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Whilst the governments funding of \$4.2 million into the Kids Alive program is a significant step in both the recognition and prevention of drowning; "the silent epidemic" killing over 40 children in under four this year, the fact remains that other issues are significantly being overlooked and this has Hannah's Foundation deeply concerned for the future safety of Australian Children and their parents.

**"What this program is about is helping parents make their bubs independent and safe in the water to prevent an accident from happening," Mr Swan said today.**

There is currently NO RESEARCH that suggests swimming lessons for toddlers can save lives. However, research clearly does show that effective four sided barriers DOES make a significant difference. Supervision is a MUST DO from all carers when children are in or near a water source.

Whilst new Australian Standards have been published, the Australian Building Code Board (ABCB) refuse to adopt them! If the government is serious about preventing toddler pool drowning, go to the research and water safety plans.

These clearly illustrate the need for;

- the ABCB to adopt the gold standard for barriers around pools
- local government to enforce these laws via regular inspection programs such as occurs in W.A.
- CPR courses for all pool owners and parents irrespective of child ages
- the REIA to institute a regulation that a house with a pool may only be sold with an approved inspection certificate like the system that currently is implemented in both N.T via the Land Titles Office
- structured and standardised minimum acceptable teaching standards in Swim schools,
- support for the current and already implemented Drowning prevention programs.

We look forward to discussing this further so we can approach this silent epidemic in a more strategic manner to prevent toddler drowning in Australia.

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