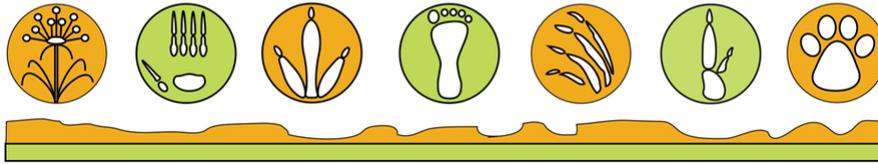


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

27 November 2015

Safety of pool patrons paramount

Barkly Regional Council (BRC) reinforces the message that the safety of all pool patrons is paramount following an incident where two boys allegedly saved the life of another at the Tennant Creek Swimming Pool.

A spokesperson said Council is conducting its own investigation to understand how this incident occurred, including a review of all of safety policies and procedures.

“We strive to provide a safe environment for our patrons, and we aim for transparency in all situations,” said the spokesperson. “The safety of everyone, particularly children, visiting the Tennant Creek swimming pool is our number one priority.”

Council was told today that two students, aged 8 and 9, from the Tennant Creek Primary School rescued their friend, aged six, when they saw him struggling to keep his head above the water nearly three weeks ago.

A spokesperson for Council said that the ratio of lifeguards is 1 to 100 patrons and that at no stage was this incident reported to the two lifeguards on duty.

Council also states under its Pool Management Plan that all children under the age of 10 years of age must be actively supervised at all times by a responsible person over the age of 16. Active supervision in this instance means being within arm’s reach and watched continuously.

The spokesperson said if lifeguards see an unsupervised child under the age of 10, they always instruct them to return to their responsible adult.

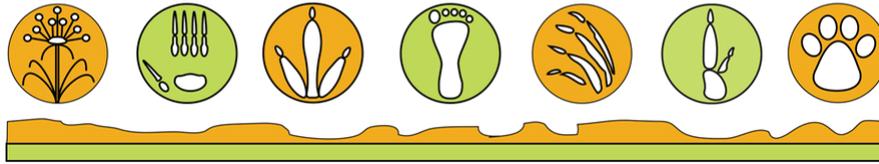
It is understood that the father of the six year old boy was at the swimming pool but did not see the incident.

BRC has a Pool Management Plan that provides the necessary instruction for Council staff to administer the routine functions of its swimming pool facilities.

All staff, contractors and volunteers are required to comply with Council’s OH&S policies and procedures at all times.

All incidents are to be reported and addressed in accordance with Council’s OH&S procedure and all accidents are to be investigated and reported in accordance with Council’s OH&S procedure.

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Council also has a Pool Responsibility Code which highlights that parents and carers must communicate and establish responsibility for direct supervision at all times around water.

The code asks for at least one adult “Water Watcher” to supervise children around pools especially during social gatherings. Don’t rely on older siblings or other children to supervise swimmers and don’t rely on swimming lessons, flotation devices or other equipment to make a child “water safe”.

Council was not asked for a comment for the story that appeared in the *Tennant & District Times* on Friday, 27 November.

Council will release a detailed statement when their investigation is complete.

Media contact: Ktima Heathcote 08 89620027 ktima.heathcote@barkly.nt.gov.au