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A MESSAGE FROM LAURIE LAWRENCE

Drowning is the greatest cause of accidental death in children under five in Australia. To combat the problem Kids Alive has released its DVD "Living with water" - A comprehensive guide to water safety.

The DVD has Federal Government funding and has seen more than 600,000 DVD's distributed to parents and caregivers around Australia.

Death by drowning in children under 5

Year	Total deaths	Deaths in pools	Deaths in bathtub
1997 - 1998	52	not available	not available
1998 - 1999	55	25	13
1999 - 2000	63	35	6
2000 - 2001	35	13	6
2001 - 2002	44	12	5
2002 - 2003	35	17	5
2003 - 2004	40	18	6
2004 - 2005	28	15	2
2005 - 2006	37	13	9
2006 - 2007	35	16	6
2007-2008	27	16	2
2008-2009	32	19	1

*Information collected from the Royal Lifesaving Society's National Drowning Reports

- The Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit estimates that for every 1 child that drowns, 14 are taken to emergency rooms and 4 of those are admitted to hospital as a result of immersion.

More On Kids Alive

In 1988 Queensland lead the world per capital with drowning in the 0-5 age group. To combat the problem I started the "Kids Alive - Do the five" water safety program. The message is simple,

1. Fence the pool
2. Shut the gate
3. Teach your kids to swim - it's great!
4. Supervise - watch ya mate, and
5. Learn how to resuscitate

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In 2000 the "Kids Alive" program went national via the website, community service advertising and a free travelling kids water safety show. Today the Kids Alive show is the biggest touring free show in Australia. As well as touring metropolitan areas, to date the show has visited 545 country towns, 44 remote communities and played to more than 225,000 students Australia wide.

Why do children drown in backyard pools?

- Inadequate fencing or no fencing
- Lack of gate security
- Lack of efficient water skills
- Inadequate supervision
- Lack of resuscitation skills



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