

# Airly Primary School

## Key lessons:

- Delivery of swimming in a regional area with small class numbers
- Seeking alternative funding sources to support school swimming and water safety education
- Using transportation time effectively, noting no immediate aquatics facilities around Airly Primary School

Airly Primary School is a small school set in rural pastures in Gippsland's dairy region. The school is located within a ten-minute drive from Sale, Strafford and Maffra.

While Airly draws students from these neighbouring towns, current student enrolment numbers sit below 40 and are made up of only three classes. Despite this, the school has prioritised a comprehensive swimming and water safety program due to their proximity to beaches, lakes and flood irrigation channels.



## The approach

Airly Primary School's program consists of 8 lessons, over a two-week period held throughout Term 4.

The school delivers their swimming program throughout the final school term to equip students with the competencies required to be safe over the summer school holiday period.



## Year levels

All students from Foundation to Year 6 participate in swimming and water safety education.





## Venue

Kemp Aquatics is a small swimming and water safety centre situated in Maffra, 15 minutes away from Airly Primary School. Their facility has a 17-metre indoor heated pool; enabling instruction during the sometimes unpredictable Gippsland weather in Term 4. Kemp Aquatics uses a 1:5 instructor to student ratio for Foundation to Year 3 students; and a 1:8 ratio for Year 4 to 6 students. All instructors are AUSTSWIM qualified and deliver lessons through the Swim and Survive program.



## Financing

To address issues of transport costs, Airly Primary School uses the Sport Australia Sporting Schools Grant to transport students to the aquatic facility. They also schedule their swimming lessons at the end of the day to reduce costs (one way only transport required) and liaise with parents/carers to collect their children from the aquatic facility at the conclusion of the lesson. In addition to the Sporting Schools Grant, Airly Primary encourages eligible families to apply for the Victorian Department of Education Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSE). The Sporting Schools Grant and Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund; along with the Swimming in Schools funding enables the school to have a successful and cost-effective whole school swimming and water safety program.



## Timetabling and transport

Airly Primary School schedules swimming and water safety education at the end of the day to increase the time in the classroom. Airly Primary School Principal, Brenda Talbot, has also adopted a “walking classroom” mode of getting students to the aquatic facility. Given its rural location, the school opts to use a bus to drive part way with students, before walking the remaining distance.

“Walking time to the aquatic facility has been used for several participation activities such as Walk-to-School Month, road safety awareness and detouring via local parks to conduct a bird count for the Aussie Backyard Bird Count”.

**Brenda Talbot**, Airly Primary School Principal.



## Assessment

Kemp Aquatics assess every student at the beginning of the program to assign the children to groups. All students are assessed throughout the program by their swim teachers who check off milestones and goals achieved during each lesson. These milestones are aligned to the Swim and Survive program. At the conclusion of the program, Airly’s students are subsequently assessed against the Victorian Water Safety Certificate capabilities. All Year 6 students that achieve the competencies required for the Victorian Water Safety Certificate are awarded the certificate in their final year of Primary School.