

NEW NATIONAL WATER SAFETY POLICY GUIDELINE & PROCEDURE

INFORMATION SHEET FOR CARERS

Water activities are an integral part of the Australian lifestyle and Life Without Barriers is committed to preventing drowning in all bodies of water.

The new National Water Safety Policy Guideline and Procedure has been developed to provide guidance for staff, contractors, carers and other volunteers throughout Australia when supporting clients to engage in water activities.

The new Policy Guideline and Procedure applies to Carers and the children and young people placed with them across all states and territories throughout Australia.

Note: this Policy Guideline and Procedure relates to how drowning is prevented in all bodies of water and the consideration of risk which needs to be undertaken when a child or young person is engaging in a water activity.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

1. **Read and familiarise yourself** with the new Water Safety Policy Guideline, Procedure and Water Safety Activity Guide for Carers and consider what you will need to do when planning water activities and considering safety
2. At their next visit with you, **your Supporter of Carers or Case Manager** will take the opportunity to review the new Policy Guideline and Procedure and clarify any questions or concerns you might have. This will include discussing the:
 - National Water Safety Policy Guideline
 - National Water Safety Procedure
 - Water Safety Activity Guide for Carers
3. If you have any **feedback, questions or concerns**, please raise these with you Supporter of Carer or Case Manager

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



There is now one National Water Safety Policy Guideline and Procedure that applies to all carers throughout Australia. This provides a consistent approach to how staff and carers need to consider risks and hazards when supporting children and young people to engage in water activities.



A guide for carers is included to assist you in considering Water Safety Risks. In the day to day care of children placed in your home or as a parent, you will already be assessing risks and hazards related to a range of activities. The guide is a prompt for carers about the range of things to be considered when supporting children and young people to participate in Water Activities to prevent the risk of drowning.



Increased risk is identified for people with Epilepsy, Diabetes and other conditions when participating in water activities. As a result, Life Without Barriers want to ensure we have advice from relevant medical practitioners when planning for these children and young people to participate in water activities.