

## Minister Gail Gago

Minister for Business Services and Consumers

Thursday, 4 December 2014

### Safety first: Know the rules around the pool

With summer officially underway, South Australian pool owners are being encouraged to take action to make their pools safe for enjoyment.

Business Services and Consumers Minister Gail Gago reminded owners of portable and temporary pools that they have obligations for pool safety, including fencing any pool that can hold more than 30cm of water.

“Having a swimming pool to relax and play in is a real relief when the weather is warm, and we all know just how much fun children and teens can have in home swimming or spa pools.

“Unfortunately, swimming pools are also where the second highest number of drowning deaths in Australia happen.

“Children under 5 years old are especially vulnerable; in 2013-14, 70 per cent of all drowning deaths in this age group occurred in swimming pools of all types, including portable and inflatable pools.

“Consumer and Business Services is joining with consumer protection agencies across the country to help promote the message to make safer pool choices and protect their loved ones,” Ms Gago said.

All pool owners have a legal and ethical responsibility to meet pool safety requirements.

Some tips:

- Every pool with a depth of 30cm or more is required to fence it in accordance with State legislation. This also applies to spa pools and portable pools.
- Ensure your pool fence has a self-closing, self-latching gate in working order.
- All portable pools supplied in Australia are required to display a warning label with general safety information, including whether fencing laws apply. If you purchase a portable pool, follow this safety advice and contact your local council for information if fencing is required.
- Active supervision of children is always necessary. Stay at arm’s length when your child is learning to swim.
- Empty the inflatable pool when it is not in use so the water does not become a drowning or a health risk.
- Remove ladders or other means of climbing into the pool when not in use.
- Put pool toys away so they don’t attract children into the water when no one is looking.

“Making your pool safer can also help you better protect your family and friends from tragic drowning deaths and serious injuries,” Ms Gago said.

For more information, ask your local council about your pool safety responsibilities or visit [royallifesaving.com.au](http://royallifesaving.com.au) for pool safety advice. More information is also available on the CBS website: [cbs.sa.gov.au/wcm/consumers/product-safety/](http://cbs.sa.gov.au/wcm/consumers/product-safety/)