



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Pool Safety

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.09 am): On Sunday the Bligh government gave away 150,000 Australian Resuscitation Council approved CPR signs to *Sunday Mail* readers. The signs, which feature accredited CPR procedure in both words and pictures, were provided free of charge. The initiative followed the state government's announcement of the toughest pool safety laws in the country, the first stage of which will be in place from 1 December.

Pool safety is paramount in the lead-up to summer. Last year alone eight children under the age of four drowned in Queensland pools, and on Sunday and Monday two children were involved in separate immersion incidents in public pools. I encourage all Queenslanders to ask themselves, 'Am I equipped to deal with an immersion incident?' Learning CPR is an invaluable tool. I am enrolled to undertake a St John Ambulance CPR course in early December and I strongly encourage all Queenslanders to do the same.

The Bligh government is committed to pool safety. Following the release of the strict new pool safety laws to be rolled out in two stages, a free educational pool safety and building code roadshow will take place between 23 November and 3 December. Free education seminars will be held at nine locations between Cairns and Coolangatta. The roadshow will offer information on proposed changes to swimming pool safety laws for new pools and a proposed new code for swimming pool barriers. Information will also be provided on transport noise, corridors and a range of other building code matters. Session times and locations are available online and anyone can attend.

The CPR sign giveaway and the roadshow follow a nine-month review of Queensland's pool safety laws by an independent committee that included the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Kidsafe Australia, the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit and the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia. On 20 September the Bligh government released the committee's 23 findings for strict new measures, including temporary fencing during pool construction, mandatory follow-up final inspections for pool fences, ongoing mandatory pool fence inspections at the point of sale and lease, a state-wide swimming pool register and the requirement that all pools display current cardiopulmonary resuscitation signs. All 23 recommendations will become law as part of the toughest overhaul of Queensland's pool safety laws in some 20 years.