



Statement of expectations: Water safety and learn to swim programs

All students will be provided with the opportunity to engage in appropriate water safety and learn to swim programs.

The following expectations apply to all Queensland state schools from Prep to Year 12.

Student experience

- Participation in water safety, learn to swim programs and all water-based activities should be a safe, positive and engaging experience for all students.
- Water safety, learn to swim programs and all water-based activities should meet all students' needs in ways that are appropriate to their age, ability, maturity and context.

School planning

- Schools must consult with the school community on the nature of all school swimming programs and activities and decide whether programs will be facilitated by school-based staff or an external provider¹.
- Schools must complete a risk assessment that complies with the requirements outlined in the Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment (CARA) guidelines for the specific aquatic environment (for example, [swimming in pools](#) or [swimming in locations other than pools](#)). Additional risks, hazards and control measures supplied by an external provider must be included with this risk assessment.

- All active supervisors with an instructional role must have the appropriate qualifications and/or units of competency² as outlined in the CARA guideline.
- Schools must confirm the qualifications³ and the public liability insurance of any external providers of water safety and learn to swim programs.
- Water safety, learn to swim programs and all water-based activities should be differentiated to meet the needs of individual students. Programs for students with additional needs must be planned in collaboration with parents and carers.

Competency benchmarks for students

- Schools should use the evidence-based benchmarks in the *National swimming and water safety framework*, tailored to the local context.
- Schools should use the Queensland state schools Swimming and water safety education program to further assist in the implementation of water safety and learn to swim programs.

¹An external provider includes any group (e.g. swim school) or individual (e.g. swimming instructor) engaged by a Queensland state school for the delivery of water safety and learn to swim programs.

²If school officers require updates to qualifications, units of competency and/or first-aid training, refer to the list of training providers on page 2.

³All qualifications must be attained through organisations aligned with the Australian Water Safety Council (see details on page 2). If unsure, contact the local regional office.

Evidence-based programs and training

	Before school-age	School-age
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (RLSS) Swim & Survive Wonder (6–36 months) RLSS Swim & Survive Courage (3–5 years). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLSS Swim & Survive Active (5–14 years) Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) Queensland Health Beach Safe Schools program (Prep–Year 12).
Training to become an instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUSTSWIM Teaching of Infant and Preschool Aquatics (6 months–4 years) Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association (ASCTA) Swim Australia teacher course for babies and toddlers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety (4 years–adult) Higher Level Skills Program: AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety skillset Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program delivered by ASCTA and ASCTA Swim Australia Teacher accreditation (SAT) Completion of the following nationally recognised units of competency through other providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SISCCRO302A — Apply legal and ethical instructional skills SISCAQU008 — Instruct water familiarisation, buoyancy and mobility skills SISCAQU009 — Instruct water safety and survival skills SISCAQU010 — Instruct swimming strokes SISCAQU002 — Perform basic water rescues HLTAID001 — Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
Insurance requirements for instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departmental employees are covered by the department’s public liability insurance when conducting school approved activities. For non-departmental employees, schools need to ensure the swimming instructor or external provider holds at least \$10 million public liability insurance. 	

Targeted programs, information and training

	Options
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLSQ Breaka Beach to Bush for primary students (Prep–Year 6) in rural and remote locations SLSQ On the same wave education presentations conducted at schools or practical programs at beach locations designed to engage with Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
Training to become an instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics – Access and Inclusion (provides the knowledge and information required to deliver inclusive programs regardless of age, disability, chronic condition or culturally and linguistically diverse background) ASCTA Swim Australia Teacher accreditation for learners with disability (SAT LWD) and culturally and linguistically diverse communities (SAT CALD)
First aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLSQ first aid training RLSSQ first aid training Australian Red Cross first aid courses and certificates St John Ambulance Australia first aid training
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multilingual beach safety information

Refer to the following organisations aligned with the Australian Water Safety Council for further information, programs and support:

[Royal Life Saving Society Queensland](#)

[Surf Life Saving Queensland](#)

[AUSTSWIM](#)

[Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association](#)

[Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program](#) — delivered by Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association, and results in a Swim Australia Teacher accreditation for eligible participants.