin donation, the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) provides CPR awareness sessions— and has done so since 2008. These sessions aim to build confidence in the skill of administering CPR to adults, children and infants, and it's a service that, particularly prior to COVID, tens of thousands of Queenslanders made use of each year. Details on how the program can be accessed are available at www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/cprawareness.html.

For a fee, the QAS also offers more formerly accredited courses in CPR and other first aid practices and more information about these courses can be found at <https://bookings.qld.gov.au/services/firstaid/information>.

In further support of Queensland's pool safety laws, especially for young children, it is also recommended that all pool owners and users:

- Always supervise children in or around pools or spas.
- Ensure pools are fenced and the fence complies with pool safety standards.
- Adjust gates to make sure it opens away from the pool area.
- Regularly maintain gardens around the pool to ensure children cannot climb into the pool area.
- Enrol children in a water awareness class and learn to swim classes, like Laurie Lawrence's *Kids Alive – Do the Five*.

A broad range of resources including tips on how the community can stay safe in and around pools can be found at <https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/pool-safety>.

I will also continue to engage with my colleagues across the State to raise community awareness of pool safety measures and the vital importance of initiatives like CPR training to help save lives. Additionally, the Queensland Government will continue to conduct pool safety campaigns alongside local councils and not-for-profit organisations such as *Kids Alive – Do the Five*, particularly as summer approaches.

While the petitioners' proposal for mandatory accreditation and annual CPR training for pool owners is acknowledged, Queensland's current approach which focusses on having strong pool safety laws, supporting water safety programs such as *Kids Alive – Do the Five* and regularly encouraging Queenslanders to learn and maintain CPR skills, represents a balanced and enforceable approach to pool safety which has already greatly reduced the rate of drowning in home pools.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement