

Stay safe in pool this Wet

MAX LOWE

WATER safety experts are urging Territorians to undertake pool safety checks ahead of the wet season.

With many Territorians taking a dip to escape the heat this season, Kids Alive ambassador Laurie Lawrence said increased awareness of water safety was crucial.

"Kids in particular are drawn to the water like magnets, which is why it is so important to make sure your pool fences and gates are in good working order, and there is nothing that a child could climb on that would give them access to the pool," he said.

"It's also vital that kids are always supervised when they are in the pool, and that pool owners know how to perform CPR in the case of an emergency. A compliant CPR chart should also be displayed within the pool area."

Poolwerk Winnellie Owner Justin Lefebvre said alongside basic safety checks, it was important owners maintain their

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pool water quality. "The Poolwerk Healthy Pools Survey indicated over 40 per cent of pool owners failed to maintain healthy pH and chlorine levels with as many as 57 per cent experiencing a 'green pool' within the past 12 months," he said.

"Pool owners need to have their pool water tested regularly, as poor water quality can lead to far worse problems than just having green water, with ear, nose and throat infections all side effects of swimming in a dirty pool."

Last year 33 Australians drowned in swimming pools nationwide.

The NT continues to have the highest drowning rate per capita in the country.



Laurie Lawrence is urging Australians to brush up on their pool safety.

Excellence honour for CDU

CHARLES Darwin University has won a prestigious national excellence award for research projects on the needs of indigenous Territorians in higher education.

Charles Darwin University Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow Dr James Smith received the Australian Rural Education Award at a conference in Perth this week.

This is the second time in three years that CDU have won the award.

Dr Smith said collective research findings from CDU provided evidence supporting alternative policy strategies for indigenous engagement in higher education.

"In this case it was a team effort involving five projects that collectively have provided evidence for stronger policy and better strategies to improve remote student engagement, participation and completion in higher education," he said.

The research included reviews on Higher Education Policy in the NT, as well as on the gap between policy and implementation for indigenous students.

Indigenous enrolment in Higher Education remains proportionally low in comparison with non-indigenous enrolments.

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