

31 March 2011
Media Release
For Immediate Release



PREMIER QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHING LEARN TO SWIM AND WATER SAFETY LAUNCHED IN NZ

Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) today announced the introduction of the AUSTSWIM Training Programme™ in New Zealand.

AUSTSWIM is the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety™. The AUSTSWIM Teacher Licence™ is the industry standard for swimming and water safety teachers in Australia and is recognised internationally as the premier range of qualifications for teaching water safety and learn to swim.

Matt Claridge, General Manager, WSNZ is delighted to be able to offer AUSTSWIM training in New Zealand, "There is no comparable quality of training or qualifications in New Zealand or the world. The learn to swim industry in our country has long been envious of the range of accredited training programmes offered through AUSTSWIM. We are aware of considerable demand for access to these programmes and due to the close working relationship and goodwill that exists between the two organisations WSNZ has been granted the licence for AUSTSWIM delivery in NZ."

AUSTSWIM Chief Executive Gordon Mallett is also pleased at the new partnership, "AUSTSWIM has developed strategic partnerships with other international organisations in the provision of swimming and water safety training and accreditation. Working with WSNZ now provides for AUSTSWIM Training Programme™ delivery to our New Zealand colleagues, this is a natural extension and one that we will provide full support for."

Learn to swim and survival skills are at crisis point among New Zealand youths and research indicates swimming ability continues to decline at an alarming rate. Under the Sealord Swim For Life banner WSNZ is developing strategies to arrest this decline and views the services provided by swim school operators as integral in efforts to improve swimming ability.

Claridge continues, "Traditionally the school system has been the primary venue for learn to swim activity but the failure of the national educational system in this area puts all youth at risk. This inevitably brings more focus and importance to the essential services provided by



swim schools. WSNZ will continue to work with the industry to foster and improve these services.”

The first AUSTSWIM Presenter Training Courses are scheduled for 1-3 April 2011 in Auckland and 29 April, 1 & 2 May 2011 in Christchurch.

For more on AUSTSWIM in New Zealand visit www.watersafety.org.nz

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WATER SAFETY NEW ZEALAND

Formed in 1949, WSNZ is the national organisation responsible for water safety education in New Zealand.

WSNZ manages drowning prevention and water safety in communities through education. WSNZ administers proven, proactive and preventative education interventions.

WSNZ leads the Learn to Swim and Survive sector in New Zealand. The Sealord Swim For Life initiative is WSNZ's major project. WSNZ seeks to address a dramatic decline in swimming ability of our youth. Sealord Swim For Life is a comprehensive national project established to:

- Provide all children with access to the water;
- Facilitate the delivery of quality swim and survive programmes in primary schools;
- Provide the foundations for the development of a culture that produces generations of New Zealand families that are water safe.

For more information go to www.sealordswimforlife.org.nz

AUSTSWIM

AUSTSWIM is Australia's national organisation for the teaching of swimming and water safety™. AUSTSWIM has developed quality aquatic education program and licensing systems for those wishing to enter the aquatic industry as a teacher of swimming and water safety™.

The AUSTSWIM Teacher licence™ is the industry standard for swimming and water safety teachers™ and is delivered and recognised in each state and territory of Australia and many countries overseas.



There are currently over 25,000 AUSTSWIM Teachers™ in Australia and internationally with over 10,000 licensed in teaching specific programs such as infants, people with a disability and adults.

AUSTSWIM works closely with aquatic facilities, education departments, peak industry organisations and partners to achieve the AUSTSWIM philosophy that all Australians should have appropriate and relevant swimming and water safety skills and understand the principles and practices of water safety.

For more information go to www.austswim.com.au

