

**MEDIA RELEASE
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DIVE INTO WINTER LESSONS

With the cool weather setting upon Queensland, water safety advocates Grant Symes and Laurie Lawrence are calling on parents to keep their children in swimming lessons over the winter months to prevent valuable skills being lost or forgotten.

Symes who is the General Manager of Protector Aluminium and Lawrence who established advocacy group 'Kids Alive Do the Five' partnered up in 2009 to combat the leading cause of accidental death in children under five. Together they have continued to aim for zero drowning deaths amongst this age group.

"As the father of a 22 month old baby girl I don't want to become complacent with swimming lessons and have her fall behind because of 6 months of cool weather," says Symes.

"Winter is also a time to reinforce the water safety message and remind children and parents of potential dangers around the home – not just the family pool but also the bath, buckets of water and backyard ponds or birdbaths."

Lawrence said the benefits of continued swimming lessons for toddlers resulted in a more confident, knowledgeable and skills strong child, "By using heated pools and bath time to continue lessons you are developing skills they will use for life,"

"Not only are they not regressing over winter, they are slowly gaining a greater respect for water and learning it is potentially dangerous if the right precautions are not taken."

In the 2010 Drowning Report release by the Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia showed 33 children drowned during a 12 month period with 6% of these happened during winter proving the colder months are no time to be complacent.

"Make sure your pool fence is adequate, shut the gate, continue swimming lessons, supervise their activities and enrol in a resuscitation course now!" says Lawrence.

"It is the only way to save our kids, and the only way we will achieve zero drowning deaths."

The duo is urging parents to research their local swimming facilities for scheduled swimming lessons over the winter months. To help them achieve their aim of zero drowning deaths, follow Kids Alive on Facebook.

>ENDS<

For more information:

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