



Mother's plea after Storm Drowning

The recent drowning of a six-year-old boy in North Queensland has sparked an appeal by a grieving mother for all parents to educate their children about the dangers of storm drains, flooding creeks, rivers and other dangerous areas.

Water safety campaigner Katherine Plint, who formed Hannah's Foundation after losing her daughter Hannah to drowning in a backyard pool in 2007, said she relives this nightmare every time she hears of these tragic events.

"My plea to all parents is to supervise and educate your children on the perils of natural water sources and the force of Mother Nature in storms," said Mrs Plint.

"No family this summer storm season should have to call on Hannah's Foundation support line for a funeral or counselling support.

"I cringe now when a storm comes."

"This time last year we lost so many young children in the floods."

"They are curious of the water. Some had never seen water so close to their houses in floods and storms before."

"NO DRAINS WHEN IT RAINS" should be drummed into children, especially boys and young men who are most at risk of drowning in these types of areas.

"Boys are really adventurous, they get curious with flowing water, it entices them and they think without any fear for their safety.

"The dangers of pipes, air pockets and the hard metal covers are severe and most accidents in drains and floods do end in death."

"The message is simple and clear."

"I urge for every family this summer storm season to keep their kids in constant supervision and for people not to tour flood ridden areas or drive the family car into flooded waters on roads.

"That is a killer as well with two cars being swept off roads in recent floods causing drowning deaths.

"Summer is the most dangerous time of year for drowning and in floods these statistics only increase.

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"We want to avoid adding to the drowning toll this summer. Keep the toll down.

"I wouldn't wish this grief and longing for my child on anyone. If someone listens and this saves at least one life then this personal torture is worth it.

"I relive Hannah's death everyday but I just cannot afford not to spread this message and drum it home to people."

Counselling service for Hannah's Foundation is open 24 hours on 1800 426 624.

Anyone wishing to donate to the service can deposit funds to BSB 704 052 and account number 1035885.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Mrs Plint urged the public to help keep the foundation going.

"Christmas time is tough for families and the counselling service is struggling to cope with the overwhelming need." she said.

Issued by Andrew Plint CEO Hannah's Foundation 29th December 2008

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