

## **NSW STATE CORONER DELIVERS POOL SAFETY MESSAGE**

With summer upon us, the need for pool safety is vital as children take to the water to cool down.

I urge pool owners to undertake a safety inspection of their facilities and make sure pool fences and gates are secure and compliant with the law.

Many pool owners mistakenly assume a fence will keep out young children and don't take into account such things as faulty locks, climbable objects near the pool fence or changes to the surface height of lawns or gardens over time.

Don't become complacent about pool safety just because you have a fence. Small children can move much faster than you expect.

The most thorough pool safety inspection will never fully eliminate the chances of drowning or serious injury. Always keep an eye on children near a pool, close the pool gate and keep the fence maintained.

As NSW State Coroner, I witness all too regularly the terrible trauma families face when there is an avoidable and needless death of a child who has drowned in a backyard pool.

In 2010, 14 children drowned in New South Wales. Many of these drownings were in pools and avoidable.

Spend a little time to save a little life: check your pool fence and gate is secure and make sure you know where your toddlers are at all times.

1 December 2011