NT GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO WATER SAFETY

Territory youngsters will have access to free Australian-standard swimming lessons thanks to the NT Government’s $310 000 commitment to continue with the Water Safety Awareness Program.

Local Government Minister Elliot McAdam said the Water Safety Awareness Program was an initiative of the Martin Government in 2003, and the funding allocation will enable to program to run for another two years.

Since its inception in 2003, The Water Safety Awareness Program has received many accolades such as:

- being named National Best Practice by the Australian Water Safety Council;
- receiving tributes from water safety advocates among them Laurie Lawrence and Rob Bradley, CEO, Royal Life Saving Society; and
- recording a “high” rating from over 70% of participants, when questioned about the safety messages they received when undertaking the Program.

“The Water Safety Awareness Program, new pool fencing legislation and increased water safety education, has resulted in that the Northern Territory has recorded no death by drowning of a child under 5 years within the past three years!,” Mr McAdam said.

“I am pleased that the NT Government will allocate a further $310 000 over the next two years, to continue the Water Safety Awareness Program for children aged six months to five years across the Territory.

Mr McAdam said that complacency around water is not an option, and it was for this reason that Government supported the continuation of the Program.

“This effort will ensure that ‘water safety’, along with water pursuits; such as swimming, fishing and boating will continue to form a great part of the Territory lifestyle.”

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