

## Good practice for child water safety

	Evidence statement	Transfer and Implementation points
Engineering	<p>Expert opinion states that the use of a personal floatation device (PFD) for boating and other water recreational activities is a recommended preventive strategy in the prevention of drowning.<sup>48</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is estimated that 85% of annual boating-related drowning incidents could be prevented if the victim had been wearing a personal floatation device.<sup>49</sup></li> <li>- Level of enforcement will impact effectiveness.<sup>28</sup></li> <li>- Legislation is most effective when supported by educational activities.<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>
	<p>Expert opinion states that signs regarding safe behaviours displayed in clear and simple signage are an important preventive strategy in the prevention of drowning.<sup>50</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signage is most effective when supported by educational activities.<sup>50</sup></li> <li>- International standardisation of symbols used on signs should help reduce tourist drowning incidents.<sup>50</sup></li> </ul>
Enforcement	<p>Legislation requiring isolation fencing with secure, self-latching gates for all pools, public, semi-public and private including both newly constructed and existing pools leads to a reduction in drowning when enforcement provisions are included.<sup>14,51</sup></p> <p>📖 <a href="#">Case Example: Pool Safety, France, Page 53</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private pools that are fenced provide 95% more protection against a drowning event.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>- Level of enforcement will impact effectiveness.<sup>28</sup></li> <li>- Legislation is most effective when supported by educational activities.<sup>29</sup></li> <li>- It is highly recommended that parents be strongly encouraged to continue close supervision of their children around pools; no protection system can replace parent supervision.<sup>52</sup></li> </ul>
	<p>Safety standards for swimming pools may lead to a reduction in drowning.<sup>50</sup></p> <p>📖 <a href="#">Case Example: Drowning Prevention, Iceland, Page 55</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level of enforcement will impact effectiveness.<sup>28</sup></li> <li>- Safety standards will be more effective when supported by educational activities.<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>



## Good practice for child water safety, continued

	Evidence statement	Transfer and Implementation points
<b>Enforcement</b>	<p><b>Lifeguards, when adequately staffed, qualified, trained and equipped, seem to be an effective strategy to prevent drowning.<sup>48</sup></b></p> <p>📄 <b>Case Example: Drowning Prevention, Iceland, Page 60</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The presence of lifeguards may deter behaviours that could put swimmers at risk for drowning, such as horseplay or venturing into rough or deep water.<sup>48</sup></li> <li>- Lifeguards should have appropriate training and hold a suitable current qualification. Re-qualification should be undertaken at regular intervals, and practical rescue and resuscitation skills should be practiced frequently.<sup>48</sup> It has been noted that initial introduction of lifeguard certification may impact availability of qualified lifeguards.<sup>53</sup></li> <li>- Lifeguard observation points must have a clear and unobstructed view of the area of supervision including both the water and surrounding area.<sup>48</sup></li> <li>- Lifeguards on duty should be easily identifiable at a distance and in a manner that sets them apart from others at the beach or water recreational facility.<sup>48</sup></li> <li>- Lifeguard organisations should develop written “standard operating procedures” that include supervision requirements.<sup>48</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<p><b>Community-based education / advocacy around PFD use leads to increased use.<sup>14</sup></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is estimated that 85% of annual boating-related drownings could be prevented if the victim had been wearing a personal life jacket.<sup>49</sup></li> <li>- Important elements of community-based approaches are long-term strategy, effective focused leadership, multi-agency collaboration, involvement of the local community, appropriate targeting and time to develop a range of local networks and programmes.<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<p><b>Water safety skills training (including swimming lessons) improve swimming performance.<sup>14</sup></b></p> <p>📄 <b>Case Example: Drowning Prevention Campaign, Greece, Page 63</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is highly recommended that parents be strongly encouraged to continue close supervision of their children around water; ability to swim does not replace the need for close parent supervision.<sup>52</sup></li> <li>- The earliest age at which swimming lessons show improvement in swimming ability is 24 months.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>- Children are highly sensitive to training, are able to retain most skills if lessons are continued, and can use acquired skills in mastering more advanced swimming skills (e.g., diving).<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>

