

1. **TITLE:** **BATHER SUPERVISION**
2. **DATE ISSUED:** 1 July 1996 **ISSUE:** 3
3. **PURPOSE:** To establish a minimum ratio of qualified people per number of bathers at swimming pool operating times and in particular recreational swimming times.
4. **DESCRIPTION:**
  - 4.1 **Minimum on Duty**
    - a) A minimum of two people should be on duty at any one time.
    - b) At least one of these people should be a lifeguard qualified to the RLSSA Pool Lifeguard standard and be capable of supervising the water.
    - c) The second person qualified to a minimum of First Aid, CPR and RLSSA Bronze Medallion should be on site and easily contactable in an emergency.
    - d) While 16 years is the minimum age for a person to be a qualified lifeguard, management should be mindful of the skills and maturity required for a person to be in - charge of a swimming pool. It is recommended that a person of a minimum of 18 years be in-charge of a swimming pool
  - 4.2 **Minimum Supervision**
    - a) A minimum of one qualified lifeguard should be supervising, facing and watching the people in the water at all times.
    - b) Sufficient lifeguards should be provided to ensure the body/s of water and people therein can be supervised effectively.
  - 4.3 **Line of Sight**

Lifeguards should be in a position to maintain supervision of the water at all times. It is recognised that lifeguards need to be mobile and a clear line of sight is a significant requirement.
  - 4.4 **Ratios**
    - a) The recommended minimum ratio of lifeguards to people in the water is one lifeguard for up to 100 people.
    - b) Where recreational activity is undertaken eg inflatable toys, then this ratio may require a greater number of lifeguards.
    - c) Facility operators will be required to make a judgement regarding the number of qualified people required at the facility depending upon anticipated attendances, and based on a range of factors such as:
      - weather
      - holidays
      - size of pool, number of pools, and layout of pools
      - average attendance
      - swimming capabilities
      - special needs individuals and groups.
  - 4.5 **Ratios for Other Facilities**
    - a) **Multiple or Irregular Shaped Pools**

Sufficient lifeguards should be provided to effectively supervise the surface areas of all pools at a facility. All areas of the water including the pool floor must be scanned and scrutinised on a regular basis.

- b) **Diving Towers** (refer also Guideline SU12)  
Diving towers and their water area should be supervised throughout use to reduce the high risk of accidents.
- c) **Water Slides (flumes)**
  - i) As with diving towers, use of water slides should be regulated to avoid multiple use or queuing on narrow staircases, and to prevent accidents.
  - ii) Water slides should always be supervised at water level in case of an accident.
  - iii) Supervision may also be necessary at the entry to the water slide for safety or regulatory reasons.
  - iv) Head first riding of water slides should not be permitted.
- d) **Wave Pools** (refer also Guideline SU14)  
Special attention must be given to wave pools as the appearance of waves may result in patrons previously within their depth suddenly being out of their depth and in potential danger. The recommended minimum ratio of lifeguards to people in the water during wave motion is one lifeguard for up to 40 people.
- e) **Play Equipment**  
Play equipment, eg. giant inflatables, tarzan ropes, flying foxes and climbing ropes may require an increased level of supervision.
- f) **Rivers**
  - i) Lazy and rapid rivers may require additional supervision depending upon river design, water flow rates and bather numbers.
  - ii) Rivers should be able to be isolated as necessary by pool supervisors.