

Our Purple Princess



On the 10th December 2004, Kat and Andrew Plint were blessed with the early arrival of their daughter Hannah (child number four). Hannah excelled at everything she did. Hannah walked and talked early, wrote her name at 15 months, recited the alphabet, could count to 50 and wanted to be a “baby doctor” when she grew up. Hannah loved, laughed and smiled daily, her brothers and sisters adored her and her parents were besotted. Anyone who met Hannah was deeply touched by a very special little girl.

Sadly Hannah would never grow up. On the 4th October 2007 Hannah used a plastic chair that she had carried and opened up the pool gate and drowned whilst her mother Kat changed her brother’s nappy. She died aged 34 months.

Since her death her parents have been asking the question of WHY? In the days after Hannah’s death Andrew and Kat were told that the pool was illegally built and during Hannah’s coronial inquest it was ascertained that the decking on their house was an illegal structure and contributed to her death. The Plints discovered that Coroners in QLD had been recommending changes which would have identified and prevented Hannah’s death and others for many years. At least 35 children have lost their lives due to flawed legislation in Australia.

In their fight for justice and to support other parents Kat and Andrew formed “ Hannah’s Foundation—Drowning Prevention, Awareness and Support” on the 1st February 2008. It is the only charity in the world supporting families who lose loved ones to drowning through injury and/or death, advocating governments to change pool and water safety legislation to save more lives. We support any family touched by drowning injury or death. Currently Hannah’s Foundation supports over 150 families (as at 1 July 2010).

Hannah’s legacy lives on through her foundation and all of its members. If you need support for any drowning tragedy, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah’s Foundation 24 hour Support Line **1800 426 624** or **(07) 5465 2000** or www.hannahsfoundation.org.au



Hannah's Foundation Support

“ Hannah’s Foundation advocates Pool and Water Safety in Queensland and assists families not only in Queensland but nationwide through peer support, counselling and financial assistance for children’s funerals. As their Patron, the Qld Police Service supports Hannah’s Foundation and I would like to encourage all members of the community to be actively involved in Water Safety and Education in Qld. ”

Mr Bob Atkinson APM | Commissioner of Police Queensland
Patron of Hannah’s Foundation

“ In a State like ours where our warm climate means swimming pools and water play are a large part of our culture, we can never be too careful in protecting our children from the risks of pool accidents.

The number of drownings in Queensland has halved since we introduced some of the toughest pool rules in Australia, but as a community, we can do better. Hannah’s Foundation is a great advocate for pool safety and regulation, and importantly, provides support to families who have suffered the tragic loss of life from pool accidents. I wish them well in their continued work and support for a safer Queensland. ”

Hon Anna Bligh | Premier of Queensland

“ The Urban Local Government Association (ULGA) supports the tireless work and great advocacy carried out by Hannah’s Foundation in their support of families who lose loved ones to drowning. The Foundation was formed out of the tragic drowning of young Hannah Plint whose legacy lives on through the wonderful work of Hannah’s Foundation – Drowning Prevention, Awareness and Support.

The ULGA acknowledges and supports the Queensland State Government’s introduction of stronger pool laws and will continue to work with the Government to constantly monitor pool and water safety legislation in an endeavour to stop the tragic loss of lives from pool accidents. ”

Mayor Paul Pisasale | City of Ipswich
President – Urban Local Government Association

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HANNAH’S FOUNDATION

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Urban Local Government
Association of Queensland Inc.

PROUDLY SUPPORTS



ESSENTIAL STEPS FOR POOL SAFETY

Be smart, be compliant, be safe around water.



It is statistically proven that children will drown when supervision breaks down and a **NON COMPLIANT** barrier is in existence at the same time. **SUPERVISION AND FULLY COMPLIANT BARRIERS SAVES LIVES.**



REMOVE ALL OBJECTS
ABLE TO BE CLIMBED
AWAY FROM GATES
AND FENCES

step A =

ACTION/APPLY/APPROVAL

All pools in Queensland need to comply with the Queensland Building Act (1975). Apply for a permit, submit plans to your local council OR Licensed Building Certifier and obtain **APPROVAL** to build your pool. This is compulsory and fines apply for illegally built pools. Owner builders require a Builder Licence and are also required to engage applications with local council/certifiers. **DO NOT BUILD WITH OUT A LICENCE. DO NOT PROCEED TO SECTION B** until obtained.

step B =

BUILD

Building a pool in Queensland must have temporary fencing, signage of construction and appropriate safety notifications around your property, Use a licensed pool builder with a current Building Services Authority Licence. Always check for licensing details and never use an unlicensed builder. **DO NOT FILL YOUR POOL UNTIL SECTION C** is complete.

step C =

COMPLIANCE/CERTIFICATION/CHECKLIST

Your pool must be approved with a **FINAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE** before it is filled with water, this ensures your new pool has passed all safety specifications in Queensland. If approved proceed to **STEP E**.

CHECKLIST – Owning a pool has responsibilities. You must ensure that all gates, hinges and fence panels and any part of your pool is always maintained to safety standards. Contact your suppliers to see how your hinges and locks should be maintained and always follow manufacturer's instructions. You need to conduct simple home safety checks **EVERY THREE MONTHS**.

THESE STEPS APPLY TO ALL POOLS WITH A DEPTH OF 30CM OR MORE. THIS INCLUDES SPAS & PORTABLE SWIMMING POOLS.

step D =

DEFAULTS

If a major default is found you must go back to **STEP A** and follow the rules. If you are not sure on the safety of your pool you can engage your local council for a compliance check for a fee, some councils are free. **DO NOT** engage any **MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES** to any pool fences without first consulting a Building Certifier or Local Council.

step E =

ENJOY

Once you have completed all sections A, B, C and D you may now fill your pool. **DO NOT FILL YOUR POOL WITHOUT SECTION C CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE BY A CERTIFIER OR COUNCIL.** Hannah's Foundation highly recommends that you **EDUCATE** yourself as a pool owner with CPR – ensure your sign is visible and be CPR qualified.

step F =

FAULTS/FILL

When completing **SECTION C CHECKLIST** you may find certain minor faults that need fixing such as adjusting hinges, gate locks, trimming trees and removing all boundary invasions. Keep a clearance of 1.2m at all times from the pool fence including objects able to be climbed. Many drownings occur when gates do not shut properly or fence panels become loose and children gain access through unlatched gates and gaps around pools. **ENSURE YOUR POOL IS SAFE AT ALL TIMES.**

SAFETY PLAN

Every pool and home should have a safety plan. Understand that **ANYONE CAN DROWN** in a pool not just children. Follow these steps to ensure the safety of swimmers.

1. Supervise

Always supervise swimmers irrespective of age and **NEVER SWIM ALONE! SWIM WITH A BUDDY!**

2. Barriers

Ensure that your pool barrier is fully compliant and has no faults. A fully compliant barrier and supervision will save lives.

3. Familiarisation

Ensure that you are familiar with water and swim to the level of your ability.

4. CPR

Every pool owner and person over aged 10 should know how to do CPR. Ensure that children are taught the **EMERGENCY** procedures and practise your family's Safety Strategy.