



Progress report

Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers



Executive summary

This Report has been prepared by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Building and Energy Division (Building and Energy).

Pool safety barriers are known to be effective in helping to restrict the unsupervised access of young children into swimming pool areas, reducing the likelihood of a drowning incident.

Local governments are required to inspect the safety barriers of private swimming pools within their district at intervals not exceeding four years. These inspections monitor the compliance of those safety barriers. Local governments have powers under the *Building Act 2011* to assist them in enforcing compliance.

Local governments were formally requested to voluntarily provide data on their pool safety barrier inspection progress in June 2023. An early notification email was sent in March, and a reminder email in July to those that had not yet responded. The due date was 1 August. Where responses were received after this date they have been included in the Report where possible.

Of 139 local governments in Western Australia, 135 provided a response prior to the preparation of this Report. Where a local government's data was not received it has been recorded in the Report as 'Data not provided by deadline'.

This Report is the fifth annual report on the progress of local governments' pool inspection programs and is in response to recommendation 7 of the Ombudsman WA report [Investigation into ways to prevent or reduce deaths of children by drowning](#), tabled in Parliament on 23 November 2017.

Building and Energy is currently undertaking a review of the regulatory requirements for pools and their safety barriers. It is anticipated that the provision of the data presented in this Report will become a mandatory annual requirement for local governments.

Some local governments, in their responses, detailed reasons why some inspections had not been conducted within the four year maximum period. These included:

- the vast size of some local government districts (predominantly regional areas);
- competing workloads and projects;
- difficulties organising access to some properties; and
- staff resourcing.

Summary	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2018/19	2017/18
Total number of pools	175,535	170,975	166,709	161,960	159,183
Total number pools overdue	2,722	2,571	2,673	2,545	3,632
Total pools overdue %	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	2.3%
Local governments with overdue inspections	52	49	54	40	44
Local governments that did not provide data	4	9	14	17	20

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2022/23	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Albany	135	44	2	1.5%
City of Armadale	5,318	2,006	0	0.0%
Shire of Ashburton	537	0	323	60.1%
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	242	167	75	31.0%
Town of Bassendean	866	20	0	0.0%
City of Bayswater	3,037	674	0	0.0%
City of Belmont	1,249	232	163	13.1%
Shire of Beverley	30	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Boddington	58	13	1	1.7%
Shire of Boyup Brook	4	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	50	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Brookton	22	22	0	0.0%
Shire of Broome	1,867	524	0	0.0%
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	9	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Bruce Rock	8	0	0	0.0%
City of Bunbury	1,342	426	0	0.0%
City of Busselton	1,827	418	5	0.3%
Town of Cambridge	3,543	921	32	0.9%
City of Canning	6,287	2,142	56	0.9%
Shire of Capel	1,192	385	0	0.0%
Shire of Carnamah	1	1	0	0.0%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2022/23	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Carnarvon	109	6	84	77.1%
Shire of Chapman Valley	140	0	62	44.3%
Shire of Chittering	64	48	16	25.0%
Shire of Christmas Island	5	5	0	0.0%
Town of Claremont	879	224	0	0.0%
City of Cockburn	8,108	1,705	9	0.1%
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Collie	334	83	0	0.0%
Shire of Coolgardie	99	13	0	0.0%
Shire of Coorow	30	27	1	3.3%
Shire of Corrigin	16	17	0	0.0%
Town of Cottesloe	757	207	0	0.0%
Shire of Cranbrook	unknown	0	unknown	
Shire of Cuballing	38	38	0	0.0%
Shire of Cue	7	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Cunderdin	13	7	0	0.0%
Shire of Dalwallinu	17	2	1	5.9%
Shire of Dandaragan	69	3	5	7.2%
Shire of Dardanup	936	287	0	0.0%
Shire of Denmark	12	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	82	0	1	1.2%

