



## Have your say on Singleton Council's proposed pool inspection program

To make swimming safer for everyone, the State Government now requires all backyard swimming pools to be registered on the NSW Swimming Pools Register. The legislation also requires that local Councils must develop and conduct a pool inspection program, designed in conjunction with the community.

Council is currently developing a program proposal, with parameters being that all pools will be inspected over the next three years, with random audits to occur thereafter. The inspections will look at safety requirements such as fencing in a bid to keep everyone safe from risks associated with pools and water and reduce the incidence of drownings.

Council is also proposing inspections will incur a \$150 fee in the first instance, and a \$100 fee if a follow-up inspection is required.

**As a Singleton pool owner you are invited to have your say in how the program should be run. A public forum will be held at Singleton Civic Centre on Tuesday 5 December 2017 from 6pm for you to find out more, ask questions and provide feedback.**

Given the results of the latest Royal Life Saving Australia Drowning Report, that showed 44 drowning deaths occurred in pools in the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, it is timely to consider the risks associated with backyard pools, and how best to make them safer for everyone.

**For more information about the proposed inspection program or the public forum, visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/swimmingpools](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/swimmingpools) or contact 02 6578 7290.**

# Diving into the facts

## **What is the definition of a swimming pool?**

The *Swimming Pools Act* describes a swimming pool as an excavation, structure or vessel that:

- is capable of being filled with water to a depth of greater than 300 millimetres;
- is solely or principally used, or that is designed, manufactured or adapted to be solely or principally used for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

## **Do I need to fence my spa?**

Yes. You need to fence your spa pool if it is not covered and secured by a lockable lid.

## **Does my portable pool need to be fenced?**

Yes. By definition, a portable pool is a swimming pool and is required to be fenced with a child-resistant barrier. The fence/barrier must meet the requirements of Standard AS 1926-1 (Building Code of Australia).

## **Whose responsibility is it to ensure safety around private pools?**

The pool owner. While the Government provides the legislative framework to ensure a high standard of private pool barrier fencing, ultimate responsibility for pool safety lies with pool owner/s to ensure their pool barriers comply with the prescribed standard, and with parents and carers of young children to ensure they are adequately supervised around pools at all times.

## **How do I find out which Australian standards apply to my fence?**

Checklists are available at: [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au) and [www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au](http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au)

## **Make sure your pool is on the register**

Current NSW Legislation requires all backyard swimming pools to be registered on the Swimming Pools Register. Registration is free, or Council can do it for you for a small fee. Visit <http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au>

[www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)

