

Coroner's Court of Victoria Reports relating to toddler (aged 0 - 4) drownings since 2000 in Victoria

Case	Coroner	Recommendations	Four sided isolation barrier?	Date of Death	Comments
20064850	Dyson Hore-Lacy	No specific recommendations relating to pool barriers. Permit related only.	Yes, as the swimming pool was located at the rear yard	21-Dec-06	
20070703	Peter White	Finding was that the gate was held open by a home-made wire latch. No recommendations made.	No, tin shed one side, wooden fences on two sides and the house the other.	21-Feb-07	Barriers comprised of a tin shed one side, wooden fences on two sides and the house the other.
20084363	Iain Treloar West	P34, 35 & 36 e) The Inquest has highlighted the need for <u>routine mandatory assessment</u> of pool barriers in Victoria, as occurs elsewhere. Barrier inspections, at least four yearly, was introduced in Western Australia in 1991 and is credited in playing a key role in reducing the number of toddler drownings in home pools. Legislation for mandatory assessment along with a home pool/spa register will bring Victoria in line with other States and work towards a nationally consistent approach to help reduce confusion and improve compliance and safety.	Yes.	26-Sep-08	
20100377	Audrey Jamieson	Literature referred to concluded that isolation fencing, that is safety barrier fencing on all four sides, would provide a more effective drowning deterrent. Coroners have also called for the identification of properties which contain pools and spas in order to maintain a register so that inspections can be initiated at regular intervals by regulatory agencies.	No, direct access to the pool from the house.	26-Jan-10	That the Building Commissioner and the Minister for Planning consider the contributing circumstances of this death, and determine whether amendments should be made to the existing swimming pool barrier requirements to reduce the risk of previously acceptable harder configurations, particularly those which utilise self-closing doors, when properties are sold, or offered for lease.
20101291	Audrey Jamieson	The Coroner supports Life Saving Victoria's recommendations for ' <u>Mandatory inspection</u> of all pool and spa safety barriers every four years by licensed pool safety inspectors'	No barrier fencing around the spa and no automatic locks on the access doors from the house	06-Apr-10	Spa. No barrier fencing around the spa and no automatic locks on the access doors from the house.
20154688		Recommendations that the Minister adopts elements of the framework enacted in QLD requiring a pool safety certificate prior to sale or lease; and a state-wide pool register	Yes.	14-Sep-15	The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's slated review and amendments to the Building Regulations 2006, signifies an important opportunity for Victoria's pool regulatory framework to be greatly enhanced.
20000113	Kevin Gilbert Mason	N/A	Yes	12-Jan-00	
20000147	Graeme Johnstone	N/A	Yes	14-Jan-00	
20000469	Noreen Mary Toohey	N/A	Yes	16-Feb-00	
200001267	Graeme Johnstone	N/A	No	27-Apr-00	Glass sliding door into the courtyard containing the spa.
20001973	Mr DBS Cottrill	N/A	No	17-Jun-00	No safety barrier. Above-ground pool (4 feet high, 15 x 30 feet wide, filled 3 feet deep with water) in rear yard.

20040009	Francis William Hender	N/A	No	01-Jan-04	No safety barrier. Backyard swimming pool.
20054591	David Peter Drake	N/A	No	17-Dec-05	No safety barrier. Backyard inground spa.
20060983	John Martin Murphy	N/A	Yes	14-Mar-06	
20071114	Peter White	N/A	Yes	23-Mar-07	
20095627	Jonathan George Klestadt	N/A	N/A	01-Dec-09	Child was born in 2008.
20121226	Richard Wright	N/A	N/A	03-Apr-12	
20125257	Iain Treloar West	N/A	Yes	10-Dec-12	
20130817	Ian Watkins	N/A	Yes	22-Feb-13	
20132452	Judge Sara Hinchey	As per case 20084363	No	05-Jun-13	The pool area was directly accessible from the kitchen/meals area and there was no separate safety barrier/fence around the pool, which is level with the decking.
20140739	Audrey Jamieson	N/A	Yes	07-Feb-14	The gate was propped open due to mowing the lawns.
20150276	Ian L Gray	Comments only	No	17-Jan-15	Portable pool. A 2012 research study concluded that four stratagems were needed to effect a real reduction in the incidence of young children drowning in domestic swimming pools; legislatively compliant safety barriers, adequate caregiver supervision, water familiarisation and early administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

22 reports - 9 drownings did not involve four sided barriers, 11 drownings involved four sided barriers. 4 coroner recommendations for mandatory barrier inspections. Summary current as of May 2017.



Coroner recommendations for Mandatory Barrier Inspections
 Barrier involved in toddler drowning was not four-sided
 Barrier involved in toddler drowning was four-sided isolation barrier