

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

BACKYARD POOLS ARE FUN – AND SAFER – WHEN FENCED!

Even though summer is officially over, there are plenty of warm days ahead to enjoy backyard activities and to ensure that the area around the pool – both permanent and inflatable - complies with the new safety regulations.

New regulations passed by the NSW Government late last year increased the maximum on-the-spot fine for pool owners if their backyard pool fence fails to meet safety requirements from \$220 to \$550 with the maximum court imposed penalty increasing from \$1100 to \$5500.

The changes also remove the exemptions for large, small or water front properties and allow Council to urgently fix pool fencing where this is an immediate risk to public safety and the owner has refused to fix the problem.

Existing safety regulations require any pool, including inflatable pools more than 330mm deep, to have appropriate fencing.

The City of Ryde conducted 224 pool safety inspections between August and December in 2009 as part of its ongoing compliance audit of swimming pools.

To help prevent one of the leading causes of child death in NSW, install and maintain the appropriate barriers around your backyard pool. For more information, check these useful links:

- Safety requirements: fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Consumers/Product_and_service_safety/General_products/Swimming_pools
- Free, online pool safety checklist and tips: homepoolsafety.com.au
- Swimming lessons: ryde.nsw.gov.au/ralc