

AGE ENTRY 12 YEARS POLICY CHANGE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the changes?

The Collie Mineworkers Memorial Pool, will require children under the age of 12 (previously 10) to be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16 whilst at the centre and provide active supervision and adequate care for that child at all times.

What is defined as "active supervision"?

Responsible persons over the age of 16 are required to be conscious of the physical environment and be attuned to the needs and safety of the child. 'Supervision of children must be direct, competent and alert'.

Why has the policy changed?

Primary school aged children are at an increased risk of being harmed if not directly supervised, particularly in and around the high-risk areas of swimming pools. The change to our age entry policy, is about the safety of children accessing our facility that require direct and competent supervision. Children under 12 need to be constantly supervised within line of sight at all times.

When will these changes come into effect?

We will be educating the public of changes to our age entry requirements at the commencement of the 2023/2024 season, it will become compulsory for children under the age of 12 to be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16 into the centre and provided with active supervision and adequate care at all times.

How will policy change affect me?

If your child/children are under the age of 12 and access the centre to attend swimming, they will need to be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16 and provided with active supervision and adequate care at all times.

Why aren't the Lifeguards responsible for all children under 12 - why do I need to be there?

Competent lifeguards, acting responsibly do provide an important safety feature at our centre, but they are not intended to replace the close supervision that is required for many children, particularly primary school aged children. 'Adults in our community need to understand that supervision of children in the water must be direct, competent, and alert.'

We are a Watch Around Water Endorsed Centre

Watch Around Water is an education and awareness campaign run at public swimming pools that aims to reduce drowning and aquatic injuries amongst children through improved parental supervision.

The program was started in 2004 following a number of high-profile drowning deaths at public pools in WA (Western Australia) involving young children and growing industry concern about the level of parental supervision of children while visiting public pools. The policy states...

- Children under 5 years old must be accompanied into the centre by a responsible person over the age of 16 and supervised within arm's reach at all times.
- Children Under 12 years must be accompanied into the centre by a responsible person over the age of 16 and constantly supervised within line of sight at all times.

Can I drop my 11-year-old off at the POOL so they can attend their activity?

No, every child under the age of 12 years must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16, every time they visit the POOL or entry may be refused.

My 15-year-old child will be with my 10-year-old child, is this, okay?

No, children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16.

My child attends swim club sessions in the pool and is under 12?

If your child is under 12 and attends a swim program with a club or association, they are required to be accompanied into the centre by a responsible person over the age 16 and provided with active supervision and adequate care for that child at all times.

Can my 16-year-old bring my 6-year-old to their swimming lesson at the POOL?

Yes, however your 16-year must remain in the aquatics area and available if required throughout to provide adequate care during the lesson and at the conclusion of the lesson, to collect them from their swim teacher/coach.

Do I need to remain with my child who is 11 years old in the pool area?

Yes, they must be constantly supervised within line of sight at all times by a responsible person over the age of 16 at all times.

If you have any questions or require any further clarification, please email your query to pool@collie.wa.gov.au or call the pool on 9734 9027 and ask to speak to the Pool Managers, Kassandra Hooper or Jayden Bennell