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Media Release

SPASA Victoria Claims Victory On Long Running Pool & Spa Safety Campaign

As announced on Neil Mitchell's 3AW Melbourne radio program this morning, the Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Victoria (SPASA Victoria) are today elated at the State Government's decision to implement a mandatory pool and spa barrier inspection program in Victoria.

This decision comes after a long-running campaign by SPASA Victoria - and other leading industry stakeholders - who have stridently promoted the importance of a mandatory pool and spa barrier inspection program in Victoria for many years.

It was only six months ago that SPASA Victoria - along with many other industry stakeholders - were shocked and dismayed at the Government's announcement of proposed new legislation which would compel pool and spa owners to comply retrospectively with safety barrier laws, forcing thousands of people to endure the inconvenience and expense of re-fencing their pool and/or spa areas for no guaranteed improved safety outcome.

"It is with great delight that the decision to implement a mandatory barrier inspection program and reverse the proposal of retrospective barrier legislation has been made by the State Government. Our voice of reason has finally been heard," says SPASA Victoria CEO, Brendan Watkins.

"Today we have won the great safety debate. We are delighted that the Andrews Government has finally listened and respected the research, knowledge and experience of those within the pool and spa industry. After many years of being ignored on this topic, this is a victory for SPASA Victoria as well as all of the industry stakeholders. A mandatory pool & spa barrier inspection program will save lives. Thank you Minister Wynne."

After years of heavy media promotion along with highly strategic behind-the-scenes advocacy, the hard work and passion of those within the pool and spa industry has finally paid off.

The Andrews Government will introduce this new legislation to parliament in June, and the new mandatory pool and spa register and inspection regime will be in place by the 2019 summer season.

Under this regulatory overhaul, households will need to register their pool or spa with their local council and declare their pool barriers compliant. A regular regime of inspections as frequent as every three years will then be enforced.

"We're creating a dedicated database of every household pool and spa in Victoria, and ensuring they're regularly inspected to make sure they comply with high safety standards. Too many



families have had to endure the heartbreak of losing a child in a drowning tragedy and it has to end,” said Minister for Planning Richard Wynne today.

“All drowning deaths in household pools and spas share a common theme: a lack of adult supervision. Always watch kids when there’s water close by.”



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