



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	51
Title	Access to swimming and water safety lessons as part of primary school program
Presented on	15 September 2015
Presented by	Ms Finocchiaro, Member for Drysdale
Referred to	Education (Hon Peter Chandler MLA)
Date referred	16 September 2015
Response due	16 March 2016
Response received	7 March 2016
Response to be presented	15 March 2016

Petition

Royal Life Saving NT are concerned with the Swimming and Water Safety ability of Northern Territory Primary School students.

Our records indicate, in 2014 - 2015, 13,402 Northern Territory students participated in a Swimming and Water Safety Program.

Of these, 830 were able to swim 50 metres and tread water for 2 minutes.

Only 3.3% of all NT Primary School aged students are achieving the National Benchmark of Swim and Survive, Active Level 4.

We the undersigned call on the Northern Territory Government to fund students in years 4, 5 & 6 to have access to Swimming and Water Safety lessons as part of their Primary school program.

Response

Government and non-government schools taking part in the Swim and Survive program fund participation through their school budgets and/or parental contributions. The Department of Education acknowledges the importance of this program and provides an annual \$33 000 grant to RLSSNT for Swim and Survive program certification for students and collection of swimming achievement level data for reporting purposes.

The Department of Education has identified water safety lessons that can be delivered by classroom teachers in a classroom, to address curriculum outcomes. A range of water safety education lessons are available to classroom teachers on the RLSSNT website and through the Department of Education's online learning resources.

The Northern Territory Government offers parents, through the sport vouchers scheme, support to participate in sporting and cultural activities. Parents in urban locations can use this voucher to purchase extra-curricular swimming and water safety programs. Further, a Learn to Swim Voucher has been introduced this year by the government for children aged five years and under.

The Department of Education is exploring partnerships with other government agencies to improve access to swimming and water safety programs for Northern Territory children. Once it concludes consultations the department will provide me with further advice and options for my consideration.