

# Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier



Monday, 6 January 2025

## SAVING FAMILIES MONEY AND HELPING KIDS STAY SAFE

The Allan Labor Government is saving parents money and helping kids stay safe in and around the water, with affordable swimming lessons kicking off across the state from today.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today joined Kathy Parton CEO of Aquatics and Recreation Victoria at the Werribee Outdoor Pool to kick off the first day of the program – which is providing affordable lessons for families at more than 170 swimming centres, including 130 in regional Victoria.

As part of the program which runs through January, families with kids aged four to 12 will take part in five 30-minute lessons, which run over the course of a week.

Ordinarily, a single swimming lesson can cost a family up to \$25. Thanks to this program and the Labor Government's investment, the cost for five lessons is just \$35 per child – or \$7 a lesson – plus booking fees. If eligible, families can also use their Get Active Kids vouchers to reduce the lesson cost to zero.

This summer more than 16,800 Victorian kids will take part in the program – learning the skills and water safety knowledge they need to enjoy their summers by the pool and near the ocean.

For the first time, there are 400 extra spots this year for kids with disability and kids from multicultural backgrounds, so they can learn the same skills with the help of specialised teachers.

Lessons for kids with disability will be provided through dedicated programs and kids from CALD families have the option of signing up for lessons in Broadmeadows, Craigieburn, Sunshine, Werribee, Dandenong and more.

VICSWIM's learn-to-swim program has helped generations of kids to feel confident in and around the water, from foundational swimming skills to water safety education.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$917,000 in the program to make sure more kids get their chance to learn water-safety basics. For more information about the VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program visit [vicswim.com.au](https://vicswim.com.au).

### Quote attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

*"We're providing this cost-of-living support so kids of all backgrounds can learn how to stay safe at the beach or around the pool."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Education Ben Carroll

*"More than 16,800 kids will take part – learning the skills they need to enjoy their summers safely."*

### Quote attributable to CEO of Aquatics & Recreation Victoria Kathy Parton

*"ARV is pleased to offer the VICSWIM program for its 49th year. VICSWIM has become a key part of the social fabric of Victoria's summer. At a time of increased drownings, VICSWIM offers a low cost Learn to Swim/water safety education program for children aged 4 to 12 years, in pools, rivers, lakes and beaches across 175 locations in Victoria."*

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