



Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Victoria (SPASAVIC)

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31 July 2020

The Hon. [insert name]
[insert department] [insert
role]
[insert address]
[insert city, state, postcode]
Email: [Insert email]

Re: Swimming Pool & Spa Industry – Providing ‘Essential Services’

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the Swimming Pool and Spa Industry in Victoria.

The Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Victoria (SPASAVIC) represents the largest body of swimming pool and spa industry professionals in the State.

In Victoria, there are approximately 250,000+ residential pools, 100,000+ portable spas and multiple aquatic centres.

Nationally, the swimming pool and spa industry contributes in excess of \$1.4 billion dollars into the Australian economy annually and is an employer more than 42,000 people.

The Swimming Pool and Spa Industry is diverse and includes five main sectors:

- Pool & Spa Builders
- Pool & Spa Service Technicians
- Ancillary consulting services
- Manufacturers of Chemicals & Equipment
- Pool & Spa Barrier Safety Inspectors

SPASAVIC is acutely aware of the pressures faced by government in dealing with this unprecedented and difficult time. The ongoing maintenance and water quality obligations required by the aquatics industry - which predominantly includes residential pools and spas - is paramount to the health and safety of communities in Victoria and throughout Australia.

Australian Department of Health – Statement

The advice from the *Australian Department of Health* is consistent with that of other Health Departments in all states and territories and other countries.

‘There is no evidence that the virus will survive in well managed and maintained pools chlorinated in accordance with Australian standards and guidelines.’

Source: *Statement* – [Australian Department of Health](#)

Public Safety - Protecting Australians during mandatory closures

As children and families across the country are being asked to practice social distancing and or self-isolate, and with gyms and other public facilities closing, the backyard pool or spa provides the ideal way for families to focus on their health and well-being. Even when not in use, these pools and spas must be maintained to ensure appropriate sanitation measures are taking place.

Pool Shops & Service Technicians

As an industry, Pool Shops and Service Technicians have unsupervised access to hundreds of thousands of backyards weekly.

Without proper pool and spa maintenance (which includes circulation and treatment of water) various pathogens can grow, such as *Pseudomonas*, *Cryptosporidium*, *E. Coli*, *Shigella*, etc. It can also create a breeding ground for mosquitoes, other pests, and the diseases they may carry, which presents a risk not only to bathers but to entire communities.

SPASAVIC’s Position: By maintaining pools and spas in accordance with Australian Standards, qualified and experienced Service Technicians provide an *essential service* by preventing the transmission of infectious diseases, helping maintain community health, and ensuring public safety.

Pool & Spa Barrier Inspections

Current legislation outlines the obligation to have properly maintained pool barriers to restrict tragic water related incidents from occurring, which is vital to strengthening community safety.

SPASAVIC’s Position: Barrier Inspectors provide an *essential service* in undertaking safety assessments to keep children and other high-risk groups protected by a compliant pool and spa environment.

Pool & Spa Installation

Unfinished pool and spa projects can pose a significant public safety risk. Safety hazards such as excavations, cave-ins, pool popping, and long-term temporary fence installations increase the overall safety of a construction site without ongoing and qualified site supervision.

SPASAVIC’s Position: It is critically important that the ongoing installation of pool and spa projects remain active and proceed where safe to do so as an *essential service*, whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Ongoing Dialogue

Dialogue throughout this unprecedented national health and safety crisis is important so that our industry can continue to provide **essential** services to Australian communities in all jurisdictions.

We thank you for your consideration and remain available and eager to discuss the above with you at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Samartzis
CEO, SPASAVIC

