

Question on Notice
No. 532
Asked on 10 May 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SPORT AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS SPORT AND ENGAGEMENT (HON S HINCHLIFFE) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the importance of water safety in Queensland—

Will the Minister consider increasing access to FairPlay Vouchers to include operators who provide swimming lessons and are currently excluded from the program?

ANSWER:

As part of the 2023-24 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government will commit \$4.8 million over two years to help families experiencing cost-of-living pressures to access swimming lessons.

The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport will be introducing SwimStart vouchers as part of the successful FairPlay program. SwimStart vouchers will provide eligible families with up to \$150 to help pay for membership, registration or participation fees for children aged 0 to 4 years to participate in learn to swim activities with registered providers. This includes private swim schools which are excluded from the existing FairPlay program.

Children aged 5 to 17 years from eligible families can continue developing their swimming skills under the FairPlay program. Eligible swimming clubs can apply to be a registered FairPlay activity provider where the club delivers coaching, swimming training and squad training and it is a not-for-profit organisation.

FairPlay has more than 100 registered activity providers that offer swimming as their primary activity and since its release in 2019, FairPlay has supported Queensland children in accessing swimming programs with over 2700 vouchers redeemed.

The Queensland Government has also committed funding for water safety and swimming education programs through the state school system with all Queensland state schools with primary students (starting at prep) required to have a water safety and swimming education program.