



A death in the pool

EMMA PAGE

SWIMMERS at Maccallum Pool in Cremorne Point were thrown into a state of panic on Friday as they desperately tried to save a man who suffered a heart attack or stroke during his morning swim.

A Mosman resident and regular swimmer, who did not want to be named, told the *Daily* she noticed the man stagger backwards and thrash about in the water after attempting to get out of the pool.

"He was floundering about in the water but making no sound," she said. "I screamed out to the other ladies to help pull him out of the water but he was too heavy so I ran like hell to get help."

The woman said she was horrified to find there was no means to call an ambulance at the pool.

"There was myself and three other women at the pool at that

time but none of us had our mobile phones," she said.

"There was nobody around, I was screaming out 'help, help' - I felt so frantic and desperate."

There is a sign at the pool advising people to dial 000 in emergencies but no pay phone or emergency phone in the area.

The woman said she was able to attract the attention of builders, renovating a house nearby, who raced down to the pool to pull the man out of the water.

It is believed one of the builders called an ambulance. The man, aged about 55, was taken to Royal North Shore Hospital but all attempts to save him failed.

The woman who tried to help him has now called for North Sydney Council to install an emergency phone at the pool.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery said the council would investigate the matter.

"I want to offer my condolences to the man's family during this unbelievably difficult time," she said.

"There is no reason why we shouldn't have a look and see what's involved in getting an emergency phone down there."

Cr McCaffery said she did not think a pay phone was necessarily the answer as many people went to the pool without their mobile phones or wallets.

"Without having consulted any research, I would imagine the best service would be an emergency phone that doesn't require coin for use," she said.

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