



## broadcast clip

<b>Station :</b>	Channel 9	<b>Program :</b>	National Nine News
<b>Location :</b>	Perth	<b>Producer :</b>	
<b>Aired On :</b>	15/11/2021 6:32:52 PM	<b>Duration :</b>	1 mins 44 secs
<b>Compere :</b>	Michael Thomson	<b>Summary ID :</b>	R00090427421
<b>Demographics :</b>	Male 16+      51349	Female 16+      65965	
<b>Interviewees :</b>	Bill Kirby, Olympian		
<b>Interviewees :</b>	Desiree Mosedale, Parent		
<b>Interviewees :</b>	Elise Lennon, Parent		

### News

Perth, parents are turning their backs on swimming lessons, causing a spike in childhood drownings. Covid restrictions are being blamed for a lack of enrollments, with more than 40 percent of WA children missing out. It's one of life's most important skills, but swimming competency among children in WA has taken a dive. Listen, availability covid and an abundance of other sports to choose from all to Blame. I noticed a huge regression in the kids that we've had with us. So they left with a pretty good swimming standard, and after that break, come back and have to relearn all those skills again. Today marks the start of swim safer week, raising awareness of the importance of swimming lessons and encouraging parents to enrol their children. Last year, WA recorded 140 child drowning incidents, including deaths, up slightly on the year. Before we do surf lifesaving, we have a boat. It's really important that they know swim safety. Most of our friends and family members have closed so it's important that they could swim. It's hoped some popular child TV superheroes from PJ masks will help lure children back to lessons. New statistics show 41 percent of children in WA aren't learning to swim. The problem nearly half of parents Can't find available classes at their local swim School. Alarmingly, a quarter of parents aren't confident there a child could handle a water emergency. Life-saving lessons include learning to safely enter and exit a pool, floating and propelling in the Water. By the age of three to five, all kids should be able to swim across the pool climb out on their own.