



Swim teacher's new mission to teach water safety

ONE of the city's most experienced swim teachers has urged parents to be vigilant around water to protect their children from drowning.

Royal Life Saving Society regional director Carolyn Asher has been in the lifesaving and water safety industry for 30 years and is now an advocate for the Keep Watch program.

Ms Asher teaches a swim and survive program to kids, as well as training swim teachers to pass on the vital

life skill to others.

"It's not just swimming lessons," Ms Asher said.

"It's rescues and teaching kids how to throw a rope into the pool.

"We have a pretend telephone where they can call 000."

She said training also involved the children swimming in clothing to ensure they knew what to do if they fell accidentally.

Ms Asher was recently awarded trainer of the

month for the Love 2 Swim program, which is an initiative of the society.

She said the Keep Watch message was supervise children at all times, restrict their access to water, familiarise children with water and learn resuscitation.

Ms Asher said she often was asked to visit houses to do a safety check of the pool area.

"I talk to people and let them know to be vigilant about it because kids can get

away from you," she said.

"They've got to be in hands' or eyes' reach.

"You need to keep them supervised and make sure there's a barrier between the child and the water when you're not there with them and create a safe play area."

Anyone wanting to find out more can contact Ms Asher on 0411 116 223 or visit www.keepwatch.com.au.

— RACHEL TOUNE



WATER SAFETY . . . Royal Life Saving Society regional director Carolyn Asher with Riley Chapman, 8, Keira Chapman, 9, Amber Bruce, 4, Haydn Chapman, 8, and Daniel Moore, 3

Photo: EVAN MORGAN