

Keep Watch Policy

The Oasis Aquatic Centre proudly participates in the Royal Life Saving Australia's KEEP WATCH program, designed to enhance active supervision and the safety of children in public pools.

With lack of direct supervision by a parent or carer believed to be a contributing factor in 70% of all drowning deaths at public pools, the Keep Watch at Public Pools program aims to eliminate all drowning deaths and reduce the number of near drowning incidents. As a parent you have the responsibility to look after your own children - lifeguards do a great job of keeping our pools safe but they are not babysitters.

Keep Watch at Public Pools Policy

- **For 0 to 5-year-olds:** a parent or guardian must be in the water at all times (within arms reach) of the child. It is best if you are engaging with your child i.e. playing with them, talking to them, touching them.
- **For 6 to 10-year-olds:** a parent should be close enough to make eye contact with the child and be constantly watching them.
- **For 11 to 14-year-olds:** a parent must regularly check on their child by physically going to the point where they are in or around the water.

Parents or guardians should always actively supervise their children. As such, they should be dressed ready for action, including unexpected entry to a pool.

Active supervision at public pools consists of four key elements:

- **Be Prepared:** Ensure you have everything you need before getting into the water, such as towels and dry clothes.
- **Be Close:** Always be within arms' reach of your child.
- **All of Your Attention:** Focus all of your attention on your child and get into the pool and talk and play with them.
- **All of the Time:** You should never leave your child alone in the water, nor should they be left in the care of an older child or with the assumption that your responsibility diminishes due to the presence of lifeguards.

Please be aware our staff have been directed to remove any child from the water if they are not being 'actively supervised' by a parent or carer. The decisions of lifeguards are final, regardless of a child's swimming ability.

Please respect our staff and their actions.

The latest version of the Keep Watch rules can be found on the Royal Life Saving Australia website via <https://royallifesaving.com.au/keepwatch>