



Media Release 30th July 2008

A QUEENSLAND family whose young daughter drowned in their backyard swimming pool has strongly backed calls for local councils to rigorously enforce pool fencing laws.

NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People Gillian Calvert has released a statement, saying councils should be required to inspect all pool fences with ongoing monitoring to make sure they are maintained.

Her comments follow a study showing deaths from backyard pool drownings remain unchanged, despite an overall decline in child fatalities across New South Wales.

Andrew and Katherine Plint who set up Hannah's Foundation in memory of their daughter who drowned last October, said it was not only in NSW that drownings are occurring in pools with faulty gate locks, fences and equipment.

"Some pools are not fenced at all," Mrs Plint said.

"Sadly we know of people buying homes right around Australia with pools that are non-compliant as a result of landscaping undertaken since they were first approved by councils," she said.

"Too many children under five are drowning in non compliant pools with faulty fences. Whilst supervision is the main preventative measure in water safety around Pools, if parents are distracted like I was for only a short period of time, we are told that our pool fences should not be letting us down in that prevention measure."

Hannah's Foundation, commenced on the February 1, 2008 was officially launched on March 23, 2008, is Australia's First Charitable Institution fully endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office which solely supports families who have lost loved ones - mainly children - to drowning.

"All councils in Australia should enforce their laws on pool and spa compliance, there should be regular and compulsory annual checks and members of the community should also ensure that if people are building pools that their council is made aware of it. Too many preventable deaths are occurring and we want it to stop. The laws are made but never enforced by those who make them," Mrs Plint said.

Hannah's Foundation fully endorses: Supervision, Fully compliant Australian Pool four sided fencing, Water familiarisation and CPR for all Adults, parents and pool owners.

For further information please contact Hannah's Foundation on 07 5465 2000

Website: www.hannahsfoundation.org **Email:** info@hannahsfoundation.org

Postal Address: P O Box 361 LAIDLEY QLD 4341

OFFICE: 07 5465 2000 **Andrew:** 0412 742 203 **Katherine:** 0438 145 744