

Roper Gulf Regional Council Pool Policy

Purpose

Swimming pools are usually seen as places for fun and fitness and health for people of all ages. Unfortunately, swimming pools can also be dangerous places if strong safety rules are not put in place and enforced. Approximately eighty people have drowned in public swimming pools in Australia in the last ten years and around twenty of these were children under the age of five (Royal Life Saving Society Fact Sheet # 10). People can also catch infections from pool water that has not been kept properly clean. This policy aims to ensure that Roper Gulf Shire swimming pools are safe as well as fun for all the people who use them.

General

- 1.** This policy applies to the Ngukurr and Borroloola pool complexes and any other pools that may be managed by Roper Gulf Regional Council in the future. All water pools within designated Roper Gulf Regional Council premises are covered, including wading pools, 'toddlers' pools, spas, hydro therapy pools and main swimming pools.
- 2.** All people using the pool premises must obey this policy and any local pool rules at all times.
- 3.** Children under the age of ten are not allowed to enter the pool premises unless they are accompanied by a parent, or responsible adult aged 16 and over, or are participating in an approved instructor-led activity. This applies to anywhere on the pool grounds, not just inside the pool itself.
- 4.** No alcohol may be brought into or consumed on pool premises unless the facility has been hired out for a private function (see # 26).
- 5.** No smoking is allowed within pool premises.
- 6.** Roper Gulf Regional Council may set fees for entry to RGRC pools. Increases in entry fees will be done with at least four weeks notification to the community or town in which the pool is located.
- 7.** Roper Gulf Regional Council may authorise the Local Authority, the Regional Services Manager or a pool management committee or another person to manage the pool for it. In this case, the local organisation or person has the authority to set local rules that do not go against anything in this policy, the Royal Life Saving Society's 'Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations,' 2007 or the NT 'Public Health Guidelines for aquatic facilities,' 2006.

Admission to the pool

8. Admission to the pool is on condition that this policy and any local pool rules will be obeyed. Disobeying the policy or local rules is enough reason for pool attendants to request a person to leave pool premises.

9. Lifeguards, the Regional Services Manager or other senior RGRC staff have the right to ban someone from entering pool premises for a period of time if they have deliberately disobeyed pool rules on three or more occasions.

10. The pool management committee has the power to decide to support other beneficial community programs by limiting access to the pool (for example, 'no school, no pool' programs or restricting access of juveniles going through a community sentencing program).

11. Lifeguards, the Regional Services Manager or other senior RGRC staff have the power to close the pool at any time if public health or safety is at risk.

Pool safety and hygiene

12. Pool premises must be securely fenced and must be locked at any time that the correct number of qualified pool attendants is not in attendance.

13. Qualified pool attendants will be on duty at all times the pool is open. Pool attendants are not baby sitters and parents or accompanying adults are still responsible for supervising the safety of their children. The younger the child the more strong the supervision needs to be.

14. Children under the age of ten must be accompanied and supervised in the water by a parent, or responsible adult aged 16 and over.

15. People using the pool premises must obey any instructions given by the lifeguards.

16. The relevant Regional Services Manager must ensure that there is a prominent sign erected on the pool premises containing warnings regarding supervision, details of resuscitation techniques and the pool rules.

17. People swimming in the pool must wear appropriate and clean swimming costumes or shorts or shorts and t-shirts. Jeans or dresses or skirts or underwear or shoes are not to be worn in the water. Hats may be worn in the pool for sun protection.

18. Children who are not toilet-trained must wear proper pool nappies if they are in any pool within the pool complex.

- 19.** Anyone with diarrhoea or vomiting or any disease that may be transmitted to other people must not use the pool until Health Centre staff say that it is safe for them to do so.
- 20.** No animals are allowed in side the pool premises except for dogs formally trained to assist people with visual impairment, hearing loss or autism etc.
- 21.** Swimming pool water quality must be maintained at all times and to quality levels set by industry standards. Regular maintenance and checking of water quality using test kits will be carried out by pool staff or contractors. If pool water quality falls below safe standards, the pool will be closed until the problem is fixed.
- 22.** No glass food or drink containers are allowed on pool premises.

Changing facilities and toilets

- 23.** Children entering a changing room or toilet for people of the opposite gender must:
- a. be under ten years of age; and
 - b. be accompanied by a parent, or responsible adult aged 16 or over.
- 24.** No adult is allowed to enter a changing room or toilet for people of the opposite gender unless they are:
- a. RGRC staff or contractors performing cleaning or maintenance work.
 - b. RGRC staff, pool attendants or other responsible adults with a reasonable belief that they are responding to an emergency or unruly behaviour.

When the pool is open to the public, RGRC staff and contractors are strongly advised not to enter changing rooms or toilets for people of the opposite gender without an adult witness – unless it is an emergency situation.

- 25.** If the changing facilities or toilets are judged by the Lifeguards, pool attendants or senior RGRC staff to be in an unhygienic condition, the pool will be closed until the problem is fixed.

Private functions

- 26.** If pool premises are hired out for a private function, permission to drink alcohol must be requested from the local pool management as well as from the Licensing Branch. **7**
- 27.** This policy and local pool rules must be followed during private functions.



28. Groups or individuals who want to hire the pool premises for private functions may be asked to pay a bond upfront as well as the hire fee. This bond may be used for repairs or for cleaning up if the pool premises are not left in good condition.

Evaluation

29. This policy will be evaluated annually.

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Michael Berto
Chief Executive Officer

Date