

FACT SHEET 8

LOST CHILDREN



PLEASE SWIM ONLY IN PATROLLED AREAS AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO NEVER SWIM ALONE. SURF LIFESAVERS ARE THERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN STAY SAFER ON OUR BEACHES.

IF YOU DO LOSE YOUR CHILD

- Do not panic, hundreds of children are reported lost every year, usually they are found walking along the beach.
- Quickly check the immediate area then notify the duty lifesavers/lifeguards on duty.
- If no lifesavers are on duty then the police can be contacted.
- The lifesavers/lifeguards will need some information from you, such as:
 - A description (i.e. age, clothing, name, hair colour)
 - The time the child was last seen (this helps determine how far the child may have gone)
 - Any medical problems the child may have.

Most children are usually found very quickly, however, sometimes a wider search is needed, this may include:

- The car
- The home/unit
- Surrounding parklands/playgrounds
- A further expanse of beach (children have been known to walk some distance)

Stay calm and assist the lifesavers/lifeguards or Police as requested, they will be doing everything they can to help you.

PREVENTION

- Supervision of children is vital and the best form of supervision at the beach is to actively interact with your children.
- Bright lycra style swimming suits make good sun sense and are easy to see.
- Identify an easy to find point on the beach that the child can go to if you become separated (eg. the lifesavers tower).

For more information on any other matter relating to aquatic safety, contact:

Surf Life Saving Australia
02.9300.4000 or
slsa.com.au

Surf Life Saving NSW
(02) 9984 7188 or
surflifesaving.com.au

Surf Life Saving QLD
(07) 3846 8000 or
lifesaving.com.au

Life Saving Victoria
(03) 9676 6900 or
lifesavingvictoria.com.au

Surf Life Saving SA
(08) 8354 6900 or
surfrescue.com.au

Surf Life Saving WA
(08) 9243 9444 or
mybeach.com.au

Surf Life Saving TAS
(03) 6223 5555 or
slst.asn.au

Surf Life Saving NT
(08) 8985 6588 or
lifesavingnt.com.au

Or contact your local surf life saving club.

