

Pool Supervision FAQs

1. What is 'Keep Me Safe'?

'Keep Me Safe' is a set of entry conditions educating the public about active supervision and requiring caregivers to take on the responsibility of this role while visiting aquatic facilities.

2. Why was 'Keep Me Safe' developed?

Children need individualised supervision. Lifeguards watch over everyone and it is up to caregivers to be their child's personal lifeguard. Incidents around water happen in an instant - children are inquisitive and fearless and drowning can be a silent process.

3. What are my responsibilities?

There are two key supervision guidelines:

- **5 & Under:** Children must be constantly supervised and to remain within arm's reach of a designated caregiver 16 years or older. (If the child is in the water, the caregiver must be in the water too).
- **10 & Under:** Children aged 6-10yrs must be accompanied into the facility and constantly supervised by a caregiver who remains on the pool surrounds that the child is swimming in. The caregiver must be able to see, hear and be heard by the child.

4. What does active supervision mean?

Active supervision means watching the child/ren at all times and being able to provide immediate help.

- **The caregiver must** be close enough to see the child, be seen by the child, hear the child and be heard by the child.
- **Active Supervision is not** using a mobile phone, in another pool, in a sauna/steam/spa, lap swimming, in a group that is engaged in discussion, in the changing room or toilet.

5. My child is a competent swimmer. Why do I need to be in the complex with them if they are 10 & under?

- Ten is the age that most children are still at primary school.
- Our swimming pools are public facilities where various situations could occur.
- Keep Me Safe is not only about swimming ability, it is also about keeping safe within a public environment.
- Regardless of a child's swimming ability, if they happened to get hurt or becomes distressed, a caregiver within close vicinity can act on the incident immediately.

6. I can see them (5 & under) from the side of the pool. Why do I need to be in the water with them?

- It is very easy and quick for young children (even confident ones) to get out of their depth unintentionally.
- Parents on the side of pool can easily become distracted by other siblings, friends arriving or blocked vision by taller children. It only takes a moment for a child to become distressed in the water.

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

- Refer response to question 5
- 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.

8. My child is attending a BaySwim lesson, do I have to stay?

- Yes, caregivers must accompany all children aged 10 and under to their lesson.
- For children 5 and under, caregivers must remain on the pool surrounds within view of the child (if their class does not require them to be in the pool during the lesson).
- Children aged 6-10 years, caregivers must be on the premise throughout the lesson and able to provide immediate assistance if required.

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9. What if I have one child swimming and one child in lessons?

- If a caregiver has two or more children attending lessons/programmes one after another, the caregiver must remain with the child/ren **not** participating in the lesson.
- If the caregiver wishes to watch the lesson of another child in their care, the other children must remain out of the water with the caregiver.
- If the caregiver is participating in the swimming lesson e.g. in the water attending a babies' class, any other child in their care 10 and under must have an additional caregiver out of the water with them at all times.

10. I've always dropped my child off in the carpark to attend their Swim Club lesson, can I still do this?

- No, members of a swim club/squad aged 6-10 years must be accompanied by a caregiver to their lesson.
- In doing so, the caregiver (in effect) hands the supervision of the child over to the teacher/coach.
- The caregiver can leave the facility however must return to collect the child from the teacher/coach by the time the lesson is finished.
- The child must not leave the facility on their own.

11. Do children participating in a BaySwim class or attending Club squad training have to wear wristbands?

- Children 10 years and under participating in structured lessons/programmes with the supervision of a teacher/coach will not be required to wear a wristband during their lesson.
- However, if they intend to swim before or after their lesson, wristbands are mandatory and our Keep Me Safe pool supervision rules apply.

12. My toddler is in the shallow toddler pool at Baywave or Mount Hot Pools. Do I need to wear togs?

- No. If you are actively supervising on the side of the pool, 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. Children are inquisitive and often move quickly into other, deeper pools.
- It doesn't matter how deep water is, children do drown in shallow water.

13. Can I grab a coffee, 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.
- You can grab a coffee if the child you are caring accompanies you.
- Remember, it only takes 20 seconds for a child to drown, so an incident may easily occur during a short lapse in supervision.

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

- All children 5 & under **must** have a caregiver within arm's reach at all times.
- Your child will only be allowed to swim in the toddler pool at Baywave and Mount Hot Pools, and you must be prepared to get wet if anything happens to your child in that pool. If your child would like to swim in any other pool, you will need to bring another adult that is able to swim.

15. Is this legislation?

No, it is a condition of entry for all Bay Venues aquatic facilities.

16. Do these supervision rules apply to school groups or OSCAR accredited providers?

Yet to be confirmed, watch this space.