



# POOL ALONE CASE STUDY JELLIE PARK RECREATION & SPORT CENTRE



#### **AREA DEMOGRAPHICS**

Jellie Park is situated in Burnside, which is located in the Fendalton/Waimairi Ward in the northwest part of the city, 6.6kms from the Christchurch CBD.

The resident population of the immediate community is 12,442 made up predominantly of European (69.2%). The remainder of the community is Asian (15.6%), Maori (6.7%), Pacific (2.3%) and the remainder listed as other.

In the immediate area, there is one primary school and one secondary school, each with a decile rating of 8. The average personal income is approximately  $$20,000^{1}$ .

#### **FACILITY OVERVIEW**

Jellie Park comprises of:

- One 25m Sport Pool (8 lanes), two metres deep
- One 25m indoor Recreational Pool (8 lanes)
- One 50m heated outdoor pool with springboard diving area
- Toddlers Pool and Learn to Swim Pool
- Sound system in pools area
- Spa
- Sauna
- Steam room
- Indoor and Outdoor Hydroslides
- Fully equipped Fitness Centre/Gym
- Large Aerobics Fitness Studio
- Disabled access
- Approximately 110 car parking spaces available

Total attendance at Jellie Park is approximately 1 million participations per year.

### **CURRENT POOL ALONE POLICY**

The Pool Alone Policy as set out below was put in place prior to 2001. This came about as a portfolio decision to implement.

# **Christchurch City Council Pool Rules**







PO Box 11 132 | Manners Street | Wellington 6142 Mountain Safety House | Level 3, 19 Tory Street | Wellington phone 04 801 5598 | fax 04 801 5599 | info@nzrecreation.org.nz

The following rules are displayed at the main entrance to all pools within the Christchurch City Council's Recreation and Sports Unit and are designed to communicate the main rules within the facilities.

Children under 8 years old are not permitted in the swimming pools unless actively supervised by a caregiver at least 16 years of age (actively supervised means watching your child at all times; able to provide immediate assistance).

Children under the age of 5 years must be accompanied by an adult in the water, within arms reach at all times.

# **Pool Alone Policy**

Children under 8 must be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 or over. Actively supervised means; watching your child at all times, able to provide immediate assistance.

### **Christchurch City Council Under 5 Policy**

Children under the age of 5 years must be accompanied in the water and within arms reach at all times by an adult/care-giver that is over the age of 16 years.

There shall be no more than 2 children under the age of 5 years under the care of each or any single adult/care-giver that is over the age of 16 years.

### **Managing Pool Alone Cases: Unaccompanied Children**

All children under 8 years must be accompanied by an Adult over the age of 16 years. It is not the staff members responsibility to baby-sit these children. If a child is unsuitably supervised, the parent or child's guardian must be contacted as soon as possible. If contact cannot be made or the child is to be under facility care for more than 30 minutes the Police are informed.





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An 'unaccompanied child' in Council care is not to be left unattended. This means to be actively supervised by a CCC staff member at all times.

## **Managing Pool Alone Cases: Lost Children**

All practical methods are employed to keep lost children who present themselves to staff members with staff until they can be reunited with their caregiver or another CCC staff member. The "safe place" for looking after children is Pool Control.

Where a PA system is available a public announcement about the child is made at the nearest available opportunity and at frequent and appropriate intervals thereafter.

Where the children are on public view at all times then one staff member in attendance is adequate. When a child moves out of public view, for example to go to the toilet, then two staff members should be in attendance. No 'lost child' in Council care is to be left unattended.

Any person claiming a lost child must provide proof of identity, all information is recorded.

Children, who behave in such a way as to suggest that it would be inappropriate to release them in to the care of the presenting adult, must not be released; the Police are called. (By inappropriate behaviour it is meant a reaction that is clearly outside normal patterns, this includes freezing as well as hysteria).

If a child is not claimed after 30 minutes or by the completion of the event or closure of the facility, the matter is referred to the Police to ask for the child to be taken into care.

All Incidents/accidents including Pool Alone are reported.





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## How is the policy working?

There have been only a few occasions where a pool alone child was discovered - usually in the care of an older sibling or relative under 16yrs of age.

The under 5's policy works well. It definitely prevents a number of rescues lifeguards would otherwise have to do, especially in the leisure pools where there are additional risks ie. moving water and changes in pool depth.

#### **Further Comments**

A lot of discussions have been had regarding raising the age to 10yrs (or even 12 years), instead of 8yrs. This would eliminate a great level of risk for 8 and 9 year olds, from both the environment and other users.

There has been mixed comment; some suggesting the age needs to be raised and others believe status quo is appropriate.

There have been internal discussion to review to age - stats are being collected over the summer (2011/2012) to show the number of pool alone cases and under 12 year olds coming to the pool by themselves.

For further information please contact Nigel Cos, Graham Condon Operations Leader <a href="mailto:nigel.cox@ccc.govt.nz">nigel.cox@ccc.govt.nz</a>

### **Jellie Park Recreation & Sport Centre**

295 Ilam Road, Burnside, Christchurch http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/recreationsport/facilities/jellie/index.aspx



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All information is based on Statistics New Zealand from 2006 Census information.