



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pool Safety

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.13 am): Mr Speaker, as we head into other scorching hot summer there is an important message that all of us need to remember: pool fences keep our kids safe. That is why the former Labor Party government introduced new pool safety laws in 2010 to protect Queenslanders, particularly children under five years of age, from pool accidents. On 1 December this year the law's five-year phase-in period will come to an end and all pools will need to comply with a single pool safety standard. There are approximately 340,000 pools registered in Queensland, and we estimate that thousands more are not. It is a requirement that all pools are registered, and fines apply if pool owners fail to complete this very simple process.

To get Queenslanders ready for the end of the grace period I am today launching a new public awareness campaign. The campaign includes print, radio and television advertising as well as social media. New materials have been produced to explain how households can make any changes that may be required. Homeowners can download a checklist to take into their own back yard to check if their pool fence is compliant. If they are still not sure they can contact the QBCC, their local council or call in a licensed pool safety inspector. Local councils will be responsible for policing pool fencing, and on-the-spot fines from \$800 may apply.

When the current pool safety laws were introduced in December 2001, drowning was the leading cause of death in young children under five in Queensland. This is no longer the case, which shows that effective pool barriers help to protect our kids. However, in 2013-14 there were 94 ambulance callouts and near drownings for children aged one to five in Queensland. That is basically 94 near misses. Supervising young children, teaching them to swim and having effective pool fencing can save lives. I implore all Queenslanders to please ensure that their pool fence is up to scratch by 30 November.