



FREE SWIMMING LESSONS FOR BUBS AND TODDLERS

Promoting Water Safety and Education

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will introduce an \$18 million program to provide free swimming lessons and water education to 120,000 of our youngest Queenslanders, to help them gain confidence in and around water.

The Problem

Given our climate and the need to cool off in summer, swimming is an important life skill for Queensland children. **Tragically, child drownings are occurring in our backyard swimming pools and local waterways and dams.**

The Royal Life Saving Society drowning report indicated that for 2016-17, 73 people of all ages in Queensland drowned, an increase on the previous year.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission analysis of deaths of children and young people in Queensland shows 81 Queensland children between the ages of 1 to 4 have drowned in the last 10 years.

That's more than 60% of all child drownings in Queensland.

More needs to be done to help our youngest Queenslanders with water safety and education and to help parents with the cost of swimming lessons.

Helping parents get their kids into swimming lessons is an important way to reduce child drownings and deliver benefits of an active lifestyle.

Our Record

In government, the LNP introduced the *Get in the Game* program, providing \$150 vouchers to help Queensland kids with the cost of playing sport and grants and infrastructure upgrades to local sports clubs across Queensland.

As part of that program, swimming clubs were eligible for funding through the *Get Started* program, however they were listed with all of the other sports that wanted to become accredited clubs.

Our Real Plan

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will introduce a dedicated \$18 million program to provide free swimming lessons for 120,000 Queensland bubs and toddlers over three years.

Our *Get Swimming Bubs and Toddlers* policy will provide **\$150 vouchers to parents who enrol their kids (aged 1 to 4) into swimming lessons with an accredited club, similar to the eligibility criteria and process under the *Get Started* program.**

This will not only provide free swimming lessons to 120,000 young Queenslanders, but it allows more kids from other sports to receive vouchers under the *Get Started* program.

Water safety and education is just too important for kids to be denied because of the cost involved.

Providing safe and liveable communities is a key part of the LNP's plan to Build a Better Queensland.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for assistance under this program?

Eligible applicants are Queensland children aged from 1 to 4 (inclusive) who either:

- hold or whose parent, carer or guardian hold a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the child's name on it, or
- are identified by a registered referral agent.

What funding is available?

A maximum of \$150 per voucher is available for this program to help pay the cost of swimming lessons. There is a limit of one voucher per child/young person per year.

Vouchers are redeemed through accredited clubs, similar to the existing *Get Started* program.

How can people apply for a voucher?

To obtain a voucher:

- visit www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/
- view the list of registered clubs to find a new club or confirm the club your child is interested in joining is registered
- contact the club to ask about any specific equipment required for the activity and any additional fees that may not be covered by the voucher
- click on the 'apply for a voucher' link on the department's website and enter your details and the eligible child/young person's details, including a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card number OR referral agent's details.

If you are eligible, a voucher with a unique reference number will be generated. Print the voucher and take it to the registered sport or recreation club the child/young person intends to join (prior to the expiry date) to receive up to \$150 off the club's membership/participation fees.

How many swimming lessons would this provide?

There are a range of costs per lesson, depending on the local club, however it is anticipated that the \$150 voucher would provide between 8 and 10 lessons, depending on the individual cost. Clubs may also provide a dedicated program based on the new system.

Is there anything to stop my child receiving one voucher per year across the three years?

No, there is not. Vouchers will be prioritised to those kids who haven't received one before, however if there is still availability, there is nothing to stop a child for receiving a voucher in consecutive years, enabling them to continue with the swimming development.

How does this program impact on the existing *Get Started* program?

This will enhance the existing program, which is heavily oversubscribed, because swimming will be separated into its own allocation meaning more vouchers being made available for other sports.

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**Together, Let's
Build a Better
Queensland**