



**broadcast clip**

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| <b>Station :</b>      | Channel 9   | <b>Program :</b>      | Nine Afternoon News |
| <b>Location :</b>     | Sydney  | <b>Producer :</b>     |                     |
| <b>Aired On :</b>     | 15/11/2021 4:11:06 PM   | <b>Duration :</b>     | 2 mins 25 secs      |
| <b>Compere :</b>      | Davina Smith  | <b>Summary ID :</b>   | R00090422087        |
| <b>Demographics :</b> | Male 16+      9743  | Female 16+      16984 |                     |
| <b>Interviewees :</b> | Julie Sheldrake, swim school manager, Nepean Swim and Fitness |                       |                     |
| <b>Interviewees :</b> | Leisel Jones, Swim Australia Ambassador                       |                       |                     |

**News**

As summer approaches, there are plenty of kids Keen to hit the water. To prepare, more than 500 swim schools around the country are offering events from today and what's been labelled swim safer week. Olympic gold medalist and swimmer straighter Ambassador Liesl Jones, says it's vital the kids to learn to swim. Learning to swim is so important because it's a skill for life. It's something that we can learn as children and we can carry it all the way through our life. But it can actually save lives, is the big thing. And not only is an enjoyment Factor. But it's also about making sure that we're safe in the water. And then if anything does go wrong, we can save our lives. An important message there from Liesl Jones. But new data shows covid has had a significant impact on swimming Beginners. Julie sheldrake of Nepean swim and fitness in penrith Joins us Julie, welcome take us through these figures thank you, Mama. Yes be statistics are frightening We've got 54 percent of Australian children currently not learning to swim. And the covid lock down to the prevented 27 percent of families from attending lessons one in four Australian children. Had been out of the pool for 6 to 12 months. And twenty-eight percent of children and missing out on lessons purely because of lack of availability. We also surveyed parents, and the we found that 37% instead of parents are planning to enrol their children in the next six months. Julie, those figures are really alarming. What are your concerns for the upcoming summer? Drowning remains the number one cause of accidental death in our children under 5 in Australia, and this needs to change. Over the covid Lockdowns, we saw an increase of 108 percent in drownings in the zero-to-four age group now in real terms, that's an increase. He's from 12 children the year before, 225 children this year that's 13 extra children. And as a mother myself, doesn't bear thinking about Julie, what can we all do to prevent a swimming accident or tragedy? Since the ball and make sure there's no problems with the fact that children can get under or over? Shut the gate, never prop it open. Make sure children can swim make sure children unsupervised around water, whether that's the cool the bath or any other body of water and learn.