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Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	201	26	0	0.0%
Shire of Dowerin	6	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Dumbleyung	12	0	1	8.3%
Shire of Dundas	<i>Data not provided by deadline</i>			
Town of East Fremantle	639	0	0	0.0%
Shire of East Pilbara	298	169	29	9.7%
Shire of Esperance	128	26	0	0.0%
Shire of Exmouth	146	23	0	0.0%
City of Fremantle	1,024	391	26	2.5%
Shire of Gingin	275	77	6	2.2%
Shire of Gnowangerup	12	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Goomalling	20	5	0	0.0%
City of Gosnells	7,444	2,351	0	0.0%
City of Greater Geraldton	2,065	600	22	1.1%
Shire of Halls Creek	<i>Data not provided by deadline</i>			
Shire of Harvey	1,663	609	0	0.0%
Shire of Irwin	166	3	11	6.6%
Shire of Jerramungup	1	0	0	0.0%
City of Joondalup	23,140	7,737	0	0.0%
City of Kalamunda	5,821	1,377	2	0.0%
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,309	307	656	28.4%

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City of Karratha	1,999	506	0	0.0%
Shire of Katanning	110	14	0	0.0%
Shire of Kellerberrin	20	20	0	0.0%
Shire of Kent	6	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Kojonup	17	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kondinin	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Koorda	3	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Kulin	7	0	0	0.0%
City of Kwinana	1,873	863	0	0.0%
Shire of Lake Grace	11	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Laverton	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Leonora	4	4	0	0.0%
City of Mandurah	6,304	2,264	8	0.1%
Shire of Manjimup	64	18	0	0.0%
Shire of Meekatharra	2	2	0	0.0%
City of Melville	10,738	2,221	0	0.0%
Shire of Menzies	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Merredin	101	21	5	5.0%
Shire of Mingenew	28	4	6	21.4%
Shire of Moora	74	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Morawa	0	0	0	0.0%

Where total number of pools is recorded as '0' this indicates the local government has no registered pools in their jurisdiction.

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2022/23	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Town of Mosman Park	963	374	36	3.7%
Shire of Mount Magnet	8	0	2	25.0%
Shire of Mount Marshall	5	5	0	0.0%
Shire of Mukinbudin	2	0	1	50.0%
Shire of Mundaring	3,756	1,496	155	4.1%
Shire of Murchison	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Murray	1,245	225	0	0.0%
Shire of Nannup	11	0	1	9.1%
Shire of Narembeen	12	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Narrogin	138	11	0	0.0%
City of Nedlands	3,019	697	0	0.0%
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Northam	528	130	57	10.8%
Shire of Northampton	173	44	68	39.3%
Shire of Nungarin	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Peppermint Grove	280	81	0	0.0%
Shire of Perenjori	5	4	1	20.0%
City of Perth	221	109	0	0.0%
Shire of Pingelly	34	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Plantagenet	18	17	0	0.0%
Town of Port Hedland	947	605	44	4.6%

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Shire of Quairading	<i>Data not provided by deadline</i>			
Shire of Ravensthorpe	0	0	0	0.0%
City of Rockingham	10,991	3,193	4	0.0%
Shire of Sandstone	3	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	2666	659	16	0.6%
Shire of Shark Bay	7	6	1	14.3%
City of South Perth	2,966	1,235	495	16.7%
City of Stirling	13,280	3,473	13	0.1%
City of Subiaco	773	90	15	1.9%
City of Swan	8,877	3,355	3	0.0%
Shire of Tammin	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Three Springs	2	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Toodyay	102	3	76	74.5%
Shire of Trayning	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	<i>Data not provided by deadline</i>			
Town of Victoria Park	987	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Victoria Plains	19	18	1	5.3%
City of Vincent	1,215	266	44	3.6%
Shire of Wagin	82	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Wandering	20	20	0	0.0%
City of Wanneroo	15,295	3,485	20	0.1%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2022/23	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Waroona	194	70	5	2.6%
Shire of West Arthur	4	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Westonia	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wickpin	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Williams	28	0	1	3.6%
Shire of Wiluna	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	36	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Woodanilling	10	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wyalkatchem	17	0	9	52.9%
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	308	81	23	7.5%
Shire of Yalgoo	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Yilgarn	35	15	0	0.0%
Shire of York	171	144	23	13.5%
TOTAL:	175,535	50,258	2,722	1.6%

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